

Linking as a Potentiality for the Students Training at the Mexican University

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Abstract

The increasing scientific development imposes new challenges to the university regarding to the contribution that should do the graduates about the social progress. In the present article is proposed to base the linking possibilities as a fundamental function to the university, for a training of student that satisfies the requests of the current society. That's why a broad conception about the linking that recognizes the traditional position on the same turn but transcends it is assumed. It is analyzed the main characteristics of linking in the Mexican university and it is identified those weaknesses that limit its training influence. It based on the linking as a real potential and necessary to the training of students in Mexico. The article concludes remarking the challenges to the professionals training that would be impossible without the necessary link of the university with its environment.

Keywords: Linking, University, Society, Student

1.1 Introduction

In the last years the linking of the university with its environment has been one of the main aims of the Mexican universities, issue that is one essential purpose of the Latin-Americans universities in general. It can affirm that the linking is an activity that is a part from the own essence of the higher education institutions. Otherwise, ¿ How could be training the professionals that society requests?

The previous question mark is clear, contains a lattice of factors and conditions that have a complex and contradictory character. The simple recognition of the necessary linking university-business-government-society does not warrant its realization neither its effectiveness. The reality shows that there are many gaps for this issue that should be filled urgently.

We coincide with Alcalá(2001) when express by himself that the linking process has understood as an integral process that assemble the substantive functions of teaching, research and cultural extension and the services from universities. This allows achieve the positive inclusion in the socioeconomic environment with the development of actions and projects of common interest.

The social and professional demands that shape the graduate's profile bring up new challenges to universities. That's why, according to (Shigwara, 2014:127), "raising the university education demands an integrate system that interacts with transformational governorship and leadership".

Universities from different countries make new institutional development strategies to modernize the formative process of its students through the interaction with the environment. To fulfill this purpose it is required a deep renovation according to the demands of society in function of the quality of the professorate.

The above is an aspect of permanent analysis in educational policies, and even when Latin American universities have been conscious of the necessity to create more effective links with the environment, the distance from the “being” to the “must be” of this predicament is still so long. It is agreed with (Castillo, Reynoso, Álvarez, Torres 2013) the multiple factors such as: shortage of knowledge, technical support, well-conceived programs and methods, and even conditionings of the own university; have not been able to forge strategies adapted to the characteristics and the other elements of the system they form part of.

2.1 Linking at the Mexican university

The Mexican university is making an effort to adapt to the New Age, nevertheless, the practice of linking requires improvement. Often, it is observed that the adaptation of models efficient in other regions is not the best fit to be applied on a Mexican context.

Like this, it has taken a great diffusion in the last years as how Chang marks, the model of the Triple Helix has received a tremendous amount of attention in the occidental world, as a way to promote growth and innovation. But the development condition in Mexico is not suitable to their characteristics, even though some of them are worth taken into account. In a similar way, it keeps being an important characteristic of the model of the The Sabato Triangle, about the idea proposed of Galbriath and elaborated as a model by Sabato. The new condition of the world this being added to the particular of the Mexican context demands alternatives with own characteristics.

All the Universities have the same social function; universal characteristics that are common in transmit of knowledge and a culture with the same universal essence. But, simultaneously each of them possess an own profile that it distinguishes from the others. Those distinguish characteristics are precisely what will creatively assume the challenges of the actual world adapting them from other countries but with their own proposal.

The difficulties that present the linking University with the society in general, are not isolated to the Mexican context. In this matter, Arocena y Sutz(2001), show results that corroborate this idea. As the quoted authors, in Brazil the 8.3 % of the surveys to companies express that the linking with the university is important to the achievement and development of the innovations, while in Mexico the cooperation agreements for innovation projects have just reach the % companies object to study. In Venezuela the linking of the universities with the companies constitutes the 3.5 %. In Chile there is a more favorable situation; since the 25% of the companies declare have had contract with universities.

In the other hand, even though the linking topic is frequently approach in investigation works, the criteria of Campos Sanchez is share (2006:18), when the opinion does not stand with a definition of the linking and it's filled with economic view.

One of the principal problems surrounds the linking has been traditionally associated with the idea of obtaining resources, for this reason the services of the universities have endure, in particular the training courses and advisories and or the making of investigation projects lead generally by them. Logically this is a conception highly restricted. Is not less true that as point out by Tumuti, Wandery and Lang Tumuti, Wandery y Lang' at the university-industry collaborations are instrumental in strengthening the ability of universities to conduct high quality and relevant research and enhancing the capability of industry to compete globally. ((Dinah, Warendi, Thoruwa, 2013:27).

Added to the previously mention, the technical scientific development demands have influenced in the changes of the understanding about the linking but it still requires of plenty of attention. It is advantageous that in all works about the topic is to be considered the linking as naturally positive, as a desirable function in the higher educational institutions. (Campos, G; Sánchez, G. (2006).

The authors of this article apply that is eminent the necessity of understanding the linking in most integrated way possible, that is does not exclude any kind of action that approaches the university to the life. The students most learn the reality and at the same time learned at the same time so they can become sensitive and auto determine their active position before it.

It requires innovative strategies that active the linking of the students with the private sectors, public and social, from which they can learn and amplify their knowledge, but also identify the spaces from which they can contribute to the improvement of their environment. (Subsecretaría de Educación Superior de la SEP).

Never the less the presented difficulties, according to Herrera (2011) in Mexico it forwards towards the public university model that establishes new synergies with governments, non-governmental organizations and companies to the end of participating in the transformation of the Mexican society, their economic grow and their sustainable human development.

3.1 Linking and Student Training

Analyzing the linking as a potentiality to training university students, it is necessary to adopt a wide conception of the linking that transcends the relations with the productive and services sector, besides the government areas. Is because that, in this work is defined the linking as the interrelation with the university, with the different factors and actors of society, to join actions that allows benefit the forming process of the students to achieve graduates who can transform the reality.

The university linking is a way that allows students:

- Consolidate the training received in the classroom through the participation in projects and practices in the work environment because apply their knowledge to real problem and situations.
- Develop entrepreneurial behaviors.
- Acquire new procedures and working methodologies through training or advisories from the company.
- Develop planning skills, team work, initiative, negotiation, problem identification, decision making.
- Develop generic skills like: analysis and interaction capacity, conflict management.
- Expand their relations with people who work in the business and social sector, which affects their opportunities of get a job.
- Identify problems that can be analyzed later in the academic scope.
- Know and use new procedures and technologies.
- Develop creativity in real situations.
- Acquire professional preparation that cannot be obtained by any other via.

Between the modalities of linking more diffused in the Mexican universities are:

1. Academic-professional forming of the students through professional practices, residences and professional stays.
2. Monitoring to graduates. Allows obtain criteria of the graduates related to their academic formation.
3. Enterprises incubator and promotion of the entrepreneurship. Are oriented to develop skills to create own businesses.
4. Professional interchange. Promote the stays of professionals at the university and professors in the several business entities.
5. Investigation projects, technological development and innovation. Encourage basic and applied research to generate innovation process and technology transfer.
6. Technological services. Are offered by the universities with the purpose of solve problems and give support of different types.
7. Advice and consultancy services. Are referred to the specialized services of collaboration intended at meeting the needs of the productive and services institutions.
8. Training courses and continuing education. Are the training programs offered according the demand of the external institutions to the university. In these programs participates the university professors and external specialists. Technology parks: are the spaces where the companies develop joint activities with the universities and production centers.
9. Participation in collegiate bodies and management activities. As in previous cases, business owners or professional organizations from another nature participate in university boards and vice versa.

The described embodiments are adopted by different universities in accordance with their own characteristics; also other specific embodiments are developed. However, very often not systematically engages the student in each which goes against the utilization of the wide training potentialities of linking.

It is impossible to analyze linking ignoring their social and personal objectives, involving different actors of the productive sector and society in general. Could say that between these actors the students are who act as objects and subjects in that linking and are a fundamental part of the actions listed in the linking, either because they are executing or being benefit from them.

The university as one of the actors of the interrelation is an entity that convenes and promotes the integration of the strengths and needs of companies and social sectors, the government in terms of results that should be socially meaningful.

Perhaps the activity of linking has several functions, between the main are: enhancing the training process, also get resources for institutional development, both directed towards socio-professional student training. Then essentials for preparing the student for participate in social development through the interrelation of the linking and training process are spelled (Fig. 1).

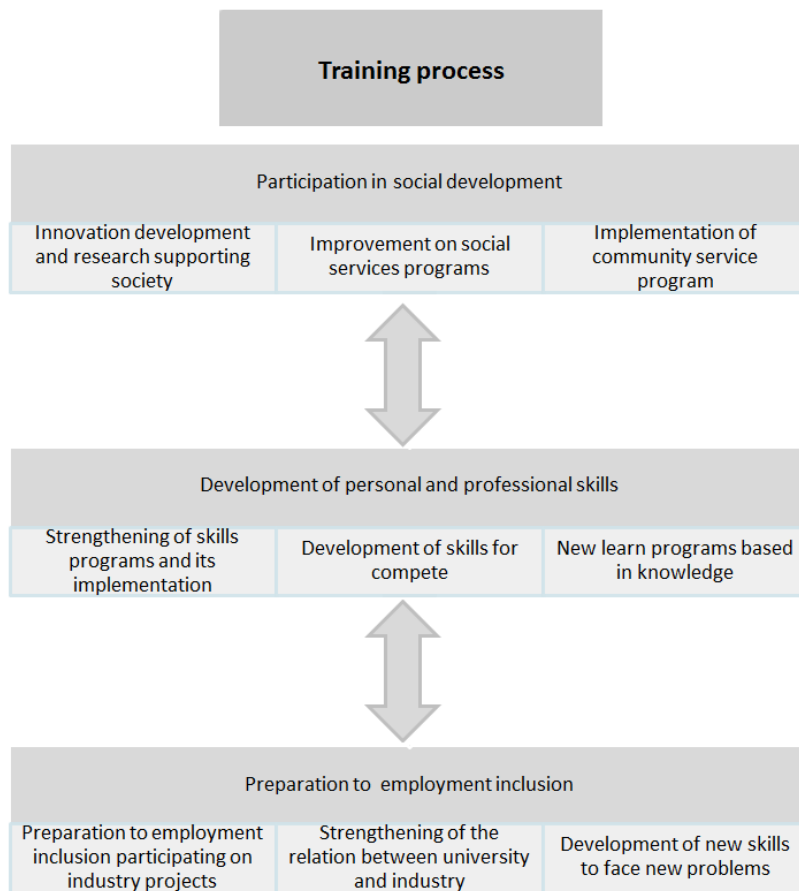


Fig. 1. Participation of Student in Social Development through the Linking

The training process has to be done emphasis in the participation of the student in the social development, condition that requires of personal and professional skills, as the preparation to the employment inclusion, based on many perspectives showed in the figure 1.

At the same time, the linking is potentiality the bridge between the surrounding reality and the society, through itself is possible improve the programs of social service that take place in the university.

In addition, the linking can be an effective way to the consciousness of the social responsibility by the students to get involve directly in real processes, through itself are identified not only with the technological development but also with the necessities and aspirations of their countrymen. These experiences can be an inexhaustible source for innovate and research in terms of social development. These objectives can be met through the participation in community programs.

Academic training aimed at developing the professional skills required nowadays to be inserted successfully into society, is complemented when students are inserted through various modalities in the socio-economic life. On this sense, thus learning is a priority for "knowing transformation" as "know-how" and "know how to live," are to be turned as a transformative agent for excellence.

The other hand, the preparation to the employment inclusion depends in high way of the linking that establishes the university with the employment institutions that makes possible by a systematic interrelation. If the university does not extend the training actions beyond of it walls, it graduates will not been in conditions to solve problems not only in their environment, but in other contexts, objective that follows the politic of internationalization.

4.1 Conclusions

The challenges to the training of professionals currently will be impossible of achieve without the necessary link of the university with its environment, therefore it is require a deep transformation of its own, starting by its own conception.

Frequently the linking of the university with the socioeconomic environment it is identified with the obtaining of resources from different sectors put on offer by the institution. These economic benefits not always are used in function of the improvement of the students training.

The Mexican university make efforts to improve the training of the students for which consider important improve the linking that identify it as its substantives functions. However to achieve this purpose it is necessary to find own alternatives according to the demands of the context and scientific technological development in general.

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