

ANALYSING PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVES, DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS: CURRENT RESEARCH IN PORTUGAL

M. Adelina Villas-Boas
University of Lisbon, Portugal

Abstract

This paper presents a synthesis of the studies in the area of School-Family-Community Relationships undertaken by Portuguese researchers since 1985 till now. Besides trying to discuss the cultural concepts and analysing the emerging legislation related to the implementation of partnerships between the different educational actors, three main lines of research have been identified.

Two of them have been studying parents' and teachers' perspectives on the challenge of their changing role as educators. One of these research lines distinguishes itself by its close approach to Bernstein theory and its cultural implications.

The third line has been developing action-research and experimental studies in order to build family-school-community partnerships and then evaluate the effect both on student achievement and on families' and teachers' attitudes. The results have been supporting the notion of the importance of individual parental involvement to promote change of schools and improvement of education.