

## **"It's a life saving turning point": Adolescent dropouts tell their story about**

### **Hoshen School**

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The phenomenon of school dropouts in Israel has been on the increase over the past decade. The educational and therapeutic networks in Israel and abroad have been trying to address this problem through various educational and therapeutic programs and settings, with limited success, as attested to by the literature. Against this background, Hoshen school in Jerusalem with a unique therapeutic-educational program, is prominent in its successful work with adolescent dropouts. This paper is based on qualitative research carried out at this school, which examined the components that enable the school's successful treatment of adolescent dropouts. The present paper focuses on findings that relate to the adolescents' own observations of the events at school and the significance they bestow to this setting. Findings show that the adolescents experience the school as a "facilitating environment" that succeeds in containing their feelings of anger and aggression, adjusts itself to their needs, considers their capabilities as well as the sensitivity and vulnerability of each student, protects them from the outside world, provides them with a sense of belonging and helps them develop meaningful ties with other people.

**Key words:** adolescent dropouts, deprivation, therapeutic-educational program, "facilitating environment", holding.