

## A B S T R A C T S

### Research in youth and adult education in Latin America and the Caribbean (2005-2011)

JAIME CALDERÓN LÓPEZ VELARDE

This article presents the synthesis of a comparative study in order to observe the changes experienced in research themes within the field of youth and adult education in Latin America and the Caribbean. The research was carried out through the analysis of the theses that were part of the biennial contest at CREFAL, which recognizes the best theses within the field, at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. It comprises the period between 2005 and 2011. The analysis indicates, among other results, the participation of contestants from only 14 countries, and a high concentration of theses coming from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico (88%). Interest in researching alphabetization and elementary education, which had dominated the field until recently, has been progressively displaced by themes such as educators' training, cultural diversity, gender, and information and communication technologies.

### The idea of pertinent education in Gandhi

ZARINA AGUIRRE

Throughout his life Gandhi developed and put into practice a series of ideas about education, which began to take form until they constituted a system properly speaking. He was profoundly critical toward the British education system that was imposed in India, and thus he set his heart on recovering the principles of Hindu education. According to such principles every craft is equally important, education must develop a sense of community and collaborative work, and it must transcend individual interests in favor of a common benefit. Likewise, Gandhi promoted women's education and adult education in general, given that a high percentage of the population had been excluded from school. Another fundamental element was the recovering of India's languages, and learning English as a third or fourth language. Gandhi's education program was conceived as an instrument for educating model citizens that would forge India's liberation and build an independent country.

### Learnings and human rights

JESÚS MICHEL

The article is built upon the itineraries of the author throughout his 25 years as an advocate of human rights. It develops three reflections: 1) the coexistence of two lines of work in the field of human rights —the knowledge of the rights and the necessity of subjects appropriating them in situations of urgency—; the accelerated process of change toward individualism and the rupture of social bonds in Mexico since the decade of the eighties, which became deeper in the following decades up to this day, where the future is foreseen as something terrible; 3) the value of systematization in the practice of human rights, which allows to recover the singularity and diversity of such practices beyond the anecdote. From that point, the author infers three inevitable learnings regarding human rights: the right to formulate the problems themselves,

the right to exist within a process of singularization, and the right to promote initiatives that redirect thought and practices.

**Socioenvironmental conflicts  
in fishing communities  
in Villa Clara, Cuba**

An approach to the topic

MARÍA ELENA PERDOMO LÓPEZ

The article presents experiences in socioenvironmental conflict management in some fishing communities inserted in protected marine areas in the province of Villa Clara, Cuba. Actions taken throughout in the various locations were systematized. Taking as a starting point the particularities of the actors involved, methods are combined which connect theory and practice, debate and reflection on real situations, and workshop development. A clear strategy aiming to create technical skills in groups of actors is established, skills that will serve as multipliers of the knowledge acquired. It is a novel theme, for it constitutes the first work of its kind in protected areas of the province. Due to this fact—even though encouraging results have been obtained—the task of refining and validating the conceived strategy must continue.

**"Make Your Community Grow"**

A seminar for enterprising youths

ILSE BRUNNER, NIDIA GUERRERO,  
BRENDA LÓPEZ Y NALLELY TINOCO

Given the high rate of youths who neither study nor work, it is urgent to develop education alternatives focused on widening the range of working opportunities within this sector. "Make your community grow" is a CREFAL seminar whose purpose is to provide groups of young people 14 to 29 years old with organizational and technical tools for setting up social enterprises. The seminar took place in 2012 with 14 groups of youths. In spite of the obstacles these kinds of enterprises must face (disloyal competition by big companies, difficulties in commercialization, low productivity, etc.), various enterprises currently functioning were set up (production of zeta mushrooms and handmade ice cream, for instance), as well as others that are about to start functioning: a group of embroiderers, one of egg laying and commercialization and an enterprise that produces and commercializes organic fertilizer, among others.

**"Fundamental Topics in  
Algebra" online seminar**

Training strategy and learning space

ROCÍO GUZMÁN MIRANDA

The article refers to an experience concerning the implementation of the online seminar on Fundamental Topics in Algebra developed by the National Institute for Adult Education (INEA), Mexico. The seminar looks to improve didactical competencies and the handling of algebra contents by those who are in charge of mentoring and training the tutors in INEA's programs. It is a participative, solidary and flexible scheme that has fostered the creation of a virtual learning community in which students and tutors take part. The seminar has had very good quantitative results (539 graduates in three years) as well as qualitative results: the graduates have made evident what has been achieved in terms of acquiring the knowledge imparted by the seminar, they have improved

their tutoring performance and they have developed skills for autonomous and permanent learning, among others.

**Here, today, alphabetizing  
Thirty years alphabetizing  
out of conviction**

SANTIAGO A. PALMAS PÉREZ

The article is a historical and experiential account of a 30-year long alphabetization experience involving high school students of private Mexican schools. The initiative was taken by the civil association Centro Activo Freire, and it began in two rural communities in Michoacán in 1982. The project deals with training high school students of different schools so that they move to their chosen community during the following summer (about two months) and work with adults in alphabetization. The training of the youths and the procedure with local authorities are prepared seven months ahead. Alphabetization is based on the method of the generative word; various supporting materials for alphabetizers have been produced throughout the project. Besides the positive results in relation to the people who have been alphabetized during the 30 years of the project, the scheme fosters solidarity and collaboration among alphabetizers, and it sensitizes and makes youths aware of the rural reality of their country.

**Music language for adults  
A different task?**

ANNA M. VERNIA CARRASCO

Music education for adults attends to a series of characteristics, circumstances and particular contexts that must be taken into account. An adult cannot be schooled in the same space and at the same time as a child. The physical and psychological characteristics of the adult must be taken into account, as well as the interests and motivations driving them to get a music education, and their previous knowledge. The pedagogic proposal presented in this article intends to regulate in music matters what already exists in other fields, such as alphabetization or professional education for adults, while fostering the integration of music education among parents and children.

**“Juan Manuel Gutiérrez  
Vázquez” Arts and Crafts  
Work Training Center (CECAP)**

PEDRO DÁVALOS COTONIETO Y  
MA. TERESA TZOMPANTZI REYES

“Juan Manuel Gutiérrez Vázquez” Arts and Crafts Work Training Center is located in the town of Tapataro, Mexico. In 2011 it obtained the formal recognition by Michoacán’s Public Education Bureau but the work began since 1999, with the labor of master Pedro Dávalos Cotonieto in the recuperation of corn-paste handicrafts for elaborating altarpieces with religious motives. The Center offers technical training in plastic arts and sculpture related to the conservation of the region’s patrimony, which is particularly rich, most of all its religious works. The work of CECAP’s students has been showcased in various places in Mexico and the United States, by means of fairs as well as handicraft, gastronomy and dress contests in the region.

**“Latin American Skies”**

CREFAL creates paths  
for science popularization  
with young and adult people

IRÁN G. GUERRERO Y

NANCY ARELI HILARIO

Latin American Skies is a science popularization project by CREFAL which retakes the tradition of working in the nearby communities, an area that in the 1950's was denominated as “CREFAL's area of influence”, mainly constituted by rural communities along Lake Patzcuaro's shoreline. It is an education project that takes place in out-of-school contexts and generates abilities aimed at learning astronomy, physics and chemistry, at the preservation of the environment and the use of clean energies. The project includes a trailer designed to house a robotic telescope, physics, chemistry and math experiments, an inflatable planetarium and mobile classrooms. It includes an academic team (two researchers) and an operational team, both composed of CREFAL personnel.

**The magic of meeting  
neighbors face to face and  
knowing their names**

MARGARITA MENDIETA RAMOS

Towns and cities with a “touristic vocation” are being expropriated of their inhabitants and turned into material for touristic consumption. Given this phenomenon, which is worldwide, many cities in Mexico and the rest of the world have given rise to a civil movement in favor of local people reappropriating public spaces for interaction and leisure besides using them as opportunities for learning and artistic appreciation. The text deals with the experience of the group Rueda Pátzcuaro Mágico, which has coordinated since last year a Sunday recreational route in Patzuacro's main streets and squares. It describes the impact this project has had on the population and the problems it has faced as a civil movement due to a lack of understanding by some sectors.

**Traducción: Camilo Patiño Pérez**