

Special Issue on  
**Social Impact of Educational Actions for Social Change**

# CALL FOR PAPERS

The social impact of research is being an increasingly important issue not only in the international scientific community but also among citizens themselves. Social impact is a worldwide social demand and educational research cannot be left out of this debate. One of the major challenges that our societies face is the creation of new knowledge that can be useful for defining policies and actions that help societies to advance and to be more sustainable, equal, and fair.

In this sense, how educational research can have a progressive social impact is a question that has already been addressed by several scholars but few of them have specified how these ethical ends are put into practice. Some authors have argued that for educational research to have social impact it is necessary to include civil society actors in the configuration of the educational research agenda, as well as throughout the development of the same research process. This issue will encourage contributions from researchers with an interest in research activities geared towards social impact. In relation to methodology, the issue will favour both quantitative and qualitative approaches, particularly those which involve community members from the initial discussions of the research focus until the dissemination and social action outcomes as appropriate. Some of the characteristics of these approaches to educational research are related to interacting in a culturally respectful manner, addressing power differentials by giving a voice to the less powerful, and establishing relationships of trust to promote transformative projects. Thus, educational research under this approach would eventually contribute to redressing inequalities based on gender, race/ethnicity, and disability, among others.

Our societies have already defined societal challenges and goals as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and research-based knowledge and development might play a key role to address them. If educational researchers want our work to be socially relevant and useful it is urgent to tackle these challenges. Consequently, educational research oriented to achieve social impact may contribute to making a difference in people's lives and their communities.

The present special issue aims to provide contributions on social impact of educational actions addressed to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning as a social and political good and not merely an economic one. Specifically, articles focusing on educational actions which are contributing to making a difference by improving the life of the most vulnerable groups in society will be welcomed. It will positively value those articles which draw on quantitative and qualitative approaches that have involved end-users in all the process of research development.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all leading to relevant effective learning outcomes
- ▶ Quality early childhood development and care and preprimary education
- ▶ Affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university
- ▶ Increasing the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment and active citizenship
- ▶ Elimination of disparities in education for the vulnerable groups (women, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, cultural minorities, and children in vulnerable situations)
- ▶ Education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/edri/siec/>.

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**Manuscript Due**

Friday, 7 April 2017

**First Round of Reviews**

Friday, 30 June 2017

**Publication Date**

Friday, 25 August 2017