The Popular revolucionary Emiliano ZapAta UNION: social practices and learning

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Abstract

The study of social learning processes and practices intends to document and examine the educational processes that arise during the everyday life of adult people, particularly when they find themselves in a social context. The main interest here concerns the education and constitution processes of the popular subject and the kind of articulations that take place within wider social processes related to the struggle for basic services such as housing, the education of children, democracy and the human rights, starting from popular organization and participation.

Within the community life, spaces are built for the education of popular subjects and it is true that in order to participate, organize themselves, take individual and collective decisions, previous social situations of practice are needed, in which it is possible to develop and share ways to do things, a language, beliefs, values, in short ways of social representation and practice that shape the collective identity of the popular subjects (Ruiz, 2000).

In order to understand how grown-up people take part in the learning within social life, it is important to bear in mind the conditions in which this learning takes place and the practices that are set up in the different social spaces, such as a popular meeting, a gathering of women, a dressmaking workroom or a civic exercise. In that respect, it is my intention here to document the social learning processes and practices of a popular organization.

Learning contexts

The UPREZ, is part of the social movements in Latin America, and more particularly in Mexico. It was formally constituted in 1987 on the base of experience of the urban popular movement that arose in Mexico City as a result of the 1985 earthquake and of the political experience of the Left-wing Revolutionary

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2 Amongst the main purposes of the Popular Revolutionary Emiliano Zapata Union we can highlight the following ones:
   - To coordinate demands and actions in the working-class neighborhoods and the Union bases;
   - To strengthen and unify the organizational structures;
   - To promote the political and ideological education of the bases in order to prepare more efficient struggles and to train the leaders of the Urban Popular Movement (MUP);
   - To build the popular union in an intersectorial way;
   - To establish a wide-range struggle program in conformity with the needs of the popular movement and the juncture;
   - To make the urban popular movement present in a permanent way, by means of the mass media.
Organization (OIR) which had been founded at the beginning of the eighties in order to draw together the forces of the revolutionary left wing.