

## Editorial

# Elements to Consider in the Research and Practice of Education

This issue of Panorama magazine is full of inquiries and considerations in terms of the educational practice at every level, in elementary, high-school and higher education, especially in the writings by Valles de Rojas and collaborators, Villaroel and Romero, Prada and collaborators, as well as by Osorno and Benitez. The aforementioned make us rethink some elements of current pedagogical stances, as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of the students, their characteristics and personal and contextual needs, and of their prior and subsequent conceptions of the teaching-learning process.
2. Acknowledgement of the teachers, of their personal characteristics, of their training needs, and of their skills and knowledge, as well as of the ways in which they contextualize knowledge and reflect on their pedagogical practice.
3. Acknowledgement of the environments and resources, of the materials and spaces characteristics, of the ways in which the learning environment respond to the practice organization, of the students' interests and motivation towards knowledge, and to the

methods by which said environments promote participation and interaction between different educational players.

4. Acknowledgement of the community, of the resources that integrate the educational institution to the community and vice versa, of the ways to promote dialogue and coexistence between the institution and the community, and of the ways in which it takes part in the educational proposition.

These acknowledgements cross paths with the training intentions (ever more noticeable) of research and innovation classroom processes, implying training that aims at the development of the student's scientific thinking and creativity, as well as the teacher's specific competences on these matters.

From this perspective acknowledging the students means identifying their ways of thinking and of bringing their knowledge to new situations or diverse problems; in terms of the teachers, it means recognizing ways in which their competences and reflections of their practice allow using questions with the objective of leading the student to formulate and prove hypotheses and to achieve different ways of thinking and being in the world; as for the environments and resources, it implies reviewing their ability of being innovative and of how they promote and facilitate experimenting; in terms of the community, it forces thinking about how the institutions, through the processes that arise from educational interactions between teachers and students, participate in the communities and contribute in their construction, solve needs and problematic situations with innovative strategies and with validated investigation processes.

All of these signify an interesting moment for research. Consequently, more studies are needed regarding new ways to look at the students, understand their conception of different educational aspects and how these ways may modify practice and learning. Likewise, a new understanding of the teachers' role is necessary, in terms of how they fit in the new educational practice that lead to the development of scientific thinking, but also in new settings, such as in virtual education. More studies are needed concerning creative and innovative environments and resources for teaching, in order to articulate social and

community realities and necessities with the pedagogical task, and with the results of interactions between different actors with knowledge and competences.

To conclude, a note to authors and readers about the direction that the magazine is taking. We are currently transitioning from articles in a variety of social studies disciplines to a more specific compendium of articles on education, and our intention is to ultimately become a magazine with articles addressing topics and studies on the fields of virtual and distance education exclusively. With this transition, we hope to delve deeper into the topics, a requirement to position the magazine in more demanding indexation systems, which will lead to greater national and international recognition and to added appeal, becoming a magazine that includes high-impact articles and that is easy to locate.

**Jaime Castro Martinez**

Editor

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