



Presentation prepared for the event:

Is there Hope for Central American Youth?

Thursday, September 18, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Washington, D.C.

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUTH CAUGHT IN AREAS OF VIOLENCE?

Contribution from Fe y Alegría
experience in Guatemala.

By: Miquel Cortés



Fe y Alegría

Movimiento de Educación Popular Integral y Promoción Social

1. Youth in Guatemala. Challenges and obstacles.

- 1.1 Context of the information

In Guatemala, the homicide rate among 15 to 24 years old, is the fourth highest in a group consisting of 83 countries. The violence affecting young people greatly increases the costs of health care and social assistance, reduces productivity, lowers property values, disrupts a range of essential services and generally undermines the fabric of society. The phenomenon of violence can be seen from the school and is nothing new; **it strongly affects youth and it is reflect of the society**. From this perspective, the school can not be isolated from the environment in which **a large segment of the population is involved**, beset by unemployment, insecurity, poverty and homelessness, among other ills that make it a complex phenomenon and multiple causality.

- 1.2 Magnitude of the problem.

39.4% of men and 46.7% of women 13 to 18 years old do not attend school.

Unsafe conditions are severely affecting the country's young population: high rates of homicide and injury, especially sexual violence against women, **human** trafficking and **female homicide**. Violence in schools is dramatic; in this institutional **setting, there are** acts of violence, harassment and discrimination.

2.-Fe y Alegría an integral popular educational and social movement.

2.1 Free public high-quality education.

2.2 Social Transformation.

2.3 Pledge of commitment: “Build together what one can not do alone”



3.-Formal educational system alternatives.

3.1 Vocational training Education.

Real life education, life-changing, transcends the educational community to achieve a job placement of students in the work place. School and business, education and work are the binomials for real social cohesion.

- 3.2 Work-placement program and entrepreneurship.
The program acts as an employment agency that seeks job opportunities for the students by contacting interested employer's and businesses.
IT educational services for job placement (SIET) offers Fe y Alegria students who are about to graduate, the tools and skills to obtain a job and a better quality of life. This program also gives youth the life skills and abilities that are a part of a formal education.



4.-

- Significant actions type of socio -education

4.1 Training in values and culture of peace.

Promoting Values consisting of peaceful environment in order to prevent violence at home, school and the community. Preventing Highschool dropouts, young adults who have dropped out by incorporating them to after school programs of extracurricular activities.

Promoting art ,culture, sports and recreational activities as tools for prevention of violence.

Generating opportunities from vocational training and inserting them in the formal work.

- 4.2 Youth organized by themselves:
“formAcción”.

This youth program has implemented its own methodology based on free public education called “formAcción”. This methodology ties in with the program carried out by Fe y Alegría called “Plenitud”, together with another program called “System Quality Improvement” in its stages and its pedagogical principals.



5.- Socio-educational **proposal** in partnership with other **groups**.

5.1 Young House.

Arises from the need to address preventive, comprehensive and personalized **care to** children and young people in impoverished and vulnerable sections of Guatemala, helping them **to find social and job** opportunities to develop their positive human potential. facilitating their social integration due to society, avoiding gang involvement, common criminals, organized crime, drug use and lack of opportunity, poverty, domestic violence and other social phenomena that impede adequate human, social and economic growth of Guatemalan youth at risk, inequality and social vulnerability.

- 5.2 **entrepreneurship** Youth : “open schools”.
Provide technical service occupational orientation quality, carried out by a multidisciplinary team (Teachers , technical and promoters business / social as) oriented education and labor insertion or reinsertion of these / young people to youth.

- 5.3 Co-management education: participation in school management.

The model of "co-management" is the medium that Fe y Alegría developed to empower members of the educational community in the experience of citizenship and democracy; transparent administrative and educational management; promote leadership committed to family, school and community.



- **Instances for co-management in Fe y Alegría:**

Associations of Parents of Family (APAMCES).

The Association of parents of school custodial family: security is exercised with the involvement of the residents in the educational project.

Participation of parents and mothers on the school board.

Coordination with local institutions and associations.

Training for leadership and responsible citizenship.

Government teacher: coordination of working committees. Each committee defines its purpose and **work** plan.

Student government: protecting the interests of students and the school. Encourage student participation in school management.

School Board: highest decision-making organ of schools. Represents all stakeholders in the educational community.

6. Conclusions

- **6.1 Social Promotion.**

Has focused attention and / or education services in poor urban and rural, traditionally excluded and socially problematic, as evidenced in unemployment, poverty, malnutrition and high rates of violence areas.

It promotes and develops partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in order to implement projects to improve the quality of care the educational community (Casa Joven Young entrepreneurs).

- There has been a larger organization and participation of parents and mothers in various co-management processes in schools, through programs including permanent and dynamic training (APAMCES).

Fe y Alegría provides educational processes focused on human formation that allows students, educators improve their self-esteem and quality of life (training in values).

Education offered Fe y Alegría allows students develop in holistic health and psychosocial aspects, training them as change agents and leaders of your destination (Youth organized by themselves “formAcción”).



- **6.2. Comprehensive educational action.**

Fe y Alegría responds to the educational demand of the urban slums and rural areas of the country, expanding its coverage and quality.

Fe y Alegría, assumes a pedagogical approach based on Popular Education, whose main purpose is the centrality of the person and the transformation of their cultural environment.

- Fe y Alegría, the proposal assumes technical and production training, responding to the reality of scientific and technological advances, so that young people can have the competencies and skills necessary to participate in the transformation of society and promote the tools processes of sustainable development (job **setting**).

Fe y Alegría, contextualizes the proposed curriculum every year, adapting to the National Curriculum Base (CNB), based on terms and requirements of the Ministry of Education (“**Plenitud**” **Methodology**).

Fe y Alegría annually improving the infrastructure and equipment of its Education Centers to develop effectively and efficiently teaching - learning of young people.

Local impact socio alternatives are offered through citizen participation.

Our youth **finds** in Fe y Alegría an opportunity to **overcome** as individuals and **dignity developing** in Guatemalan society (social and employment).







INTERCULTURALIDAD



















GRACIAS – THANK YOU



Fe y Alegría

Movimiento de Educación Popular Integral y Promoción Social