Notes of "Tikva" (Hope) - The educational, social and musical goals of "VocaTikva" ensemble; how these goals are translated into a practice; and how adolescents actually experience their participation in the project

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To date, the Israeli "VocaTikva" project includes eight vocal ensembles working with adolescents from under-privileged communities in the Gush Dan region. The project which began in 2011 has received much attention from the media, and has been proclaimed a success. In 2018-9 the project will be considering broader expansion towards larger populations across Israel. The purpose of this current study is to evaluate the success of this project from an academic and scientific point of view. This study will examine the educational, social and musical goals of "VocaTikva"; how these goals are translated into a practice; and how adolescents actually experience their participation in the project. This study combines qualitative research methods including interviews with project visionaries, and ensemble directors; observation of ensemble practice sessions; alongside phenomenological insight into lived experience of the participants through members' journaling. Ten members of three of the ensembles (three from each chosen ensemble) will be invited to keep personal journals for three months, and then will be invited to share by choice excerpts of these journals. Finally, these ensemble members will be invited to participate in a focus group session which will include open discussion about ensemble experiences alongside. All participants in all eight ensembles will be invited to complete a closed quantitative questionnaire in which they will respond to written descriptions of ensemble participation. Results will be presented in the form of a pedagogical model comprised of principles and actions. Ensemble member's experiences will be presented through a categorical arrangement of rich descriptions from members' journals, alongside quantitative analysis of questionnaire results. These results will help the "VocaTikva" project formulate a clearer understanding of how goals are translated into educational practice; and
provide guidelines for the expansion of the project while maintaining original quality. Further benefit can be drawn from study results for other socio-musical interventions and music educators in formal and non-formal education can learn more about deepening the impact of an educational-social-musical oriented music education.