

New pedagogic trends towards the evaluation of educators

Autor: Gil Gil, Ana Isabel (Licenciada en Filología Inglesa, Profesora de Inglés).

Público: Profesorado en general. **Materia:** Inglés, todas. **Idioma:** Inglés.

Title: New pedagogic trends towards the evaluation of educators.

Abstract

A report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) names Spain as one of the advanced countries, where public teachers are not evaluated regularly. This report has been a matter of discussion in the media generating an intense debate in the educational community. With the intention of shedding light on this issue, whether the evaluation of teachers is or ought to be a priority will be analysed in this article.

Keywords: Education, Evaluation, Teachers, Educators, Students, Schools, Government, José Antonio Marina

Título: Nuevas tendencias pedagógicas sobre la evaluación del profesorado.

Resumen

Un informe de la Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico (OCDE) considera España uno de los países avanzados donde los profesores no se evalúan con regularidad. Este informe se ha hecho eco en los medios de comunicación generando un gran debate en la comunidad educativa. Tratando de arrojar luz sobre este asunto, en este artículo se analiza si la evaluación del profesorado es o debería ser una prioridad en los centros docentes.

Palabras clave: Educación, Evaluación, Profesorado, Educadores, Estudiantes, Escuelas, Gobierno, José Antonio Marina.

Recibido 2016-01-15; Aceptado 2016-01-20; Publicado 2016-02-25; Código PD: 068042

It is a fact that teachers in Spain must be assessed in order to enter the profession. However, there are no regular checks after they manage to do that. A report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) names Spain as one of the advanced countries, where public teachers are not evaluated regularly. All this has led the Spanish Government to make a move towards the matter, asking pedagogue José Antonio Marina to write *The White Paper on The Teaching Profession*. In this book Marina proposes several actions needed, in order to evaluate teachers.



(Source: Intef image database. Photographer: *Luana Fischer Ferreira*)

Should we attribute the students' progress only and entirely to the teaching practice? It may be true that the teachers' role is essential concerning the quality of education. Notwithstanding, we should not adopt the position that educational success relies exclusively on teachers. I would like to draw attention to the fact that the world of education is under the

influence of several other factors of great importance, and teachers are just one part amongst many. Educators are forced to work in conditions that do not favour educational work, namely, the lack of resources in schools, the number of students in the classrooms, the excessive teaching load and most discouragingly of all, the fact that an increasing number of disrespectful students are disrupting our schools.

Continuous training is, in my humble opinion, utterly relevant for teaching quality. This being, according to The White Paper one of the aspects teachers might be assessed on. However, it is also of the utmost importance the way students are educated at home, as well as the resources the government assigns to schools. Unless more resources are set aside for education, the best teacher ever, will not be able to shine.



(Source: Intef image database. Photographer: *Luana Fischer Ferreira*)

Another suggested measure in the former document envisages observing teachers in action in the classroom. At this point I can only express my total abhorrence of this announcement, unless it is also applied to other public professionals in their place of work: surgeons, secretaries,... In a fair and just society, everyone should try to improve their professional performance. As far as I am concerned, it is unrealistic to try to improve the quality of education, only by assessing teachers' abilities. The centre of attention should be primarily on the type of society we want to build, so that we all should urge politicians to take reasonable steps that benefit us all.

Bibliografía

- Marina, J.A., Pellicer, C., Manso, J. (2015). Libro blanco de la profesión docente y su entorno escolar.
- OECD. (2013). *Synergies for better learning: An international perspective on evaluation and assessment*. Retrieved from: http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/education/synergies-for-better-learning-an-international-perspective-on-evaluation-and-assessment_9789264190658-en#
- Schwandt, T. (2015). *Evaluation foundations revisited. Cultivating a life of the mind for practice*. Stanford. Stanford University Press.