

ESPACIO MEYALLI – TECHNO-PEDAGOGICAL PROJECT, STATE OF MEXICO

By Roger Pujalt, March 2015

Espacio Meyalli (2) is a techno-pedagogical project which goal is to benefit, as a pilot project, the indigenous school community of Santiago Oxtoc-Toxhié, Municipality of Aculco, in the State of Mexico. The school community is represented by the teachers, students and parents of the Indian Primary School "Emiliano Zapata". We call our project techno-pedagogical, as it brings together two components which are the basis of our research. The first, consisting of the educational strategy and methodology; and in addition to this system, the technology, through the implementation of educational spaces, equipped with computers, educational software, thematic libraries; as well as educational spaces for the promotion of good work practices both at home (e.g., Alimentary Education, sewing and dressmaking, haircutting) and at the field (e.g., preparation of home greenhouses, natural fertilizers). These practices were identified previously with the training needs assessment of the selected school community. The second component is represented by the active participation of the school community in educational activities, we propose. We believe that family involvement, particularly the mothers, is essential to strengthen and improve the education of their infants and their own. We promote health education as awareness processes and practices for the school community so they can focus their attitudes and values towards healthy lifestyles. Espacio Meyalli is a techno-pedagogical intervention model, original, with a qualitative approach, pragmatic and systemic, that seeks to improve the education and health within Indigenous school communities, historically neglected and very often forgotten. Roger Pujalt has been leading and implementing this project with several partners in the framework of his doctoral thesis in philosophy at the University UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México), Mexico. NEW WAYS Center for Sustainable Development is one of the partners of this project. Positive results of this project so far include contributions to 1) basic education which is often not provided regularly by government authorities, in the form of tailor-made internet library applications on selected issues relevant to the community, the intelligent use of internet information 2) self-sufficiency in agriculture through plantations and harvest of mushrooms, rucola salad, and other agricultural plantations, 3) a construction of a solar kitchen at the school campus, 4) the implementation of sewing courses and sewing products such as school dresses and clothes for the community. The positive results encourage the application of this model project to other similar environments, be it in Latin America or other parts of the world.

Keywords: Espacio Meyalli; Indigenous School Community; Techno-Pedagogical Project; Health and Education, Sustainable Agriculture, Inclusive Approach, Self-Sufficiency (2) Meyalli means “Spring Water” in Náhuatl (Mexican Dialect)