

University Education and the Essential Criteria of Democracy in Mexico

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Abstract

The political Constitution of the United States Mexico, in its article 3, section II, subsection a), establishes the education given by the Mexican State must be aimed, among others, by a democratic approach. However, there is no guarantee that the precepts and commands created by a legislator - in the form of deontic categories- impact on the facts and, therefore, arises the question whether indeed this constitutional mandate is respected and fulfilled in the social and educational reality. Revising the importance that democracy and its minimum standards in the delivery of education in general, as well as the mandates and regulations that permeate the activity and operation of the public University, specifically the autonomous of the State of Mexico. It is a theoretical review on democracy in Mexico and its minimum guidelines for its practice, ending with a contrast on the importance that has the fact that college students have the ability to practice, exercise and, eventually, teach democracy, especially by its character of professionals whose activity is heavily involved in social issues. Ends reflecting on some of the behaviors of teachers affecting to a greater or lesser extent in those democratic parameters.

Keywords: Educational research, college-educated, democratic education

Introduction

The study and investigation of college education in Mexico has been very uncommon, to the extent that specific methods and techniques that are used for the education research in general are also applied in education superior, with the inevitable consequences. Education in general has been the subject of research and analysis by specialists and doctrinaire versed in the field education, sociology and other related branches of knowledge, however, there are fewer jobs and thoughts about college education; This should not lead to not put efforts nor invest effort into thinking about the subject, since also part of the educational world view in Mexico. In general education there are many aspects that have been left out of the investigation and even of the in terms of higher education and scientific research is no exception. One of the important aspects and are not very result by theorists nor by the doctrinaire, is the educational training which is oriented to democratize; i.e., there are many aspects and parameters of scientific and technician who consume most of the instruction, and this leaves you little or sometimes no of margin application and performance for the education of training type, which is the democratization of people - students - and the culture in citizenship that will allow future citizens (and professionals lawyers) acting in a social environment in which the parameters of democracy are the guideline general to follow. Is therefore very important to highlight some facts about education superior in contrast to the theory of democracy and with a forward-looking view in the College.

Education in General

The Dictionary of the Spanish language (2001; 585) says that the word education comes from the latin *educatio-onis*, and defines it as a feminine noun which means action and effect of educating or raising, teaching and doctrine that is given to children and young people or instruction through educational action.

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For its part, the Mexican legal dictionary (1993; 1223) as defined as action and effect of education, upbringing, education and doctrine is given to the children and young people; also establishes two meanings for the word education, a generic concerning transmission and learning of cultural techniques or use, of production or behavior, and by which men are in possibility of your needs, protect the environment, work and live in society; and other specific meaning which includes two concepts: 1. transmit plain and simple techniques of work and behavior, guaranteeing its immutability, and 2. transmit the techniques acquired by the society, in order to promote that the initiative of the individual perfect these techniques. This concept allows you to delve into the categories that are being addressed, with the purpose of ir profiling a reflection about the democratic parameters and their required relationship with the University higher education. To do this, it is necessary to also perform approaches to the public University and thus be able to complete the lines that support the main idea that is postulated in the present paper.

Democracy in Mexico

Expresses the political Constitution of the Mexican United States that Mexico is a Republic representative, democratic and federal; with regard to democratic, there are different points of view from which you can see: political, legal, representative, economical, even from the new perspective related with the globalization, since the concept of democracy has been changing and evolving and can not limit the conceptualization of democracy to only the form of Government, to the structure or political structures much less to the electoral processes as tools of expression citizen authorizing a person or persons to exercise the sovereignty of the people on his behalf. Indeed, the risk of conceiving this way so restricted democracy is that other sectors - structures - are not included in the own society that can - and should - govern, for example, in educational systems. As form of Government, democracy is basically referred to the principle of the most: the Government is constituted through the will of these majorities and is also exercised as a result of the consensus of the same. This certainly involves a series of instruments and media - established and regulated for the most part by the law - to enforce the expression of sovereignty of the majority (for example, the electoral appearance as way to obtain the expression of the majority citizens will and forms of revocation of the mandates granted under representation...). It is should not ignore that the concept of democracy also relates to the educational aspect: the Constitution takes this concept, projects under an educational vision and defined in the following terms: not only as a legal structure and a regime politician, but as a way of life founded on constant economic improvement, social and cultural village. Under these two premises - which are in fact basic premises in democratic theory - is that education should be carried out: respecting, practicing and instilling those principles.

However, it is not enough for the idea expressed in the Constitution concerning the guideline that it must be respected in the delivery of education, since the reality educational may exceed the single well-intentioned expression of desirable precepts but are not consistent in the facts. The classical concept of democracy - which is the most attached to their historical origins involves various principles as equality and freedom that are desirable values, expression of aspirations and wishes in which human plasma their hopes, in this case, in relation to education: must teach and inculcate freedom and equality as guiding axles for better coexistence between human beings in use and exercise of by the teachers. Eligibility of democratic someone or something, must be as a basis - regardless of many other elements to also involve democracy, depending on the specific circumstances in which is apply - the values of freedom and equality. Both allow the human being develop in society with a minimum of security and certainty and allow also the procurement and realization of their dignity. But in addition, these two values are the source of assurance of other valuable purposes that are consistent with human dignity, by, from the respect and exercise of freedom and equality begins to ensure the democratization of that someone or something and are facing a behavior or attitude in accordance with the democracy. Indeed, the cardinal value of democracy is the realization of human dignity in a community of mutual deference and when the dignity of man is taken in account is then shared power, shared respect and shared knowledge; a society in which those values are widely shared is considered a free society. Sharing of power anywhere is easier to maintain respect and shared knowledge. Where respect is shared is easier to share power and knowledge. Where it is shared knowledge, sharing power and respect is simpler (Böhmer, 1999; 82-83). An indispensable in democracy concept is that of shared respect, as it is closely related to equality: respect means equality in the access to the opportunity to mature the latent capacity of socially valuable expressions. Another essential concept is the shared knowledge: means not sidestep the fact of individuals have minds that are thinking beings, and as such deserve manifestations of deference giving importance to the own dignity e human individuality. People need to be equipped with knowledge of how the democratic doctrines can be justified.

Cannot be expected to remain loyal to the democratic ideals through all of the trouble and disappointments of life without a deep and solid knowledge of the potentialities of the beings human productive interpersonal relations (...) The democratic character is distinguished by the ability to respect yourself and respect others (Böhmer, 1999; 83 - 86). That way you should conceive democracy in education: as a knowledge sharing and in exercise of freedom and equality that entails the respect for the development of their dignity. There are different principles that underpin democracy and as part of it, these principles must be respected in the interests of the proper functioning of this form of Government, and more than that, of that way of life. The political system in Mexico is essentially democratic, leaving aside the particularities of its legal system to they do different from other democracies, its characteristic features are still importance and validity. Now though, the provision for democracy is not something innate in man, but it is a product of social learning, since people learn or adopt the tolerance, the respect for privacy, the right to a fair trial, and other prerogatives to the extent that have access to information, public affairs and to know the, benefits and costs of their rules (Guevara, 1998; 50). Certainly the above should be developed as a result of an effort and monitoring in as to education under democratic criteria, because it's a social learning that have as effect a change in the attitude of citizens with regard to the issues political and social of their local and national environment. It is not an easy task to develop solid and consistent democratic principles and even less to practice them, so the education is an important factor in the task to reach the learning of the democracy and his practice, accepting as ordered by the Federal Constitution, in its article third, fraction II, subsection to). Indeed, the educational factor is crucial in a society governed by a Government democratic, therefore, in addition to producing the understanding of the legal regime and political as well as social circumstances, it causes the acceptance, obedience volunteer, and even the exercise of democracy itself; all of the above makes the citizen and in general of the people, a democratic body. Is then when dropped on the account that also the preparation, training and democratic culture of the citizen, is propitious factor for a better democracy.

Democracy is a concept understood by means of a real process of teaching and learning, but it is also a concept that is practiced on a daily basis in any space. When the citizen is involved without prior education, the consequences are from an attitude apathetic citizen made public duties, until the non-acceptance and disregard for the democratic legal system in Mexico and everything it represents; in effect, democracy as theoretical concept is also often used and discriminated against precisely by the lack of knowledge and practice in education formal e informal. This is reinforced by what is mentioned by John Dewey: ...a undesirable society is one that puts barriers internally and externally to the free Exchange and communication of experience. A society is democratic in the measure, that facilitates participation in assets of all its members in playing field and ensures their institutions through flexible adjustment the interaction of the different forms of associated life. Such a society must have a type education that gives individuals a personal interest in the relations and the social control and spiritual habits that produce social changes without introduce disorder (Dewey, 1998; 81). It is good time to do note that the idea of democracy in education that up to the moment I've been supporting is different from the access at all to education, already expresses that a democratic society is one which gives the individual a education that formed to act in politics, in social control and the participation.

Democratic Education

From the second reform of the third article of our standard key, valid from of December 1946, it was established that State education should be administered based in political, social and economic principles underlying the regime implanted by the Constitution federal and from the political point of view must be provided on democratic principles; This means the exclusion of any doctrine that melts the sovereignty of the State and the Government of the Mexican people in autocratic or oligarchic Wills (Burgoa, 2004; 442-443). Democratic norms, as a product of human intelligence and the necessary coexistence among men, requires some understanding and practice continued by the human being. Indeed, the acceptance of the rules of democracy requires a high level of refinement and safety of the individual, because the less sophisticated and stable culturally is an individual, much more possible is favouring a simplistic view of politics and not come to understand underlying tolerance rational of those with whom he is not agree, leading to difficulty in understand or tolerate a gradual political change image (Martin, 1987; 99).

The school is the Republican institution par excellence, and its function is to accelerate mobility social (Antaki, 2000; 101), is to be understood as the organized force of individuals, from an intellectual point of view, so that at a certain moment to take the freedom to exercise their rights actively; mobility not only it is to vote in popular elections, but is also have activity in the social environment where the citizen unfolds through their participation. This is can give when citizens have a better understanding of the democratic structure of the country in which you live. Now, the public University is the most important element when to socialization and training of the population. Its importance lies in that it is the institution to give form and meaning to the society, its institutions, to your ideology, in general, to their way of life. Another very important aspect is the of the solution of problems; the University - especially the public - is concentrated and dedicated to the solution of social problems, which is no small thing, and each of their areas or divided and classified in the different schools and faculties, branches are aimed at the solution of the problems that exist or that arise in a sector of the society. Specifically, the Mission of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, as a public entity, is: ... study, generate, preserve, transmit and extend universal knowledge and to be to the service of society, in order to contribute to the achievement of new and better forms of existence and human coexistence, and promote a universal, humanistic, awareness national, free, fair and democratic, which harmonize with our own way of being and feel like State and Mexican.

The Mission of the UAEM is providing education average higher and higher; carrying out humanistic, scientific research and disseminate and extend the progress of humanism, science and technology, art and other expressions of culture. Refers to training aspects social and not only technicians or scientists (who are also, of course, important); mentioning the service to the society to pay the existence and human coexistence, is indicating that in the schools and universities must also place emphasis on the aspects of social culture and to politics. Expressly indicates various parameters which should be promoted and, in ultimately included democracy. An important aspect is also that is refers to the diffusion and extension of the advances of humanism, and if we consider inside of humanism to democracy and its foundations, then we must accept that also must disseminate it in the exercise of the education that is provided at the University. In terms of the vision, we have: ...in 2013 UAEM has features and attributes that are defined in the following way: has a dynamic, relevant, innovative and comprehensive educational model centered in the student and professional disciplinary action, pedagogical and technological of the faculty, distance and face-to-face modes; promotes education standing for professional certification and relies on the use of new technologies of the information and communication technology (ICT), in teamwork and in the mastery of a second language; and their PE enable mobility of students and teachers. Bachilleres, professional and postgraduate students as competent at national levels and international, with critical and constructive ability, humanistic sense and values ethical, committed to the environment, and are widely recognized by society.

Research responds to the needs of the society and is aimed at proposing alternative, resolve problems and expand the frontiers of knowledge. Cultural diffusion contributes to the integral formation of the University, strengthening the institutional, State, and national identity, and promotes the , tolerance, harmony and social cohesion Accountability is a daily practice in all the University spaces and covers all the functions. The development of the University is based on a planning process and institutional evaluation with strategic, participatory and systemic. The resources are allocated and exercised in accordance with the priorities established in the plans and development programs. Mentioned aspects of extreme importance in the formation of a democracy and its culture for your practice, such as teamwork, critical and constructive sense humanistic and ethical values, identity, State, institutional and national, and makes mention also of most aspects of the democratization and better coexistence, promote tolerance, harmony and cohesion social and other even more involved in the Republican question aspects (which also must be inherent in the conduct of citizen): accountability and participation.

Its strategic objectives are:

Objective 1: To offer high quality upper and upper middle education. Form high school graduates, professionals and postgraduate students with full capacity to learn to be, learning to do, learning to learn and learn to live together.

Objective 2: Generate research that responds to the needs of the development sustainable State of Mexico and the country. Strengthen and expand the links between scientific research and the sectors of the society.

Objective 3: To preserve and increase the cultural capital of the State and extend institutional services to society.

Extend the benefits of University knowledge to sectors of society in a framework of solidarity. ...

Objective 4: To be a transparent institution that works better and more efficiently. Offer quality care that meets the requirements of the community University in a context of transparency and accountability. Establish participatory processes of planning and assessment supported by a system only one of timely statistical information, sufficient and reliable to improve the accountability and decision-making. Again we see that concepts related to democratization, include the best social coexistence and, even more technical aspects related to the way of organize an election or with instruments of citizen participation, to include words how to live, society, solidarity, accountability and decision-making. All the means, so that it can fully accept and legitimize a true higher and university education under parameters and standards of democracy, is necessary that all the above requirements are respected in teacher education in the University classroom action. At the time in which those elements of democracy are respected and effectively practiced in so mentioned teacher-student stock at the University, then is can effectively say that democracy and the provisions of the political Constitution Mexican with respect to democratic education, have a real impact and not only is just a declaration or a precept that is in the scope of the utopian. A way to determine that indeed these democratic elements are respected and , may be under observation of the University educational action; checking that the activity of the teacher regarding the educational rights of students, is oriented their respect and protection, we can determine the capacity of democratizing in the University; measuring and calculating how much arbitrary subjective on the part of the teacher exists in its acting as a teacher, can determine this.

Necessarily the equality and freedom is should reflect on the personal treatment that really occurs between teachers and students, of course, under the guidance and moderation of the first, because that is the fundamental actor in the inculcation of the democracy in the classroom. The decrease and the undermining of equality and freedom can reflect attitudes of the Professor that deviate from objectivity and approaching increasingly to subjectivity; in a class in which prevails the subjective teacher imposition, unless there is a possibility of the student in question, dude, etc. to what the teacher says and set, then we are facing a case in which the parameters of democracy are absent. If the teacher imposes rules unilaterally in the Chair of its responsibility, and if those rules differ from the previous and institutionally established, arguing only its criteria, the democratic parameters are at risk. In all those little actions must be included the practice of the minimum parameters of democracy and when this happens, we will be facing a true education in accordance with the principles of social life than in Mexico are to live, and we are, ultimately, contributing to the global and general improvement of the society in which we live and contributing to social progress.

Conclusions

Considering all of the above and taking into account also that democracy is a instrument of human creation (citizen creation) that it serves (or should serve) for the own man, for their benefit and his best performance in the (State Organization) society, then one must conclude necessarily destined to form University education should include contents that are inherent to the democratic culture and thus be in the possibility of generating professionals with greater impact in the company, with the consequential benefits to it. This means that inescapable form exists duty to comply with the parameters of democracy that were already mentioned, in reason of course, the form of Government and of State in which we find ourselves involved. Indeed, it should be noted the character and the profile raised as goal in university students: is related to a significant degree of immersion in the problems of society (State) and their members (citizens), and also with prominent political and social sensitivity which is directed at a better coexistence of human beings and, ultimately, to your happiness. The University is created to solve problems arising in society and to provide a profit to the man himself as a member of the same; here, society and state acquire a matching connotation as it happens with human beings and society. In terms of democracy, the University should take the great goal of democratizing more and more processes of teaching - learning, compliance, enforcement and apply the precepts and fundamentals that determine to democracy, which were already addressed in the first part of this paper. Those democratic guidelines are violated whenever one of the elements of educational action (called Professor, students or members of the own professional school academic administration) prevents or denies the practice of equality and freedom, which are the two great pillars of the democracy.

In College the big challenge is to go increasing and improving each time the fulfillment of those democratic parameters in the own educational action, with which will be satisfying not only the purpose of troubleshooting social but also of service to society, of human coexistence with consciousness universal, humanistic, national, free and fair and in short, those of democracy. With the daily exercise of the parameters of freedom and equality in the Classroom University, the teaching function, will be able to contribute effectively and determined the technical part of learning, with both the formative part of the same. Should be encouraged teachers to be aware of these categories minimum of democracy and to apply them on a daily basis of their practice as teachers, with the aim that, at the same time, may be required to own students to lead in the future - and present - as some professionals that contribute to the solution of social problems and the achieving the great aims of the University. The great goal is to preach with the democratic example so that future citizens and, of course, professionals, are able to engage in a democratic world and are also able to be themselves free and the same practice that freedom and equality. The above definitely can contribute to the improvement of the society in which we live and in which we develop as professionals. Whenever University Professor (as one of the elements of teaching action and of higher educational activity) denies students the necessary information and timely parameters that will be used to assess and issue a rating, is in fact violating the principles of democracy; whenever the teacher leaves be objective in the qualification which assigns to its students and is carried by the subjectivism, is actually breaking with democratic parameters; When a Professor missing in class without justification and without notifying students, then there is a try dignity towards them and as a result there is no professional conduct or democratic (and therefore not preach with no democratic example); at the time in which a Professor hears of students informed criticism and demonstrations of justified annoyance towards his person and taking reprisals, it is a subject that has State pretending to form professionals without that succeed in a comprehensive way, which violating the principles of democracy, for example, the freedom of expression.

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