



ThinkTank
Initiative

SUMMARY

Democracy Project: Building citizenship through schools

Proposed by Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP) and Fundacion Gustavo Mohme Llona (FM)

INTRODUCTION

While Peru saw a return to democracy in 2001, this has not led to substantial improvements in the quality of democracy, and has had little impact on the daily lives of many Peruvians. The next presidential election will take place in 2016, in an atmosphere of little confidence in institutions and the political class, social unrest and strong inequalities. The Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP) in collaboration with the Fundacion Gustavo Mohme Llona (FM), will therefore undertake a 1-year study to develop and understand the role of civic education to teach people to demand recognition of their rights, form relationships, and manage conflict in ways that strengthen the identity of a social and political communication.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

These efforts will contribute to larger goals of reforming the electoral system, addressing corruption, and enhancing social inclusion policies. This project will take place in the context of discussions over curriculum changes to improve education, and the beginning of a new electoral process leading up to the election in 2016. This project aims to incorporate research, an implementation experience, and a communication and advocacy strategy. This will involve the design and implementation of a work strategy in public schools to develop civic and democratic capacities among children. Information on the perceptions and expectations that students, parents, and educators have regarding democracy, citizenship, and the role of school civic education will be collected and analyzed. The results will then be made available to the education system and general public to promote and steer the debate on civic education in schools.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

Civic educational materials will be developed for use in public schools as a means to ensure this topic is included in the teaching-learning processes and teacher training. This will allow the project team to develop a set of proposals for the inclusion of these topics in the teaching and learning processes in the country. Research will then be conducted on the perceptions and expectations around civic education in six regions of the country. A survey will be developed and given to a representative sample of students, parents, teachers and principals. This will allow the demands of these target groups to drive the proposals for civic education in schools, and thus it will become a participative initiative.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Research results will be communicated and advocated to the general public, authorities and policy makers to spark discussion on the current state of democracy and citizenship and the principle challenges of strengthening these through education. Five reports will be prepared using the analysis and evidence gathered.