

1st TOPIC: EDUCATION

Authoritarian regimes are characterized by the use of education systems for **indoctrination**, which consists of the reeducation of a society within the official ideology of a state and, at the same time, blocks and barriers against objective information.

After the fall of an authoritarian regime, it is crucial to remedy the following **serious consequences of indoctrination**:

1. Twisted comprehension of the social system presented by the state.
2. Unjust interpretation of the history in school programs.
3. Insufficient level of the description and comprehension of democracy and free market functioning.
4. Double morality – one at school and the other in family.
5. De-professionalization of responsible individuals within the education system.

The steps needed to renovate the education system, based on democracy, and **the practical recommendations** for how to achieve them:

1. Curricular change.

Above all social sciences, civic education and history should be first priority.
Relatively easy task. There are many external sources and theories that can serve as a template.

2. Change of the role of teachers.

Very complicated and long-lasting task.
First step: replacement of the directors and officials who will be responsible for the teaching staff.
In the long term, it is required to change the education system of the new democratic pedagogues, to develop a new plan of studies in Faculties of Pedagogy and to renew the character of teachers.

3. Inclusion of private education and church education.

To adopt a relevant legislation that will govern the organization and the control of these types of education institutions.

4. Assurance of the autonomy of universities.

Revise the legislation of tertiary education to avoid an intervention of the government in academic freedoms.



5. Opening of the education system internationally.

Implementation of the exchange programs of students and studies abroad.

Transition of the education system towards democratic values is a difficult task. The more an authoritarian regime lasts, the more difficult is to achieve the established challenges. **It is a matter of resistance** rather than speed.¹

¹ Conclusions were issued in the workshop 'The Link between the Education and Democratic Values in Latin America' organized in the framework of the Democratic Solidarity project, in cooperation with the NGO People in Need during the 19th annual conference of the Forum 2000 Foundation, the 15th of September of 2015, Langhans, People in Need.