



INTRODUCTION

The Free Democratic School in Huamachuco is a social project which creates fundamental structures for humanitarian development in the areas of education, health, environment and human rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND BASIC CONDITIONS OF HUAMACHUCO

Huamachuco (52.459 inhabitants) is the capital of the province Sánchez Carrión (ca. 52.459 inhabitants) of the region La Libertad. The town is situated in a height of 3.180 metres in the Andes. About 70% of the population live isolated in the rough mountains of the country¹⁾. In this region the traditional preindustrial lifestyle of the population has not changed until today. The province Sánchez Carrión is one of the twenty poorest areas within Peru. Three quarters of the children between the age of six and nine suffer from a constant lack of nourishment. Apart from a few quarters Huamachuco has not got any drinking water. There is no sewage system which means that the sewage goes untreatedly into the rivers. A major part of the country's surface is worked by foreign mining industry which pollute the ground water and the surface water on the long run.

WHY DO WE NEED THIS PROJECT?

After a study of the WEF (World Economic Forum, 2007) with regards to the education level of the children in the country, Peru comes last out of 131 other countries. A similar result can be read in the UNICEF study from 2008. The results cry for an enormous need of action, in society as well as politically. The situation must be changed. School education ends for a vast percentage of children (70%) who live far from any towns or cities after 5 elementary school years. Further education, if possible at all, is not usual. Often there is a lack of awareness of the usefulness of further education and a lack of finances, too. In the elementary

schools children are only taught the cultural technics like basic reading, writing and maths. Creative subjects, crafts or relevant contents for networks in the life in society are not taught at all. Therefore there is a lack of general infrastructure for a further comprehensive education. A far reaching teacher's training is non-existent. Most teachers are trained in local colleges.

The present (antiquated) valid curriculum does not correspond with reality, in which most children live far away from towns or bigger communities.

WHY A DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL?

After significant political and societal changes in Peru a new approach for education is necessary. How can fundamental thoughts of democracy and civil participation and responsibility in and for society be established?

Important aspects of human rights shall be lived



¹⁾ All data published by INEI ("Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática", National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru)



in this school and thus change the awareness for a responsible life in society. The Free Democratic School in Huamachuco will be the first of its kind in Peru and will be a pilot scheme in the country. It forms a new approach for education and supports and encourages the individual for his/her competence in life.

HOW DOES THE FREE DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL "KAPRIOLE" COME ABOUT THE PROJECT?

The Free Democratic School "Kapriole" has been existing for more than 20 years and has through a vivid exchange with other schools collected lots of experience with its educational conception. The Peruvian participants of the project call it "extreme luck" that they were privileged to meet a staff member of the "Kapriole" who was interested in their situation. Touched by the spontaneous reaction, showing solidarity for the project, the idea was soon developed to a cooperation for the use of both sides. Meanwhile great activities for the commitment of the project have started all around, including children as well as parents and staff. A long lasting, valuable partnership is the aim of the project.

WHAT IS THE USE OF THE PROJECT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE "KAPRIOLE"?

The intentions we have with the conception of the "Kapriole" can be widened through this project in a very useful way. Through life in a completely different culture, through showing solidarity with a people with completely different life conditions the view of young people will definitely be broadened.

The analysis of their own values and cultural background will be supported. The young people will hopefully through living solidarity understand and take over responsibility in a "one world country". Their competence will also be enlarged by learning and speaking another foreign world language.

Learning with "heart and hand" is especially in the years of puberty an ideal part of school life and learning. All in all the "Kapriole" will be capable of widening the development of their own school through this partnership and exchange in a wonderful way.

WHAT IS THE USE OF THE COOPERATION WITH THE "KAPRIOLE" FOR THE FREE DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL IN HUAMACHUCO?

Many years of experience of the "Kapriole" contribute essentially to the planning and to the realization of the project.

The "Kapriole" gives grants to the Peruvian teachers and offers them and in a few years time also the students of the Free Democratic School in Huamachuco further training in Germany. The aim of this exchange is to pass on experiences made in Germany, profit from them and live what is possible in Peru. Apart from that teachers as well as students learn a foreign language and get to know a different culture. It is important, too, to strengthen the capabilities of the teachers, to guarantee the autonomy of the project.

Beyond that the Free Democratic School in Huamachuco receives financial support from Germany.

The "Kapriole" accompanies the development of the Free Democratic School in Huamachuco by sending volunteers to support them, and, to make

the best possible use of exchanges of the experiences, they will also send groups of students from Germany to Peru.

PROJECT AIMS: WHAT DO WE WANT TO AIM AT WITH THE PROJECT?

The aim of the project is to help build a long lasting school with a boarding part in Huamachuco in Peru. Many underprivileged children in the region can at the moment not visit a school. We would like to enable them to do so with our project in order to widen their own perspectives and to organize their own lives. The emerging school will be built after the example of the "Kapriole" that has been existing for the past twenty years. It is an example of a well working partner school, of course working with completely different living conditions. Students, parents and staff of the "Kapriole" want to support their project partners with this project in Peru in the conception, construction, equipment and help organize school life.

This help works under the principle: help to take matters in their own hands. We will help and support in matters we are asked to help by the project responsables of Peru who will at any time have the main responsibility. We want to stress the importance of the aspect of sustainability.

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- Planning and conceptualizing of a democratic school in Paranshique, Huamachuco - Peru
- Consistent, long- term and lively exchange between the partner schools, special support for the further expansion of the school in Peru. (Help with library, multimedia resource centre, building..)
- Planning and organisation of the architecture, statics, finances of the school building in several logically coordinated construction stages.
- Building of the school with all the necessary structures
- Planning and construction of decentralized , renewable energy supply(electricity and hot water) for the self supply of the school and, should the occasion arise, for the sale of surplus energy to local markets. Use of natural resources (wind, water, sun)

- Help and drawing- up of appropriate teaching materials (e.g. Montessori)

WHY DO WE WANT OUR OWN SCHOOL BUILDING?

We are in the very fortunate situation of having our own property to build the school on. Therefore we have the freedom, to construct the school according to our imagination, wishes and needs. We would like to create an environment for learning and living, a place in which students as well as staff feel at home, because they can find all the possibilities for their needs. There will be workshops, studios, gardens, fields, a library and a broad variety of workshops with main themes.

The long-term target is the construction of a building for 150 students and staff plus boarding for pupils whose villages are too far away.

The building will be sustainable and safe. The buildings will be equipped with ecological energy and sewage systems. It is our target, too, to be a pilot project for the whole region, that is to use the simple local materials but at the same time build with the latest findings. We would like the locals to gain experience from the project.

We hope to create a room with this construction that will offer the students a variety of possibilities for learning and that will motivate them for any kind of studying.



TEAM AND CONTACTS

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