



Colombia, Bogota

'Parents: trained for zero intra-family violence'

Cheerful Children, Valued Women, Happy Families ... Zero Violence!

This project aims to reduce the number of women and children affected by intra-family violence by training future parents in important values, such as truth, unity and tolerance. Comprehensive training is provided through "parenting workshops" with talks and documents. Through this project, the volunteers want to create a culture of non-violence with parents and children and contribute to the continuous improvement of the children's academic ability.

Context

The Patio Bonito district in the city of Bogota is one where intra-family violence is common, due to the macho culture that is present among all family members. Displaced families are constantly arriving, and the vast majority of them are dysfunctional: there are single mothers, single fathers, families with grandparents, separated parents, etc. This context often generates emotional instability in children, leading to signs of violence as a reaction to the situation in which they live, affecting their academic and social life.

In 2019, the volunteers observed in meetings with parents of children at an infant school in Patio Bonito that most of the concerns were related to how to educate their children. Aware that being a parent requires experience, the volunteers set about the task of organizing training for parents.

Project themes and activities

The theme is training. Its objective is to foster communication and respect between parents and children in order to avoid violence in the home.

- Parents receive training through monthly talks on various topics given by psychologists or social workers.
- In addition, there is work done in small groups led by the AIC volunteers in order to generate dialogue and moments of sharing experiences among the parents, exploring the topics covered in the talks in more detail. The experienced-based methodology used encourages listening to one another.



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Evolution of the project:

- **Session 1: Where have we come from?**
- **Session 2: What kind of parents are we?**
- **Session 3: What kind of fathers and mothers are we raising?**
- **Session 4: Good fathers and mothers in the past, now and always**

- The children at the school are taught principles such as love of God, truth, unity and tolerance. The aim is to ensure that what the children learn and experience at school is reinforced by their parents at home, thus avoiding situations of violence that may later be reproduced by the children.
- The volunteers provide follow up with home visits to the families involved in the project.

Key figures

- The project targets 180 families, i.e. approximately 360 parents.
- 185 children are enrolled each year in the infant school participating in this project.
- The training lasts for the 3 years that the children are at the school (pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and the transition year).

Partners

- Psychologists and social workers at the school
- AIC Solidarité

Impact and future prospects

- Changing the mentality of the children's families, avoiding violence, and encouraging dialogue, respect, and tolerance. This will allow the children to have a happy childhood, and when they become the parents of the future, strong values and love will predominate.
- On the parents' side, these talks and support ensure not only that the family environment improves, but also that their behavior in the different contexts where they carry out their professional and social life is that of confident people, with high self-esteem, kind treatment of others and a fulfilling life.

