ENSAYO

THE EDUCATION LEVEL AT SPANISH SCHOOLS

Recent studies have concluded that the educational level at Spanish schools has decrease compared with the level demonstrated ten or twenty years ago. I fully agree with this conclusion and my arguments are based more in my experience as father rather than an exact knowledge of the simple statistics about literacy in Spain. Besides my wife is a Math teacher so I should be able to compare the different points of view of both my wife and my daughters. Unfortunately my experience as teacher in the Military School has influenced me and consequently I am closer to my wife´s opinion than to my daughter´s ones.

First of all I strongly believe that the educational outcomes are influenced basically by the students´ environment. I mean not only their friends or colleagues at school but also the atmosphere they breathe at their homes. Generally speaking, the differences in family background cause in my opinion two reactions in the students. First, they just follow their parents’ attitude: to watch unresponsively any kind of TV programs, to play games in the computer, or to not practice any sport or hobby. A few react saying: “I do not want to be as my father”. But unluckily this option is not massively followed by all the students.

Secondly, in my opinion throughout the last decades both the system and the objectives had changed many times. I remember when I was young: the exams which I needed to pass, the hours I had to study and how we ended the course with a final exam in which we had to demonstrate the knowledge acquired during the course. Now the students have many exams but only three or four book pages to study. Moreover, it is compulsory in some cases that students have to pass to the following course even though they failed all the subjects which I consider quite negative.

To sum up I think that there are basically two factors which have caused the decrease of the educational level in Spain: the changes in the Educational System (probably influenced by the ideas of the current political government) and the family background. I have no doubt that parents are the key to put off or stop this problem but they need to change their habits and live a more educational way of live. Only if students see the example of their parents they will consider normal different positive aspects like to read books or newspapers, to practice any sport or exercise, or simply to sit all together at the table for lunch and talk with them.