

RSHM Annual Conference

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The big challenges for education:

- the loss of family social educational relevance
- the uncertainty and unpredictability that keeps the future always open
- the growing globalisation of economy and societies
- the social disparities that schools can't overcome
- the minority's exclusion and the unemployment
- the social fragmentation and the ghettos
- the moral relativism, the loss of references and values

- the prevalence of the “*homo economicus*” and of the individual consumer
- the potentialities of information society/society of *show business*
- the superficiality of knowledge and information (we know everything and what do we know?)
- the ICT (Information and communication technologies) are a great opportunity and a big trap
- the compulsory school conducts many youngsters to “scholar consumption”

Main challenge: to (re)found the education fundamentals

- the place for everyone and of each one (personalisation)
- the place where each one has the right and the duty to Be, in its own difference
- the place for hospitality and for freedom
- the place for confrontation with the other, with each other
- the place for work, rigour and effort
- the place for co-operation between every social actor and institutions

Priorities (change according to the contexts)

- To attend to diversity, embrace each person, promote the development of all
- To integrate everyone, to build paths of development for all
- To involve and commit social institutions with education
- To commit the entire society with long life education of all, through life and with life
(re-make projects and opportunities for long life education and training)

Challenges for teachers/educators

- cooperating with society (families first)
- working in team at schools, reflexion about each student
- strong professional skills a plenty of love and enjoyment
- integration in inter-professional and inter-institutional teams

Four orientations:

1. There is no inclusive school without the social inclusion of school
 - families
 - local authorities
 - enterprises
 - social institutionsin co-operation, network, the environment of solidarity as background

2. There is no quality education if school does not focus in its mission and does not stake on personal integral education

3. There is no educational society without clear social compromises in education for all

4. The globalisation places new challenges, not only global but also local and socio-communitarian

Schools are institutions of hope

- Builders of meaning, in a context in which everything is inclined to be relative
- Builders of community sense, in a fragmented time
- Places of freedom and creativity, on a context in which everything seems to be sealed
- Builders of future, in a world of uncertainty

“Only a credible hope can be the soul of education, as of the whole life”

(Bento XVI, 2008)