



2. To listen to the voices of children and young people ... and 3. To encourage the full participation of girls and young women in education

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In a UNICEF survey of 12,000 children and adolescents in Latin America, more than 50% of them said that neither at home nor in schools their opinions were heard. In other words, more than half of those surveyed people think that their lives go by without being listened to by their closest ties, without being considered in the decisions that impact their lives, such as being on the sidelines, as being just spectators of a movie in the that they should be protagonists.

Global Compact on Education invites us to commit ourselves to putting the person, their value and their dignity at the center of every educational process, and this clearly implies putting children and adolescents at the center, to listen to their voices, to know first-hand their needs, and give rise to all they have to contribute.

In the time of Covid Pandemic in many countries, school has been reduced to classes and homework. And it is true that most of the teachers were not prepared for an unprecedented situation like this, but what would have happened if we had listened more to our children? Perhaps alternatives have emerged that the adults were not able to imagine.

Today in many places they are already talking about going back to school, in some maybe they just even have returned, and surely there will be plans from the point of view of health, mask, sanitation, constant hand washing, perhaps social distance, etc. And there will also be the temptation to think only about how much the students lost in the time of isolation and what can we do to recover it, but all the children lived a fundamental experience that they will not forget in life. The school cannot consider it as nothing and go back to its programs, classes and assignments. And this can be a very important learning for teachers, to get into a LISTENING attitude. This goes on forever, not just because we now have such a tough experience.

In a homily at a mass celebrated in a square full of people, including more than a thousand children, in front of the Lujan Basilica here in Argentina, Bishop Eduardo García asked: "What is the most beautiful thing about the Church? What is most beautiful thing about about CA? ", And in chorus the voices of our children shouted loudly Los Aspirantes !, which is what we call children in A.C.A. And in that square the bishop told them: "Guys, you are not the future, you are already the present that God entrusts to us to evangelize our eyes and hearts of all sterile

complexity and tell us with their lives that the Kingdom of God is one of those who are made like you ”.

And if children are not only our future, but also our present, then we need to start taking their points of view seriously.

In the video, when Brisa says she wants a subject called “Debate”, isn't she meaning “I have something to say and I want to be heard”?

And when Juan Emilio says that in the school of the future some strategies applied in quarantine must be maintained, is he not teaching us that we also have to learn from this? That can we not return the same way?

The commitment to "Listen to the voice of children, and the young people to whom we transmit values and knowledge, to build together a future of justice and peace, a dignified life for each person" and to "Promote the full participation of girls in education ", is the commitment to put boys, girls and adolescents at the center of the process, recognizing that they are people and therefore architects of their lives, alongside adults of course, but protagonists with their own value and dignity.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like them" (Mt. 19:14). Jesus himself puts them at the center, gives them identity, space, time, respect.

So how much will we learn from our children if we truly place and value their voices.