EXPERIENCES IN CUBAN EDUCATION

Learning and Teaching in the Education 2030 Agenda

Santiago - Chile

9 to 11 August, 2016
Cuban education has shown, in LLECE studies, high levels of educational quality and equity.
Introduction

- This has also been shown through external criteria, like the comparative study conducted by Stanford University.
Introduction

- How can such convincing results be explained?...
  - It is certain that there are many factors to take into account, as is explained in the Bulletin “El Evaluador Educativo” No.10/Year II (http://www.cubaeduca.cu/index.php?option=comcontent&view=article&id=1632:esenciales-en-la-educacion&catid=2:uncategorised)
  - However, there can be no doubt that teacher training is essential. This includes what I and a group of other specialists have dubbed “Cuba’s secret weapon”.

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How have we used educational assessment in the training of Cuban teachers?...

1. One early initiative was determining the frequent errors in students’ learning.

2. Another was to conduct actions to strengthen Methodological Work.

3. Another important element was warnings over the harmful impact of certain learning-associated factors.
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- On determining the **frequent errors** in students’ learning
  - Research to determine the “**elements of knowledge**” in the school curriculum in which students are most often mistaken, when taking **objective tests**.

- **Comparison of samples** of students in different regions of the country and different **cohorts**.

- **Didactic analysis of the most probable cause** of each **cognitive error**.

- **Preparation of collections of exercises** for students and **teaching materials** for teachers.

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On Methodological Work

- Participation in the National Seminar for Educators, attended by one of the available Educational Channels.
  - Development of topics tasked to the country’s leading subject matters specialists.
  - Reproduction of a periolibro for all school institutions and methodological teams at the country’s Provincial and Municipal Departments.
  - Development of broadcasts for the television programme “Para ti, Maestro”.
    - Didactic discussion of cognitive errors with epistemological origins.
  - Preparation of Master's Degree and Doctoral Theses.
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- On Methodological Work
  - Close link between Educational Assessment and specific and General Didactics, in Cuba.
    - Example of that is socialisation work and interchange on social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Blogger, etc.)

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On Methodological Work

- Solidity of the theory of **General Didactics** in Cuba.
  - More than an *art*, or a *teaching technology*, it is seen as a *science*.
  - Consideration of *categories*, and *didactic principles*, as well as *teaching procedures*.

- Example of the text *“El arte de enseñar científicamente. Consejos útiles para docentes noveles”*.
  - Developing *from the more visible aspects to items more internal to the teacher-education process*: “Recognition”, “The Class”, “Didactic functions”, “Independent cognitive activity” and the “Planning of teaching”.

- Systematisation of contemporary Cuban teaching works, through the *psychological and pedagogical basis* of each topic.

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- On warnings over the harmful impact of certain learning-associated factors.
  - Through aspects of school organization and teacher training, with in-depth studies.

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More areas have been explored in the country than the three aspects discussed, regarding the usage of Educational Assessment to improve teaching and learning.

- Also to be highlighted as an example are the research activities with the Institute of Neuroscience.
  - Not only to determine problems in learning (*dyscalculia, dysgraphia* and *dyslexia*), but also more recent work on *basic cognitive abilities*. 

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Basic Numerical Capacities and Prevalence of Developmental Dyscalculia: The Havana Survey

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The association of enumeration and number comparison capacities with arithmetical competence was examined in a large sample of children from 2nd to 9th grades. It was found that efficiency on numerical capacities predicted separately more than 25% of the variance in the individual differences on a timed
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- Possibility to find out more about these experiences and continue with interchange through **Symposium 6 “Education quality assessment for inclusive and equitable education, in the framework of the Education 2030 Agenda”**, at the International Congress **PEDAGOGÍA 2017**.
  - Invitation to the Congress available at:  [http://www.pedagogiacuba.com](http://www.pedagogiacuba.com)

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Conclusions

- The Cuban Education System has used **Educational Assessment as a useful scientific tool** to improve teaching and learning.
  - In the field of determining the *frequent errors in students’ learning*
  - In strengthening **Methodological Work**
  - Through warnings over the harmful impact of certain *learning-associated factors.*

Many thanks...

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