

3 out of 10 elementary school teachers in Mexico do not have a professional degree

In the country, there are more than one million teachers working in different educational levels, however, 300 thousand teachers do not have a professional degree that may demonstrate their skills to teach, as mentioned in the research developed by the SEP

In Mexico 300 thousand teachers are currently working in schools, but they do not have a professional degree, reported the Secretary of Public Education (SEP). In contrast, 30.8 million people are being affected by educational lagging in the country. Therefore, the results obtained in the National Survey of Occupation and Employment showed that 1.1 million people teach in elementary schools, 69.9 percent are women and 30.1 percent are men, but unfortunately some teachers neither have a professional degree or enough training to teach.



“Teachers who studied a degree in education were given positions as teachers right after finishing their studies, so it was not necessary to get a certificate” mentioned the Secretary of Public Education (SEP).

Education in Mexico has some constraints that hamper the development of quality and accessibility in education for all the people. Some of those factors are inequity, lack of economic resources, and also the fact that teachers in different levels do not have enough experience at teaching. That data was included in the report related to a Diagnose about the Rights to Education developed by the National Council for Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL).

The report mentioned that deficiencies in education are a consequence of having unskilled teachers in the classrooms, due to several reasons like poor teaching experience, insufficient educational programs, lack of connection and sequence of the contents in the curricula, as well as deficiencies on infrastructure and basic services in the schools.

Mexico does not have professional teachers

In accordance with the System of Information and Educational Management (SIGED), which belongs to the SEP, during the school year 2016 - 2017 (the latest study took place that year), 1 million 11 thousand 589 teachers worked in elementary schools.

Nevertheless, the last update on the International Program to the Evaluation of Students (PISA) revealed that in Mexico 3 out of 10 teachers in elementary schools do not have a professional degree. They started their activities in schools because they were given a recommendation letter by a person in a strategic position, or they paid to get a position in the school, even if they did not have any knowledge or experience to teach.

Teachers are responsible for the education of students since they are very young. For that reason, training is necessary, but thousands of teachers teach without having completed their degrees or even worse, they do not have any studies in that area.

On the other hand. PISA revealed that 40 percent of teachers do not finish the training programs developed in different public schools, which has a negative impact on their learning processes.

Basic education is the most affected

An important fact to mention is that in Mexico more than half of principals in elementary schools believe that they do not have “professional teachers” in the classrooms so, “it is difficult to have quality education”, as mentioned in the International Study developed by OCDE on Teaching and Learning processes (TALIS).

“The information about schools was provided by the principals in those schools, who also mentioned that the lack of resources in their schools makes it difficult to provide quality education to students”, as mentioned in the document.



SUMARY

In elementary schools, the principals in charge of public schools in the country reported that 50 percent of the teachers in their schools do not have a professional degree. This number undoubtedly has an impact on the students' learning process during the first years of their basic education.

The lack of professional teachers is much bigger in elementary schools, as people in charge of them reported that 55 percent of the teachers do not have a professional degree, a different 56 percent do not have the competencies to teach students with special needs, and 32 percent of them mentioned that the results they get in evaluations are not satisfactory. The average in secondary school decreases as the principals in those schools think that 38 percent of teachers working there are not professional teachers.

Actions to promote education in the country

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT), has promoted education all over the country for almost 25 years. It has benefited thousands of students in conditions of vulnerability so that they could have access to education and continue their studies.

Nevertheless, schools also got support before the pandemic and teachers could teach in adequate classrooms. It was a fact that teaching was more efficient in adequate classrooms, as reported by CONEVAL; and CMT provided enough support to make it happen.

Schools in rural communities got the most subsidies because the majority had poor infrastructure, and thanks to the support provided by this organization they were able to improve their facilities.

CMT successful case



CMT, has promoted education all over the country for almost 25 years. It has benefited thousands of students in conditions of vulnerability so that they could have access to education and continue their studies.