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TASK OF EDUCATION

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A) THE YCW OPTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG WORKERS. THIS IS THE SPECIFIC AND PRIMARY TASK OF THE YCW IF IT IS TO REACH THE OBJECTIVE OF LIBERATION OF THE MASS OF PEOPLE.

1. Education to be the basis for creating a «new» man and for building a «new» society.
2. It is only through conscious, organized action that the mass of people can liberate themselves.
3. The Task of Education must be carried out among, by, for and with young workers, and it aims at the whole mass of young workers who we believe are capable and responsible of being the agents of their own liberation.
4. We believe that education must always come from action carried out by young workers themselves and that it will promote organization.
5. This is a slow and progressive task because young workers are at different levels of awareness, but this does not mean a contradiction with other types of action which may be more direct. On the contrary, education is completed by other means which the mass of people carry out and which have the same objectives.

B) YCW METHOD AND ITS APPLICATION IN ACTION

- This option for education implies a METHOD. THIS METHOD EMBRACES ALL THE STEPS TAKEN TO REACH THE OBJECTIVE WHICH WE HAVE FIXED AND WHICH TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION:
 - the capacity and possibility of people involved in the action;
 - circumstances in which the action is being carried out;
 - the final objective as contained in the Declaration of Principles.

We see this method in the following way:

EDUCATION THROUGH ACTION

Education Through Action

1. Education through young workers' actions. We are educated at the same time.

ACTON OF PROGRESSIVE CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

Awareness of the contradiction

2. Everything in our society speaks of “capitalism”, “individualism”, “selfishness”. This society made us poor, but gives us a capitalist mentality.
In order to bring about real and lasting changes, it is essential that young workers become aware of their own situation and that of others. We must take into account the fact that our deepest aspirations and our dignity are in contradiction with the capitalistic and materialistic aspirations which are continually implemented in our body and soul through advertisement, false information (newspapers, TV, radio) and the whole educational system which transmits false values which the culture of the dominating class forces us to assimilate.

Rejection of the Contradiction

3. A growing awareness of our own situation and that of other people makes us reject injustices and want to bring about changes. For this reason we must work to awaken our drowsy minds which are calmed and drugged by routine and ignorance. This awareness is acquired progressively; it is through action that young workers are transformed, that their mentality and way of living are changed.

Progressive Discovery of Causes and consequences

4. Reflection on the reality that we live in our daily life and the action we take, enable us to discover why such situation exists on a local and international level, and the causes and consequences of such situation. Likewise, we are able to show the effects on family life, free time, friendship, etc. and finally we see that a person's whole life is affected.

Identification as Young Workers Belonging to the Working Class.

5. Through this progressive reflection on reality and action, we discover exploitation, the existence of two classes and the one to which we belong: the working class, the people, the exploited. At the same time, it makes us aware of our commitment to the people.

Deepened Conscientiousness as the Action Progresses

6. This task of responsible awareness is never finished, but rather it develops according to the degree of development of the action. It is expressed in building structures at the local level. This progress starts at the local level and then opens on a national and international level, revealing the relationship between them.

Deep Analysis of the System and its Mechanisms

7. In order that our action will not be taken over by the very evil that we are trying to fight, and to avoid it leading to changes that would be false, it is important to unmask the mechanisms, devices and structures that this society has at its disposal.

We must analyse clearly what are the real causes of our situation. This analysis should always be carried out progressively through the action undertaken by young workers.

Discover the Importance of Being Organized

8. The analysis of our society and the evaluation of the action help us discover the importance of being organized so as to face the problems together. In this way, the progressive discovery by young workers of the YCW movement as an organization of young workers with its objectives and its project, is made easier. Also we will discover that others -now or in the past have organized themselves and fought before us. This encourages us to learn about our own history.

EVALUATION OF THE ACTION

Evaluation of Action

9. We understand education as being the result of an action which is carried out, reviewed and reflected on and evaluated at its true value. In this way, young workers will always understand the reason for their action and will deepen their motivations. Thus they will simultaneously and continually make progress in their commitment.

The Need for a Method

10. Evaluation of the action helps us to see the need of having a method of work, a formation and a wider and deeper information. This evaluation will also help us discover and define the type of organization that our action and objectives require.

Value of Efforts

11. Young workers must be helped to understand that small actions and efforts are important in the over-all struggle of the people for its liberation at the local and international level. The evaluation of financial efforts made to support the action must be underlined.

Evaluate the Results

12. Evaluate with young workers what contribution has been made throughout the action in terms of experiences, contents, new perspectives, organization of the action, requirements for the organization of the Movement, means of financing the action and the Movement, discipline and immediate needs.

Discover the Difficulties

13. This evaluation of action will help us discover the obstacles which arise along the way towards liberation of the working class, the persons who are opposed to it and the tactics they use in this aim; and at the same time, the obstacles that stem from the workers themselves.

Evaluate if the Action Brings About Changes or Not

14. Evaluate if the action developed will bring about changes or not to the existing situation. If it contributes to the process of personal and collective liberation. Or if on the contrary, it hinders the progress of the working class.

Review Motivations

15. Reflect with the young workers on the motivations which encouraged the action. To what did they respond and why?

RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE WHO LEAD THE ACTION

Conscious Action and responsibility of Action

16. If one has not a growing awareness of the action that one is leading, there will be no real change nor revolutionary or liberating action in that situation. Those who initiate action must have a clear and responsible view of the organization of the action. In this, we avoid the danger of just using young workers as instruments.

ACTION STARTING FROM EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE AND PERSON

Action in all Sectors of Life

17. In order that this action should foster the total fulfillment of young workers committed to action, it ought to occur in every situation or sector of daily life and must touch all that is involved in being a person: school, work, area where we live, family, leisure, health, money, etc.

Ready to Motivate

18. Therefore, we have to be ready to grasp the right moment to motivate the action and the objective which reflect the anxiety of people.

Starting from the Level of Awareness

19. For action to be the basis of personal education and structural changes, it is essential for it to start from the level of awareness, from the ability and commitment of young workers who are involved in the action. The “standardization” of action should be avoided by making a clear distinction between the different levels of young workers, even within the same country or city.

Consider the Situation and the Attitudes

20. We must take into consideration his problems, aspirations, his own attitude, the solutions he is discovering, his reflections on reality and why he thinks that way. What he rejects and accepts and why he acts that way.

Awareness in Highly Industrialized Countries

21. In highly industrialized countries, young workers (as those of any other country are marked by the concrete situations they live daily (pace of work, low wages, etc.). As young workers become aware of their situation, they react and take action with the view of changing their conditions of life and the structures which oppress them. In many cases, material facilities and well-being hide the causes and consequences of the situation which they are living. Young workers must be helped to realize that better material conditions do not mean the development of the person, and that similar to those workers in less industrialized countries, they take no part in decision-making. The events beyond their own life sometimes help them to become aware of their own life situation and analyse its causes and consequences. e.g.:

- repression in Chile and throughout the world;
- racism
- presence of immigrants in their country
- wars in other countries

It is also important that young workers from non-industrialized countries should also be able to discover the reality of the industrialized countries, since the situation of the working class and therefore that of young workers, in all countries is interdependent, and that the international financial monopolies control everyone.

So one may efficiently discover outside situations, the following is necessary:

- they must be linked with the concrete situation lived by young workers;
- the information on events and situations must be precise, so that an analysis may be made and that groups of young workers may see how they are directly or indirectly involved in such and such situation or event.

FORMATION THROUGH AND FOR ACTION

Complementary Formation

22. The critical review of an action carried out will help us see the need for having a complementary formation, so as to make our action more effective and our vision as well as our education more complete.

Benefiting from the Experiences of the Worker Movement

23. It is important that we learn from the worthwhile experiences of the Worker Movement -from the past and of the present. This will oblige us to learn more about the history of the struggle of the working class for its liberation.

Confrontation and Dialogue with more Experienced Militants

24. In order to assure this complementary formation, and therefore efficient action, we must listen, start a dialogue, meet other militants (both young and adults) who are richer in experiences than ourselves, because of their commitment in action. We have to question our own understanding of reality and see if our facts are objective and can stand up to confrontation with others.

We must enrich and complete our knowledge with objective information on the reality that certain persons (specialist in this field) can give us.

We must avoid at all costs the so-called experts, the armchair or dogmatic revolutionaries who use their collaboration with workers as a sort of laboratory for having some experiences which they use to bolster up their position or to win prestige.

Formation for Action

25. Education, as we see it, cannot be limited to study sessions, seminars, information, personal readings, etc. These things should be considered as complementary to the education which comes about through the action and the commitment that is necessary for this action.

COLLECTIVE ACTION AND VARIED PLANS

Different Plans of Action depending on the Mentality

26. We must take into account the fact that different situations create different mentalities and ways of grasping the reality. This is why we must never impose standard plans of action. Standardization or uniform and rigid plans of action are in contradiction with the different degrees of awareness and of the capacity of each young worker. It forces them to conform to the capacity of other people but not theirs.

Collective Action, Necessary for Efficiency

27. Nevertheless, respect for the level of each person or group must not become an obstacle if we need to carry out a collective action which meets the needs at a certain moment. This is a fundamental factor for realizing an efficient action and for becoming aware that we are a single international working class.

ACTION OF ORGANIZING AND COORDINATING THE MASS OF PEOPLE

Creating Local Structures

28. If action is not progressive and continuous, there can be no real change. There can be no progressive and continuous action of the grass-root level structures do not support the action, whilst respecting its level of development. It is in these structures of permanent love and struggle that Man begins to free himself at the level of his daily life. It is in these community-structures that we find continuity in the struggle for liberation. It is here that the long journey towards liberation receives its support. It is also in these community-structures that

young workers, through their action, will progressively discover the YCW Movement, its objectives, its organization and its method.

Coordination of Action and Organization

29. Because liberation and change must occur on a world level, it is not enough to create small communities which run the risk of breaking-up. The structures which represent the coordination of action, must be themselves coordinated with the aim of giving a world dimension to the task of awakening and organizing the people. For example, coordination of different categories of workers: immigrants, domestic workers, miners, factory workers, shop assistants, etc.

This Type of Action/Organization Develops Solidarity

30. This type of action and organization develops the solidarity necessary to overcome individualism, insecurity, shyness and fear of repression. An exchange of information is necessary in order to be up-to-date with what other groups are doing.

Horizontal Coordination controlled by the Base

31. Coordination always begins from action at the base, in a horizontal line. It opens new perspectives, gives unknown dimensions to the local level, brings about discovery of the culture of other workers and people, thus allowing for a better understanding of the international strategy of the dominating class which aims at our exploitation. And fundamentally, it helps break the chains of division, thereby re-enforcing solidarity between people who are exploited.

COMMUNITIES-STRUCTURES, BASES FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW MAN AND A NEW SOCIETY

Structures, Platforms for formation and Self-Criticism

32. It is in these communities of love an permanent struggle that the young worker can start being himself, despite the limitations imposed on him by society and repression. In these communities-structures, the young worker starts to enter into dialogue, to listen, to take decisions, to assume his responsibilities, to finance his actions and objectives, to criticise and criticise himself, to live in community, to be involved in his own formation for the building of a new society, for the creation of a new man.

Structures which provoke a Total Dimension of the Man's Existence

33. It is in these communities-structures that the young worker begins to reflect on the roots of selfishness an hate, on the meaning of his life and his own death. Gradually he will begin to reflect upon himself, his existence, his origin, his destiny and the destiny of all men. Through this evolution, he can hear the invitation of a "superior being". In this case, he will have to make a response, but it will always be made through his daily commitment with his brothers, namely all the oppressed people.

Through this Process, there must be the Opportunity to know Christ

34. Through this process of communities-structures, the young worker will have the possibility of freely discovering and identifying this "superior being" as God the Father, as Jesus Christ, God become Man in our history. In this process, young workers will be able to form a community, to reflect in depth on the relation which exists between their commitment and their faith, looking for the way this can be expressed. The YCW as a Movement, wants to assure this witness of Christ at the heart of this commitment. It gives young workers who believe in Christ, the means of sharing, deepening and celebrating their faith. But it never imposes this faith on any young worker.

Structures with Revolutionary Potential

35. We see this action-education which comes to fruition in the communities of permanent love and struggle, as an indispensable factor for bringing about change in people and structures, with a view to creating a new society and a New Man who must begin to be a new man as from today. For this reason, this action-education is in itself completely revolutionary without being the whole revolution.

LIMITS OF ACTION-EDUCATION

36. This action-education has no limits, excepts those imposed by young workers themselves, according to their capacity at the time of the action and to the limits placed upon them by repression by their oppressors.

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