Migrant Education in Spain

Brief overview of a new phenomenon

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1. Spanish political multi-level system

‡ The Spanish State is divided into Autonomous Communities (AC)
‡ AC are not States nor Regions
‡ The Spanish Constitution recognizes the possibility that the AC may assume executive powers in education
‡ All AC have assumed them except
2. Spanish education system

- It is a decentralized system
- The national government takes charge of:
  - Defining minimum common curricular contents
  - Scholarship policies
  - Degree recognition and standardization
  - Coordination of AC education administrations
  - Supporting AC to keep a territorial equilibrium
- Immigrants under 18 enjoy the same rights and responsibilities as Spaniards
- Foreigners have rights and freedoms recognized by law involving education
3. Approach to migrant education

- There is no formal discrimination between immigrant and native students.
- Immigrants are incorporated into general courses depending on their age.
- If needed, they take part in programs planned for students with special education necessities.
- Some AC have developed plans to deal with immigrant students’ needs.
4. Some data on migrant students

Migratory phenomenon evolution

- Migration, a new phenomenon in Spain
- It is increasingly important
- It involves all levels of education
- It focuses mainly in Primary School

Evolución del alumnado extranjero

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4. Some data on migrant students

Migratory phenomenon evolution

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<td>%</td>
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4. Some data on migrant students

Data on Autonomous Communities

‡ The amount of immigrants varies from one AC to another
‡ The percentage is strongly influenced by the number of students of each AC
5. Types of policies

- Central government provides financial support for the integration of groups with risk of personal or social exclusion to guarantee equity.
- Every AC develops its own approach.
- There are several types of public policies:
  - Multicultural approach
  - Student reception
  - Organization and curricular adaptations
  - Language and cultural diversity
  - Attention to families
  - Teacher training
  - Other resources
5. Types of policies

‡ Multicultural approach
  ‡ Intercultural education is intended for the whole student population
  ‡ Special attention is given to students diversity
  ‡ AC have developed their own plans to face diversity:
    ‡ Some AC concentrate in immigrant students’ integration
    ‡ Some AC are concerned by social exclusion
5. Types of policies

‡ Student reception

‡ Schools are entitled and encouraged to elaborate specific programs to receive newly arrived students
‡ Some of those programs are integrated in AC general plans of attention to diversity
‡ Most of the AC have staff whose mission is to receive immigrant students as well as any others
5. Types of policies

‡ Organization and curricular adaptations
  ‡ Schools have plans to pay attention either to diversity or to educational needs
  ‡ Those plans include:
    ‡ Curricular adaptations
    ‡ Didactic adaptations
    ‡ Intercultural workshops
    ‡ Other actions
  ‡ Some AC have schools where they gather students with special needs involving large number of immigrants
5. Types of policies

‡ Language and cultural diversity
  ‡ Learning of Spanish language and getting used to school practices is crucial for migrant students’ integration
  ‡ So, some AC have articulated periods of students adaptations to school
  ‡ The adaptation procedures focus on learning Spanish and the AC official language
5. Types of policies

‡ Attention to families

‡ In order to facilitate the integration of students and families, AC provide interpreters to communicate with foreign students

‡ Some AC have agreements with migrant associations to improve the integration process
5. Types of policies

‡ Teacher training
‡ AC have developed training programs intended for teachers.
‡ Teacher training programs include:
  ‡ Strategies to manage schools with an important number of migrant students
  ‡ Strategies to deal with migrant students in classrooms
  ‡ Intercultural education courses
5. Types of policies

‡ Other resources

‡ Some AC have created centers to support intercultural education.
‡ Some AC have established subsidies for the elaboration of didactic instruments and materials to improve intercultural education
‡ Some AC have centers to fight against discrimination and racism which also deal with education affairs
Thank you very much!

Merci beaucoup!

¡Muchas gracias!