Future Worskhop Report
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Central America Region

I. The Critique Phase

On this first day of work, the group started the discussion regarding how to name the clusters that we grouped the day before with the individual ideas. Some of these ideas were:

- Climate change should be treated as a transversal topic.
- The development (economic) model should be a single topic.
- Human rights should be addressed within the education cluster.

At the same time, the group started a discussion about whether to group the subjects under a certain structure:

- Some suggested that it would be easier to group the topics considering the causes and consequences of each topic.
- Others suggested that it would be easier to group the topics considering the relation cause-consequence of three pillars: economic, social and environmental. Some added the institutional pillar.

There was a big discussion regarding how to group the subjects. Finally, there was a general agreement about just giving the clusters a name and use the discussed structure in every group individually. According to this agreement, the cluster names were:

- Education and information access
- Socioenvironmental vulnerability
- Resource extraction and consumption model
- Production and energetic consumption

1. **Team: resource extraction and consumption model**

Discussion

This group discussed the existence of a model that promotes the accumulation of power and an unlimited resource extraction to benefit some. Therefore, the system is not responding to society's needs because it is a model that generates inequality and vulnerability. The group finally agreed upon a problem: **unequal and unlimited "globalized" accumulation.**

Within the discussion, what was most difficult to agree was defining the problem and concretizing the ideas.

Presentation

The group changed the topic since they thought that the original name given beforehand did not really reflect the problem as they conceptualized it. Therefore, the group started their presentation establishing this and arguing that consumption was not really the core problem but instead accumulation was.

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Some of the causes that the group identified regarding the problem of accumulation were: crises, unemployment, salary slavery, market logic and unlimited supply followed by debt. Among the main causers they identified: financial system, the state, transnational companies, monopoly of mass media, illegal economy and drug dealing. The main consequences were: destruction of ecosystems, excessive resource extraction, unequal distribution, social and environmental vulnerability, violation of human rights, poverty, pollution, inequality, political and military intervention and violence. Some of the risks identified were insecurity, lack of identity, biosphere destruction, growing external debt, loss of sovereignty, discrimination and war. The obstacles were: citizen repression, protests to claim individual and collective rights, economic dependence, corruption, non-democratic governments acting as if they were democratic, non participation, reductionist education, hegemonic speech. The most affected actors are: the environment, indigenous populations, small and medium producers, rural population, children and youth, working class, unemployed population, informal employees, urban poor, elder people, migrants and women. Finally, other aspects to consider are unequal commercial agreements that generate dependence to the system itself.

Feedback

"Power and control as a cause" …It should be added or verbally stated that behind the accumulation logic, there is a need for power. "Accumulation as a consequence and crisis as a problem" …This phase is the one that leads to crisis. To which the group answered that crises are the core element of this model by which it is nourished. In other words, the model needs an excess of production and consumption to satisfy society's demands. They said that unfortunately this economic model is not ending soon and crises are not a sign of decadence. The group discussed abouth whether this is a final crisis or just another. "Alternative: take into consideration resistance movements that offer reestructure of powers"…We did not discuss alternatives but we also mentioned ethics to which we agreed that ethics are no longer respected in this system.."Inequality as a cause"… Unequality allows power groups to continue exercising power because most humans are more worried about surviving than changing politics. "Consumption is a part of accumulation"….This was a large discussion among the group itself because there is perversion along the whole cycle. Accumulation includes consumption, does not exclude it.

2. **Team: Socioenvironmental vulnerability**

Discussion

The discussion is broadening and getting further covering a wide scope of topics not contemplated initially. One of the members of the team suggests taking only a pair of them and discussing them deeply, otherwise, he states, there is a risk to cover everything superficially. The same member suggests defining which is the most symbolic problem of all taking into account its consequences for the next 20-50 years.

The team agrees to contextualize diversity, population and give a clear definition of food security. Members start asking questions such as: Which would be the causes of uneven adaptation to climate change? There seems to be a difficulty to tackle the exact problem. There was a debate regarding whether to take as a main problem the resource management or issue or the inability to adapt to climate change and if so, who is to solve

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this? Affected population or governments. Finally, the team addressed the next as a main problem: **socioenvironmental vulnerability facing climate change, food insecurity and access to water.**

Presentation

Vulnerability has to do with risk. The main causes that the team distinguished were: mismanagement of natural goods and fossil resources and acceleration of climate change. Therefore, there is a growing need to adapt to climate change. The main causers are decision makers at global level, transnational and multinational corporations, and consumers. The most affected population is small producers, indigenous peoples, biodiversity, women and children. The main risks identified were: generation of violence, territorial conflicts and intensification of food insecurity and undernourishment. Some alternatives to this problem could be: citizen participation, design of adequate public policy, incorporation of environmental education, generation of risk prevention plans, territorial redesign. The main obstacles would be production, corruption, liberalism and neocolonialism, physical frontiers against political frontiers and inadequate planning. Finally, other aspects to consider would be: science and technology as an ally, global economy, political agreements and international negotiations, organized society, and declaration and preservation of human rights such as the right to food and to a healthy environment.

Feedback

Somebody asked: how can we adapt to the environment/climate change? To which the group answered: There are plants that are already doing it, some of them become more resistant. As a society, we should be able to adapt, redefine our life styles in the face of crisis. Many governments are trying to relief climate change and they are leaving adaptation aside. They also should support adaptation given the extreme vulnerability of some populations facing climate change. On the other hand, someone raised the issue of food sovereignty, arguing that we must make sure that instead of guaranteeing only access to food, governments should guarantee good conditions for permanent production. Another issue raised by the group was regarding the biosphere as subject of law and abandoning the human-centered vision of the problems. Someone said that there are several latinamerican constitutions that are already ensuring these rights. The group also argued that health was an important issue to consider taking into account that governments spend a huge amount of money preventing risks derived from climate change. Planning is another issue to consider when we tackle the subject of climate change, along with changes in the use of land (monocultures for example). Finally, the last but not least aspect to consider is culture; the culture of the peoples that are being harmed by climate change generating the loss of important traditions.

3. **Team: Production and energetic consumption**

Discussion

This team first boarded the many problems through a brainstorm and started writing on the cards all of the concepts from the mental map. Through this exercise it was easier for them to reach an agreement towards

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what the **problem** was: the current model of production is unsustainable, the costs are extremely high and based on non-renewable sources. Natural resources are being finished along with irreversible consequences.

Presentation

The team identified as causes the next: the current industrial production model, state economic interests, transnational corporations, dependence on natural resources (oil, fossil energy), scarce development of alternative energies. The city imposes itself as an example model. There is a lack of diffusion of existing alternatives to this way of life. Some of the consequences are environmental, others are social and economic. The whole value chain is affected. Environmentally this is contributing to climate change, pollution, alteration of ecosystems, limited resources, extinction of flora and fauna. Socially, this model is violating human rights, removing people from their land and harming their health. The main causers of this problema are big investors, corporations, monetary institutions, political personalities and consumers. The affected ones are indigenous peoples, whole civilizations and ecosystems.

Critiques to alternatives: many governments are currently selling proposals under an environmental tag. However, public policies are still favoring private interests and affecting citizens. Some examples are the capture of carbon and nuclear energy and the so called carbon certificates that consist mainly in a huge business. These policies have a strong environmental impact, as well as political and social, since they are barely implemented under "common good" logic. The conclusion of the team is therefore to tackle the problem from its root through a fiscal reform, wider research, real information based on autonomous media and serious research, evaluation of energetic proposals and participatory diagnose to get a closer look of the local needs and energetic efficiency in order to guarantee sustainability and respect for the local life. All of this along with a radical shift on our current life style.

Feedback

Short term solutions are to be considered; there are new industries doing business with natural gas. In Mexico for instance natural gas reserves are yet unexplored in comparison to other countries and it is being used for only the past 20 years. Shale gas and recent discoveries to exploit them have been multiplied. Mexico is the fourth country. One should take into account its consequences: excessive pollution and the possibility of ending with a natural reserve that is not able to support all the demand. Another idea from the group is to include all that indigenous communities are doing to supply their need for energy: coal and wood from the trees (some for self consumption and others for the timber industry). This represents a problem in terms of not forbidding these communities to do it but turning it into an efficient process instead. On the other hand, the group addressed the need of a lifestyle change along with the reconceptualization of development as we know it, based on consumption logic. Another issue to take into consideration is the ecological footprint and the incorporation of ethic concepts, the incentivation of academic participation in developing new research and the urgent need to consider the consequences of exploiting new natural sources never exploited before, such as deep waters. Some in the group considered that in this sense we are living the worse scenario in terms of risks for human and environmental health.

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4. Team: Education and access to information

Discussion

Through a brainstorm, this group starts addressing what the current education system is facing. There seems to be a difficulty in terms of differentiating the causes from the consequences of the problem. One important aspect that was discussed and reached a consensus was that public institutions played a key role in both education and access to information. With this in mind, the team identified a main problem**: limited access to information and quality education.**

Presentation

The causes that the team identified were: a shared responsibility between society and government regarding the indifference of people in terms of demanding and receiving quality information and education, insufficient information, weak legislations, wrong communication, lack of integrality of education. Some of the obstacles defined were: private interests, lack of information (non generated), ignorance of information sources, tolos and actors generating the information, uneven transmission of information and inefficient channels to share it. Some of the risks the team addressed were to keep growing and feeding this vicious cycle, lacking democracy and freedom. The consequences would be: mistaken information along with wrong decision making, apathy and lack of motivation from citizenship, limited learning models. At least in the region there is a lack of an effective education policy capable of guaranteeing correct information. The main causers of this situation are citizens, authorities and corporations. The main affected are communities. Other factors to include are: to be educated to generate a critical and conscious thought and to take action. Education should take into consideration the entire cultural context (being universal), value all kinds of knowledge, and be inclusive, participative and democratic. Also, there should be a systematization of knowledge and information.

Feedback

We need an education structure that goes according to the local problematic because most are copied systems from other parts of the world. It also has to do with the political and legislative systems. In this sense, a country's development is directed. There is a rupture between decision makers and information production. Also, there are consequences derived from mismanagement of natural resources that carry on social vulnerability and poverty. On the other side, the growing need for a diploma is an obstacle considering that traditional and other kind of knowledge is in disadvantage. There are other factors to include such as IT (information technologies) which have widened access to information. Other causes could also be an excess of information which is not explicitly mentioned by the team. A consequence of not having information is submissiveness and obedience and the team included it as lack of social participation. Another important issue has to do with mass media, which play a definitive role in transferring information and educating people. As alternatives you should include the role that free media play, such as community radios and autonomous

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communities producing their own information. Also, the current system of intellectual property is an obstacle for transmitting information freely; ideas and knowledge should belong to everyone.

II. The Vision Phase

On this second day of work, the team members change from one team to another in order to have a vision of all the four themes by the end of the workshop.

1. Team: Socioenvironmental Vulnerability

Presentation

The team brings up the idea of drawing a woman walking along the three scenarios: year 2020, 2035 and 2050, considering that the way to face climate change was through mitigation rather than prevention and considering also that by the last scenario, the world has gained around 3 or 6 degrees Celsius. In 2020 the main activity is agriculture; there is a certain awareness to start reforesting. There is a less deforested mountain, the weather is humid, the father of the girl that grows through the scenarios must carry wáter from far away because the one in the town is polluted. There are scarce gardens which grow vegetables; there is a chicken factory and a lot of mobility between communities.

2035: The trees start to grow, agroforestry starts to gain popularity, people start to get organized, there is a certain social organization, the weather is worsening, there is less rain water, the ecosystem is changing, but at the same time the results for having done reforestation are more visible. The local market is smaller and it tries to adapt to the new weather. 2050: in terms of agricultura, houses grow their own vegetables, hydrological reserves have lessened, but vegetation is adapting to the new climate. The community has learned to manage water sources although it is less abundant now and there is a local liquor (mezcal) fabric settled taking advantage of the new kind of plants that grow now in this climate. The girl, who is the main character, has guided herself through local knowledge that was given to her and now she gives to others.

Feedback

How were you able to gain more water? To which the team members answered: we changed the type of crop and along with that change we needed less water. We based on how to improve water quality instead of quantity although we also improved the amount through reforestation.

2. Team: Limited Access to education and quality information

This team was arguing whether to start boarding the internet subject, or massive media, or the educational system. One main idea certainly was to emphasize that education must prepare people to think and act critically and construct an individual opinion about things, away from teaching people how to memorize. On the

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other hand, there is the idea of making information free for everyone and abolishing the intellectual property system along with ending money as we know it for 2050.

Presentation

The team made three drawings according to each of the problematic discussed before, not necessarily illustrating each year but a continuous change from 2020 to 2050.

Firstly, the generation of information and its management from every sphere; knowledge is currently produced with business ends but in this scenario we would let go off that vision in order to spread free knowledge for the sake of learning and not of selling. Secondly, mass media; television, radio and computer are the most powerful media currently but in our scenario there would be no "filters" to discriminate information through these channels as it actually happens today. Information would be spread like it is to be able to allow free, clean, critic information that encourage the existence of free people and democratic systems. Lastly, the education system must be built with the contribution of different people and visions in a scheme under which each one can work on a specialty based on experience, knowledge or interest. Instead of a squared system, it would be a triangular one.

Feedback

What about traditional knowledge? They are part of the educational system, where there is ideally a brain being fed by every person. One system and one base that supports it; we are talking about shared knowledge. Another important issue regarding information would be the knowledge used by pharmaceutics and employed to build big businesses. The team did not reach exactly that topic but it is included in terms of patents. When we talk about abolishing patents, we are talking about pharmaceutics indirectly.

3. **Team: llimited "globalized" accumulation**

The team designed the three scenarios based on the main characters which were: financial system, transnational corporations and states (governments). Each of the team members made a drawing representing each one. The idea is to solve the consequences of our current way of life through the governments and in a micro system, in other words, starting from such a small entity as a family.

Presentation

In the short term (2020) the first proposal is that monopolies should refund all the damages caused to communities. The most immediate action is citizen mobilization, stop shopping in big companies and buy more in local businesses; support entrepreneurs. A person collects his own garbage, separates it, generates soil, does compost, grows his vegetables, collects rain water and uses solar energy. There are mutual benefits and agreements, investment in justice, environment and equity. In the medium term (2035) monopolies have been vanished and the resources are distributed among the people and there is a larger equity. Water collectors are working solar panels, gardens, green roofs. Indigenous communities recover their roots and traditions such as traditional medicine, respect to nature and culture. Transnationals are responsible of their wastes and use their

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own waste to continue producing. Migration from countryside to cities ends. In the long term, everybody lives well, there are no more companies, most of the soil has been reforested; there are no wars nor weapons. Companies are leaving rural communities and have been substituted by companies that are generating alternative energy, taking advantage of resources and protecting biodiversity. Society becomes conscious of their ecological footprint and aware of their power, citizens confront corrupt governments. We become capable of respecting our own differences and respect them.

Feedback

The group addressed the existence of companies that will be capable of generating energy in 2050 that will also pollute just like today. Another issue raised was the possibility to be autonomous as society and not reliable on the current system. The group also made a collective reflection: change is gradual, not immediate and as such we should start looking to reduce negative impacts of what is happening today.

4. Team: Production and energy consumption

The team is discussing about cases were energy is being correctly employed currently. They raise the issue of decentralization as an important advance and on the existence of autonomous communities. Also, they talk about relying on research to search for new alternatives of energy production. They consider urgent the need to create awareness to produce energy for humans rather than for machines (food rather than cars for example) and in this sense reach a perfect balance.

For 2020, the team focused on a central idea: decentralization of energy production, turning it more autonomous and less monopolistic. In this sense there would be a need to restablish priorities such as placing agriculture back in its first role, in other words, to feed people, not cars. We must go back to our roots, use energy in a more efficient and balanced way. We must be able to decide who produces energy, how and how its benefits are being distributed. 2035 represents the mobilization phase, where public transport and mass media suffer big changes and turn into useful tools for human development; science and creativity are generating new ideas to serve people and therefore technology is more sensitive towards human's needs. Finally in 2050 there is a greater integration of the people; knowledge is the base of everything and it comes from nature. There are many energy sources, good quality of life, time is deconstructed and people's actions are human and including. In this phase hope is extremely important and is the key value to keep people fighting and living. We live a radical change as humanity, a complete paradigm shift.

Feedback

Technology becomes a tool but it is no longer the center of everything.

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III. The Construction Phase

1. **Team: Ilimited "globalized" accumulation**

Discussion

The team is discussing about whether citizens can boycott big enterprises or not. They are also arguing about the importance of creating social abilities for political advocacy and encourage citizen mobilization; empowerment should be in the center of any proposal related to a new way of life. The central idea here is to generate a new social structure based on communal organization. We wish to break the paradigm of economic growth and end relations based on power. The local market is wide and there must be a form to set an ecosystem capable of incorporating human beings. The idea can be named "Ecopolitic management of autonomous territories."

The idea is to implement "pilot" models about integral and autonomous territory management. By 2013-2014 the main actor is the selected population and the immediate steps would be: firstly, a diagnose and analysis of the territory taking into account political, cultural, economic, social and environmental elements. Secondly, to generate discussion spaces and collective building based on sustainability, human resources and environment. Thirdly, to elaborate and implement an action plan that contains: advocacy planning, experience and knowledge exchange.

Presentation

Idea: "Integral and autonomous territorial management"; Actors: population of each selected territory; Objective: to implement a collective, horizontal and participative construction of a territorial management model that guarantees equality. The target-group would be the territory. Potential partners are cooperatives, civil society organizations, academy, social movements and other territories with the same management models. Risks: lack of organization, debt, institutional changes, natural disasters, external influence, extraction, repression and manipulation, isolation, crimes, resistance to change, bad management or mismanagement of natural goods, lack of motivation, model failure.

The main idea is the creation of a model with community participation where human rights are maximized and people are in balance with nature. Once the territory is chosen, the ideal situation would be that there was previous social organization there to make it easier to build a new model. Then, the first diagnose would be a participatory one in which the community defines the problems they are facing, the main causers and possible solutions. This phase is followed by a participatory forum to bring up solutions and plan activities. After, comes the implementation phase. The starting point would be 4 territories and grow them to 4 more every 2 years. By the end there would be 16 territorial units like this working on the same process. Once the model is implemented and taking into consideration that the main idea is to break up with the economic growth paradigm, the model would need to be capable of giving solutions for a sustainable way of life such as food security, strength of local markets and capacity building. The idea would be to create small networks with

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enough strength and autonomy to be able to generate a wider collective of population capable of demonstrating that a parallel model is possible.

Feedback

There should be more specificity regarding the problem. If accumulation is the problem, how is this model supposed to solve it? To which the group answers: what we are looking forward is to break the paradigm through strengthening again the local/community life. Accumulation is not a problem that one can face directly and immediately therefore we decided to propose a new start. On the other hand, the group considered that there is an interesting similarity between two of the proposals that base their solutions on territorial redesign. Finally there is a question in the group regarding how to incentive the shift of paradigm? To which the group answers that it is not a new proposal, that there have been previous ideas and actions regarding this.

2. **Team: Energy consumption and production**

Discussion

To eradicate completely our energy production ways is almost impossible. Changes should be gradual. One can diminish intervention but not end it completely. Some of the ideas are: to accomplish some of the changes through social organization, new consumption patterns, discourage energy waste, and push legislative and political initiatives. The proposal would be that energy no longer comes from fossil fuel and this can be done through increase of alternative production. For instance if oil companies were forbidden to extract more fossil fuel, they would need to start creating alternative ways, the problem is that in many cases (countries) they are the support of public spending. One of the biggest discussions of this team was whether to forbid oil companies to continue extracting fossil fuel or not in terms of what is possible to do. Some members considered it an unrealistic measure. On the other hand, all the team members were Mexican and they were fearing they might have overlooked other countries' problems from the Central American region. In Mexico, one of the solutions would be one with a territorial scope and with subsided government intervention.

The discussion is now focusing on what actions should be implemented by phase. A clear action is the advocacy for legislative reforms; another one is to identify regions and needs in order to redesign territorial units based in energy consumption patterns.

Presentation

Idea: to achieve a national decrease in the use of fossil fuel and instead promote the growth of alternative production; firstly, the idea would be supported by society who previously would need to gather and afterwards present an initiative. This initiative would be pushed by a committee, composed by specialists and researchers. The first step would be to revise the legislation and understand the reforms to be done. Secondly, we would promote the inclusion of the topic in public education. Parallel to this, the committee would identify micro regions based on energy consumption patterns and natural energy sources.

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Another proposal would be to increase public spending. At this point the initiative to reform the legislation would be advanced and promoted by diverse civil society organizations. Micro regions would be supported by public institutions such as the Economy Ministry and the Energy Ministry in order to promote local energy production through alternative ways, guided by technicians and specialists. By 2020 we would expect that some of these micro regions would produce and consume energy based on their own methods. By the end of this period the best scenario would be that also corporations would have joined this model and supported it.

Feedback

It is important to take into account science and technology public institutions. The proposal intends to privatize energy? What the proposal intends is to control what corporations produce and how, especially foreign corporations. The proposal should consider specific alternative solutions to energy saving; the group considered doing this in schools, through public education. On the other hand, there is a proposal to legitimate the idea through local campaigns in order to involve all the society and government levels as well. It would be important that the committee be composed as well by civil society organizations; it should have a multidisciplinary profile. Hydroelectric energy should also have been considered. How are the micro regions to be defined? There is a possibility to link them to the other two team proposals based on territorial redesign. They would be previously consulted and asked to do a proposal based on the diagnose of their opportunities and weaknesses. There is a discussion regarding how ethic is it to produce energy for the city on behalf of rural areas and therefore the importance to end this exploiting and unfair pattern.

3. **Team: Socioenvironmental vulnerability**

Discussion

The main idea of the group is to consult communities in order to identify regional needs and priorities and from there generate a plan. The team promotes the idea of generating policy regarding local needs of a specific territory. The proposal is therefore based on a territorial redesign with the intention of delimitating them as geographical units. The first phase should involve research and negotiation with civil society and governmental authorities. The mechanism would need to be implemented in two parallel phases: on one hand elaboration of the proposal, which would need to be previously consented and on the other hand, lobbying with authorities and leaders. The research would be developed in a later phase. During the first phase, political mapping would be an essential tool.

Presentation

Idea: to influence planning for development public policy; the objective is to define territories in the Central American region as geographical units to facilitate government intervention towards adapting to climate change. The beneficiaries would be potential allies, government, small producers and the community. Possible conflicts would be resistance to change and cross-border conflicts. The first phase involves participation of the community and specialists towards defining the territorial units and the creation of a "management group" that is in charge of building the methodology to create the territorial units. They will

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support the methodology on field evidence and from those inputs they would build upon a variety of indicators (economic, environmental, social and institutional). The second phase consists of prioritizing the effects of climate change to be able to define the vulnerability level of each unit and developing development plans for each. During this phase the management group and the decision makers will jointly decide how to implement the plan; it is when civil society, academy and the management group create together the "building group". By the end of both phases, the territorial unit should be able to influence public policy regarding their specific needs. Actions in the development plan for each unit include not only mitigation but prevention as well.

Feedback

It is important to take into account participation of the community not only in defining the territorial unit but also in the process of building the methodology for public intervention. The team responds to this by clarifying that the community is involved from the beginning in the diagnose phase, where they will be able to contribute in the elaboration of indicators. It is crucial to include an analysis of the data that the "building group" will develop. How are you planning to do it? The building group is composed by researchers and civil society. We did not go into depth in the methodology because it is widely complex and statistical but the group would receive also the community's input. It was also said that the team should consider involving local authorities in the building group, since some of them grasp the local needs very deeply and are part of the community. The group states the importance of pinning down their objective.

4. **Team: Limited access to education and information**

Discussion

The team is discussing the idea of completely shifting a system, which can be too radical and impossible in the short term. Some propose a complete shift and others a change of approach, there is scarce consensus. Firstly, it would be necessary to identify which things in the current education system are working and which are not. The main idea of the team is to recover traditional ways and knowledge and avoid standardizing. Main actors are national and local governments, unions, development agencies, legislative power, teachers, universities, student movements, civil society, working class, education ministries, and students. Children should be the central beneficiaries. The new paradigm should include shifting from teaching to sharing. Whom will we affect and how will we do it? Should the proposal modify the current system? In which level? Basic education, universities? How can we ensure that education and knowledge is working to maintain the community together and not separating it?

Presentation

The main idea is: reorientation of the educational dominant system towards an inclusive, not commercial model. During the first phase there was agreement upon giving workshops to communities; civil society organizations could implement them and setting a starting point based on an exchange approach. The proposal intends to set the workshops as replicable. The central conception is that this shift in the approach

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should expand upwards from local communities. From 2015 to 2016 the action plan would be intended to reorient local patterns and involve new actors, always taking into consideration the context.

One of the main problems of the dominant model is that the teacher is disintegrated and disconnected from the community, therefore this proposal intends to recover that connection. On the other hand, the proposal considers negotiating with authorities the inclusion of this new approach to all the education levels. There are basic elements in our proposal of a new approach: ethic, inclusion, environment, language.

Once the community action plans are ready, the next step would be political advocacy. In other words, negotiate with public institutions such as the ministry of education the incorporation of this new approach and support and finance some of the activities. On the other hand, we would need to lobby with unions in order to get their support given that probably many teachers would disagree with the new approach. In exchange, the proposal considers capacity building and sensitization campaigns. Mass media could play a key role, though it would be necessary to lobby with them as well. For the last stage the proposal considers a more radical change attained through negotiation with authorities and legislative reforms. Once a change of approach is accomplished, then structural (institutional) changes can come along as well.

Feedback

The group raises questions such as: how is the proposal considering bargaining with unions? The team answered that in order for these negotiations to be successful, unions would need to change internally and be connected to the community. On the other hand, we would support and refresh the original idea of unions: to protect and guarantee teachers' rights. Another important question had to do with the restructure of the educational system; in which levels is it going to happen? The team responds that the proposal starts with a single community starting with small children all the way until university students to be able to see the results and compare to other communities. On the other hand, communities are not a homogenous group considering there are adults, elder, young and children living in. Therefore, the proposal intends to reach all these groups at the same time. The workshops with the community at the beginning of the plan would be useful to clarify all these details. Other issue is the one regarding the value of traditional knowledge and individual experience; in this sense the proposal intends to "universalize" knowledge, making it open and accessible to all. Finally, within the community and outside, there are several experiments that have been successful or not, regarding this paradigm shift of the current educational system; it would be crucial to take into consideration their own experiences.

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