Education and Social Change in Spain: from Crisis to Opportunity.

Pablo Cortés González  pcortes@uma.es
José Ignacio Rivas Flores  i_rivas@uma.es
Analía E. Leite Méndez  aleite@uma.es

University of Malaga
‘ProCIE’ Research Group
Introduction

• Current situation in Spain
  • Attacks to the very heart of our universal rights
    (it increases children poverty into 26.2% according to UNICEF)
  • Full perspective of Education, as a need of change.

• Current policies are based on a segregation perspective.
Introduction II

- La Casa de la Buena Vida
  - Social Movement
  - Social Agents
  - Based of solidarity, love and justice values.

They work, reflect and theorise on an everyday level, moving from a logic that entails convincing people that a problem exists and how to avoid it, to a logic in which, from a fact that has been acknowledged and identified as a problem by the people themselves, a joint action can be constructed. It is a complex process that needs to be constantly relaunched, without becoming repetitive and always remaining valid (Cortés & Villanueva, 2009).

More info. www.aicgpp.es
About the ethnography developed

- Context: Palma Palmilla District.
- Scheduling: From April 2009 to early 2013
- Methodological components:
  - The researchers' story by way of an auto-ethnography.
  - Story through “embodied” anecdotes.
  - Micro-stories.
  - Other Interviews.
Results of the ethnography

• **Personal conflicts. The case of ‘Toñi’**.
• **Social relations and cultures**.
• **Tough but common experiences: death and prison**.

What do you expect from a woman like Toñi? I know she does wrong, but at the same time she is also a victim; all her childhood has been involved with selling drugs, she doesn’t know how to read or write, she only knows how to sell, it’s her only means of survival. I don’t justify her behaviour, but we can’t really compare her ways with those of other people. For these people I would make proper insertion plans to help them find a decent job in exchange for them stopping dealing. The truth is that everyone knows (Chule).

The problem is the lack of education and information. We are stigmatised; Palma-Palmilla is where all the immigrants and drug dealers go, where nobody pays their bills or anything. That’s the mentality. If you put Palma-Palmilla on your CV, you won’t get hired even if you’re the best person for the job. It’s not just a problem for women but the kids too, and the men, the grandparents... everyone suffers the same, that’s the problem. I think they built it just for the marginalised.

Comments such as “my dad and two brothers are dead” (Mary), “I’ve got 5 brothers up there above” (Carlos) or “my husband and my brother are no longer with us” (Rosi), are commonplace.
More Elements to consider

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

• Spatial exclusion

• Free time

• Job insecurity
Discussion and last comment.

From Crisis to Opportunity

- Structures and institutions
  - Education and social change

Collective action, as evidenced by our research, is configured as a major alternative to oppose this policy of segregation we mentioned at the beginning.
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