

THE UNIVERSITY MODEL FOR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION OF GOOD CITIZENS IN PERU: A CASE STUDY

Universities in Latin America have contributed decisively to the democratization of societies.

How does this happen?

These institutions:

- Are vigilant of power
- Are based on open dialogue
- Are pluralist → examples of social inclusion
- Their internal organization shows a behaviour respectful of the law

Central concepts to social life such as **justice, tolerance, democracy and universal solidarity** are revitalized by comprehensive education

Should the universities concentrate on professional training or should they go for a comprehensive education?

The Peruvian Higher Education context reflects this debate

Two models of universities in Peru:

- Comprehensive education:** defended by old public and private universities
- Professional instruction:** for profit new private universities, a group of institutions created after the Law of Promotion for investment in education



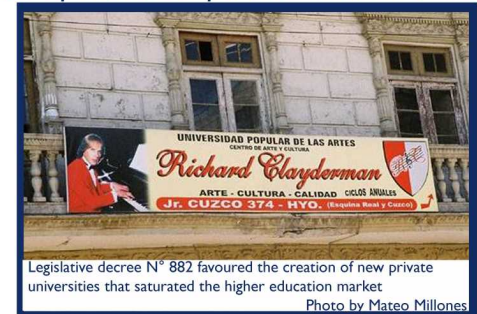
New for profit model

Weaknesses:

- Conceive university as an entity that offers services in regards to the needs of the market
- Does not make an effort in promoting civic responsibility

In defense of the comprehensive model: a case of good practice

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú



Three crucial aspects for the formation of good citizens

Basic formation in sciences and humanities

General Studies: two years of a solid scientific and humanistic education, promote interdisciplinary education, with emphasis in critical reflection. Include courses as Peruvian Social Reality, Culture of Peace, Ethics, that encourage students to ask important questions about their own formation as citizens.

Social responsibility and responsible research

Project the educational focus of the university towards the public, academic and the State, as well as private enterprise. Encourages the participation of students and teachers in several volunteer opportunities in regions which have been affected by violence or natural disasters. Responsible research promotes sustained development of the towns in Peru, as well as the respect of Human Rights: Teachers and students show their commitment to values of solidarity and reciprocity through their participation in these activities.

Internationalization

International activities of cooperation are academic enterprises oriented to develop a fruitful dialogue between local reality and the new universal reality. Our model leads to the acquisition of attitudes related to respect and the recognition of other cultural identities in the context of globalization. Thus, it contributes to the formation of a universal citizenship.