THEACHING COMPARATIVE EDUCATION IN HONDURAS

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I started the teaching of Comparative Education in the National University in 1966. It has been teached for one semester with an equivalent of 40 hours of theory and 120 hours of practice. You can appreciate in the included program how I have worked on it. The Comparative Education, as a subjet of Pedagogy and Education Sciences, is the last course to be studied, so the student can have a solid and strong pedagogic and cultural base, and his development in class will be of greater influence to the student.

Methodological aspects

To be able to realize our work we have used a bibliography prepared by authors around the world. The students are divided in groups of two and they prepare comments in the previously suggested themes. They are also aided by actual education magazines.

— They write about some themes that have been previously investigated, for example. the comparisons referring education that are mentioned in the people's sayings and the universal literature, the Bible, classic Spanish books or translation from other languages. Their objective is to advice about the comparison between the education and cosmologic phenomenon, various occupations of mankind and other aspects that have been ocurring since always.

— Other type of bibliographical investigations being realized are to know and locate in time and space the great works of the comparatists to reach a consolidation of the Comparative Education as an autonomous discipline. Throughout all these investigations the students make their expositions, and discussions are made among them. The professor focusses the work.

— When the moment is reached to get to know what kind of methodology is to be followed in order to realize comparative investigations in Education one tries to focus the work in a practical way and at the same time previously planified exercises are made where the whole class works subdivided in groups to achieve a better covering of the material. At the end

one report is presented, consisting of the description of the methodology that has been used, the steps followed with their illustrations and the conclusions that have been reached.

In the practice of teaching the Comparative education, several works have been prepared consisting in the didactics of some disciplines, the administrative ways, the universal laws of the universities or specific educative laws, the authors' thesis on concrete aspects in the field of education in some Latin American countries, having as a special focus the education in Honduras.

These works once elaborated are presented to the sections of the University or to the Government offices in which they can be useful in reform applications or studies of the national education.

The evaluation is constant, made in base of the quality of the works presented, and the individual and group participation.

For the effects of promotion, considering the necessity of a numerical qualification (from 1 to 100), at the beginning of the course the value of the projects is elaborated together with the participation of the students.

60 is the minimum qualification to approve the class.

The autoevaluation is practiced, group evaluation and teacher evaluation; at least once a semester an objective test is applied.

Advantages

The student has the opportunity to know what Comparative Education is, practice its methodology, to be interested in having a deep knowledge of the problems in education, with general and special characteristics, configurative factors of his own country as well as other countries.

To improve the opportunities for the student to specialize in a future in the Comparative Education and its specialities.

Inconvenients

— Lack of transport to other countries to develop a more convenient methodology.

— It is very hard to obtain a complete and exact information in the aspects of the investigation.

Recent bibliography and teachers from other countries are permanently consulted to reach the adequate information.

— Given the characteristics of Honduras, the countries used as a theme of comparison are other Latin American countries.