

Author/Autora: López-Jurado Puig, Marta (lopezjurado@edu.uned.es). Spanish National Open University, Spain

Title/Título: Mediation: A culture of acceptance of the other as a different person as a value in itself

La Mediación: Una cultura de la aceptación del otro diferente como valor en sí mismo

Topic: Strategies and methodologies to promote family-school-community partnership

Estrategias y metodologías para promover la cooperación entre las familias, los centros docentes y las entidades sociales comunitarias

Presentation time/Día de presentación: Session in Spanish. Friday 16, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Room 3, Third Floor

Sesión en Español. Viernes 16, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Sala 3, Tercer Piso

Abstract

Mediation, as an emergent profession of great popularity whose aim is to restore or enhance dysfunctional relationships, encompasses something more than the mere acquisition of techniques or strategies to resolve conflicts. It also embodies something deeper: arriving at an acknowledgement and *valuing of the other as another I*, a necessary step for human beings to acquire their identity. This premise requires us to step aside from the current *utilitarian paradigm* ruling culture -which leads us to treat the other *as a function of, or as means to* forward our own personal interests- and relate to others as if they were valuable beings in themselves, since human beings should not be manipulated as if they were things. In this paper, we provide an educational path that connects theory with practice – learning how to take the right decision- so the mediator can reach the level of *moral integrity* –which together with the specific *professional competence*- will endow the practitioner with the necessary *moral authority* to perform this important task. The family is an important element of the mediation culture, because it is a culture that seeks to enhance relationships and, therefore, is a very efficient channel to help families to engage in the very important human and social aspects that are its competence; a culture promoted greatly by the community Social Services that have been providing this type of care and promotion for the general welfare.