

Aspirations of Parents on the Development of their Children in Scouting: Case of Commune Ruashi, City of Lubumbashi

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Abstract: *Since the world is a world, children, especially men, like to play "the little soldiers": to be uniformly dressed to all, to walk by setting footsteps, singing with joy and aloud; to dance around their peers and for everything in the open air, without embarrassment ... It is in the youth movements in general, and in the scouting in particular that we meet these practices. It is through the method of inquiry assisted by participatory observation techniques and structured interview that we expect to know the contribution of Scouting in the development of children. This will be made possible thanks to the testimonials, opinions and considerations of the parents of the children in front of the interview that they will grant us and thanks to the various direct and indirect contacts with the parents and Scouts while we pretend to be Chief scout with the possibility of visiting the parents of our scouts. We will help other Scout leaders to use the Scouting Leaders of their respective Scout groups who will take this opportunity to learn the concept and practice of social surveys. We will use, after careful analysis, their protocols that we will interpret in order to present the results of our research.*

Keywords: Aspiration – Development - Scouting

1. Introduction

After the last decade, we have seen children moving towards youth movements in general, especially scouting. When we were interested in the stimulus that could attract children to these movements, we noticed that there were games after which gifts were given much more to the winners than to the losers. From the year 1990, the crisis, accompanied by looting, dominated our country, the DRC then Zaire, we made a bitter observation: these gifts (sweets, clothes, hats, notebooks, etc.) were almost not granted and the number of Scouts decreased, then stabilized and today finally continued to increase although all socio-economic privileges did not exist anymore.

From then on, we understood that parents played their active part in the presence of their children in youth movements in general, and in Scouting in particular.

On this, several questions clashed in our head from which we retained three constituting the thread of our research:

- What motivates parents to send or let their children evolve in Scouting? What are their aspirations?
- Do they send or let them adhere freely to the said movement?
- What is the difference between children in Scouting and those outside of Scouting from the point of view of development, behavior, attitudes ...?

To answer it, it is important to remind us of certain constraints received during our childhood in these terms: "you, you do not want to go play with your friends, you will be shy, naive and locked up". This allowed us to respond in anticipation, before conducting our research, to the above-mentioned questions in the following way:

- Scouting would brighten children up and away from their homes

- Children's adherence to Scouting would be done without parental consent because children follow Scouts as soon as they pass and become adherents.
- Children in Scouting would be more active, more persevering, more daring, more vigilant, more competitive, more resourceful, in short more vigorous than children who do not evolve in Scouting.

Our goal is to find out what motivates parents to make or let their children adhere to Scouting with its impact on behavioral difference from Scout children versus those who are not.

Our interest in this theme is very important because once we have finished our study, parents, our readers will be aware of all that occupies, frames and preoccupies children in youth movements in general, and in Scouting in particular .

We plan to approach our research through the assisted inquiry method of documentary techniques, participant observation and guided interview.

Our research was carried out at Ruashi commune, in the city of Lubumbashi, during the period from the 2000s to the present day.

2. Notional Aspects

a) Aspiration

According to the "Robert" dictionary, aspiration is the action of carrying one's desires (towards an ideal). For us, aspiration is a wish for a fact or an action, a current situation whose realization can be done very often in a future time.

b) Development

ALJANCIC and his collaborators consider development as the set of different stages through which an organism, a living being passes to reach maturity (1997, p.317).

In our humble opinion, development means: the transformation of a growing organism by stages, phases or stages, from maturation to maturity.

Children's development

According to ANSELME (1948), human life goes through four phases or stages:

Childhood (spring: full smiles, flowers and songs, some crying too), adolescence (summer: period of maturation, heat and sometimes beneficial or devastating storms), adulthood (the autumn where we harvest the harvest and the fruit) and old age (the winter of life where the ardor drops, where one retreats in oneself to live with one's memories).

According to PUA ANJELANI OKAKO (2010, p.p 18-19), the development of the child goes through three major phases:

- Early childhood (0 to 3 years)
- Second childhood (3 to 6 years) and
- The third childhood (6 to 12 years).

c) Scouting

According to ALJANCIC et al. (1997: p.953), Scouting is a worldwide organization that brings together many lay or faith-based associations, sharing the same basic principles for the moral, physical, practical and civic education of children and adolescents. of two sexes.

On our part, Scouting is a youth movement that supersedes education through action and play especially outdoors and that takes young boy or girl to give him an almost complete training (physical, intellectual, religious , social, civic ...).

d) Development of children in scouting

According to the website <http://www.scoutsdequebec.qc.ca/historique.html>:

It is BADEN-POWELL (Robert Stephenson Smith) who is the founder. He was assisted by WILLIAM-SMITH and RUDYAD KIPLING in the supervision of young people during the second half of the 19th century. He advocated learning through outdoor games. Hence the importance of including a point dealing with games.

e) Development of children in scouting through games

Through the inspiration of the founder of Scouting, many authors have examined the contribution of play activities in the development of young people:

CHATEAU J. (1954, p. 9) states: "to study in the child only growth, the development of functions, without making any room for play, would be to neglect this irresistible impulse by which the child shapes himself. even his own statue ".

As for REY P. and HERME A. (1951, p.78), it is in and through play that effort, like everything else, is learned.

In asking us the question of how the child plays, some authors pronounce themselves of which:

JACQUIN G. (1954, p.22) who thinks that play is a spontaneous and disinterested activity, with a freely chosen rule to be observed, or a deliberate obstacle to overcome;

GUILLAUME P. (1947, p.45) says that it takes a guide to direct, monitor and sometimes referee a game; hence a human interpreter remains necessary.

WALLON H. (1968, p. 57) states as STERN: "the activity proper to the child is play, and as he often puts an extreme application, he must be given serious games".

Illustration of some scout games and their contribution (source MASOMPE KABUMBA scout leader Gazelle Débrouillarde, UNILU official)

- a) Game aiming at dexterity, savoir vivre (RELAIS BANANE):
 In turn, participants should sit down, unfold a towel, put it on their knees, put on gloves, grab a fork and a knife, cut a slice of banana, eat it, lay the table, remove the gloves, fold the towel, go touch the hand of the next ...
- b) Game aimed at endurance, balance (RUN OF IVROGNES)
- c) Endurance, skill and self-control game (CANDLE RACE)
 Everyone leaves with a lighted candle. If the candle goes out, it stops, turns it on again and continues ...
 Game aimed at audacity and joy (UNDERWATER FISHING)
- d) Basins filled with water are placed a few meters from the players. At the signal, the competitors must go fishing with the candle a ball or a coin that is at the bottom of the water. Note that we must provide 5 to 10 centimeters of water and ensure cleanliness.

3. Methodological Aspect

Our field of investigation is the commune Ruashi, in the city of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC in acronym.

At the beginning we have listed 280 families for the said commune having as characteristics: "parents still Scouts (category I): 88, parent's ex-Scouts (category II): 138 and parents none scouts (category III): 54.

Using the stratified random random sampling technique at a rate of 15%, we obtained a sample of 42 families using the following formula:

$$\text{Sample} = \frac{\text{Population} \times \text{Rate}}{100}$$

Our sample of 42 families was stratified by the following formula:

$$\text{Sample size} = \frac{\text{Strata per stratum} \times \text{Total sample size}}{\text{Total population size}}$$

Thus, the sample per stratum becomes:

- For the category I : $\frac{88 \times 42}{280} = 13$
- For the category II : $\frac{138 \times 42}{280} = 21$
- For the category III : $\frac{54 \times 42}{280} = 8$

With the three categories constituting our sample, it should be concluded that in Ruashi commune, there are more parents who are ex-Scouts, fewer parents who have never been Scouts compared to those who are scouts. again.

By proceeding with the survey method defined by CHAUCHAT H., quoted by Anne-Marie LAVARDE (2008, p.147), as "the whole of the research procedure that goes from theoretical models to analysis and the interpretation of the data".

This is assisted by participatory observation techniques defined by LUBAMBA Kibambe Langayi (1999, p.22) as "the technique used to collect information around a subject between an interviewer and an interviewee in a standardized way". For its part MPALA Mbabula and LONGOMBE Ndjate (2016, p.129) define this technique as that where "the observer or researcher participates in a group, is accepted until it is integrated and to be forgotten as an observer".

In addition to this technique, we have also used the guided interview technique, which is the one in which an interview guide is pre-established, including the questions according to a certain order, and the researcher uses it while facilitating the interviewee's understanding of the questions beyond the understanding of this one from the point of view of language, vocabulary, context etc.

We made ourselves a scout and underwent all the ceremonies (promise, totemisation and even investiture of the scout leaders ...) and from time to time during our visits to the homes of the Scout children, we seized the opportunity to interview the parents on the development of their children in Scouting, which led us to the results we present in the next.

4. Results

We have arrived at the end of our field research guided by our initial hypotheses that we reverse as follows:

- Scouting is a youth movement that replaces education which, in turn, is an action on the child to qualitatively change his behavior so that it is acceptable and desirable in the society in which he lives;
- Scouting helps parents and teachers to develop physical, social, intellectual, moral and professional skills in children through mutual aid, solidarity, generosity, initiative, sense of responsibility;
- It offers the assertiveness of young people as a member of a community;
- It gives the taste to serve God, his country and especially his neighbor, and pushes the child to resourcefulness, to be hardworking, active and especially open to the outside world;
- It already gives, from an early age, the sense of leadership (command) because Scouting is structured and operates under the patrol system. That is to say that everyone in his position is responsible, the same for his task in the structure;
- It also supports the State especially in volunteer work in peacetime as well as in time of war to decant a persistent

situation where one needs the dedication of the population;

- Scouting preaches loyalty, esteem, merit of trust ...
- Parents who have been Scouts promote the presence of their children in this movement and can, therefore, influence other parents for whom their children have joined Scouting without their agreement because children are happy to play and that at the said youth movement, play is practiced in many forms, and it abounds this movement. That's why BADEN-POWEL, the founder of this movement, considered it to be outdoor play or adventure play.

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