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FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE STUDY OF GOOD CIVIC AND CITIZENSHIP PRACTICES IN BURKINA FASO

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Résumé en français : Cet article en anglais réalise un ramassis des acquis de l'étude des différents thèmes traités en lien avec la thématique intitulée « étude sur les bonnes pratiques civiques et citoyennes dans les enseignements post-primaire et secondaire du Burkina Faso : contenus et stratégies de formation des acteurs » pour rendre compte non seulement des résultats atteints mais aussi des perspectives à envisager pour l'étude.

Mots-clés : pratiques, objectifs, intermédiaires, terminaux, perspectives.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The institutional project facilitates the implementation of the "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" toolkit, designed to combat incivility within educational institutions ;
- Testing the content of the manual enables the scaling up of the BMP technological package ;
- Financial and technical support is required for the implementation of the technological package.

INTRODUCTION

In Burkina Faso, a significant rise in uncivic behavior within educational institutions has been observed since 2014, a year marked by the country's descent into socio-political instability following the insurrection of October 30 and 31 (Bationo/Neya, 2016; MAEP, 2008; Bantuelle & Demeulemeester, 2018; INSS/CNRST, 2016). Since that time, various initiatives have been implemented to combat this scourge. For instance, a "civic awareness caravan" was organized across nine (9) regions of the country, reaching nearly nine thousand (9,000) people with information on civic duty and citizenship. Additionally, two (2) workshops on civic awareness were held for 60 members of associations of parents and guardians in Koudougou and Fada

(MJDHPC, 2017). To this day, the issue of uncivic behavior and the ongoing efforts to raise awareness about it frequently appears in media coverage. Unfortunately, the problem persists, highlighting the need for additional, complementary strategies to more effectively address the phenomenon. In 2020, the National Fund for Research and Innovation for Development (FONRID) provided funding to a team from the Institute for Social Sciences (INSS) to conduct a study titled: "A Study on Good Civic and Citizenship Practices in Post-Primary and Secondary Education in Burkina Faso: Content and Strategies for the Training of Stakeholders." This study led to the publication of a scientific article that analyzes its findings and future prospects. The conclusions relate to the implementation structured as an institutional project of a handbook on civic and citizenship practices, developed based on the study's findings. As for future prospects, it is suggested that the handbook's content be piloted with a view to large-scale implementation, and that technical and financial support be provided for this pilot phase.

1. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The conclusions and future perspectives were formulated and endorsed by the participants during a workshop held to validate the findings of the study a study that led to the development of the manual and its accompanying user guide. The workshop took place from November 22 to 24, 2023, in Ziniaré, in the Oubritenga Province. The study itself involved the analysis of field data collected from three regions: the Centre, Centre-Ouest, and Hauts-Bassins regions. Twenty-two (22) post-primary and secondary educational institutions were included in the study: seven (7) public and fifteen (15) private institutions. The private institutions comprised four (4) secular, five (5) Catholic, three (3) Protestant, and three (3) Muslim schools. The target groups that participated in the study included teachers, students, parents, civil society organizations, school principals, and traditional and religious leaders.

2. RESULT 1: AN INSTITUTIONAL PROJECT AS A TAILORED SOLUTION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BMP TECHNOLOGICAL PACKAGE MANUAL

- Workshop participants affirm that the content of the "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" technological package manual is practical, as it is packed with concrete acts and actions aligned with the six civic and citizenship-oriented practices being promoted. This content is based on six essential practices: i) the fundamentals of saying "hello," "thank you," and "forgiveness"; ii) the "Kafika" platform; iii) the exemplary parent; iv) the exemplary teacher; v) the exemplary student; and vi) a fenced and well-organized school campus. Three (3) of these practices aim to promote exemplary behavior; one addresses structural aspects (a fenced and organized schoolyard); another serves as a communication platform between teachers and parents (the "Kafika" platform); and the final one acts as an introductory practice for fostering healthy, sustainable relationships between individuals (the fundamentals of saying "hello," "thank you," and "Sorry").

- The participants believe that the implementation of the various measures and actions requires an agreement among all involved stakeholders an agreement that would be outlined in a charter.

- The participants assert that the institutional project (or school/organizational plan) is the mechanism through which the contents of the manual can be realized within an institution prepared to implement technology. For the participants, the institutional

project represents a consensus among the stakeholders of an institution to establish and carry out activities jointly planning the human, financial, and material resources required in order to achieve the intended objectives.

3. RESULT 2: PILOTING AS A PATHWAY AND MEANS FOR LARGE-SCALE DISSEMINATION OF THE MANUAL'S CONTENT

- Workshop participants acknowledged the relevance of the "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" toolkit for addressing a lack of civic-mindedness, given the concerning prevalence of such behavior in post-primary and secondary schools.

- Participants aligned themselves with the government's new initiative aimed at promoting civic education within post-primary and secondary educational institutions.

- Participants proposed piloting the "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" toolkit through a research project, with the Institute for Social Sciences (INSS) tasked with its implementation.

4. RESULT 3: SECURING FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE

- Workshop participants drew upon the relevance of the manual's content, the opportunity provided by the Ministry through curriculum reform, and the extent of uncivic behavior within educational institutions to formulate recommendations in favor of implementing the "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" technology package;

- Participants recommend that the ministries responsible for research and national education provide technical and financial support to the INSS for the pilot testing of said technology package at the post-primary and secondary education levels.
- Furthermore, the participants recommend that the National Fund for Research and Innovation for Development (FONRID) or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide technical and financial support to the INSS for this experiment.

CONCLUSION

The "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" technological package manual and its accompanying guide contain content developed to combat incivility through six (6) civic and citizenship-oriented practices. These practices detailed in a separate scientific article titled "The "**Hello, thank you, and sorry**" Technological Package and the Fight Against Incivility in Schools: A Study on Civic and Citizenship Practices in Post-Primary and Secondary Education in Burkina Faso" can be implemented through a school-based project, agreed upon by the relevant stakeholders. This agreement allows for a consensus on specific acts and actions, rooted in the values of our society and described within the manual. Furthermore, an initial pilot phase could facilitate a more effective nationwide rollout, provided that the Institute for Social Sciences (INSS) secures the necessary financial support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To the State, municipalities, and decentralized services of the MENAPLN: Encourage the piloting of the manual's content and its implementation;
- To the ministries in charge of research and national education, as well as NGOs: Provide financial and technical support for the piloting of the manual's content;
- To school principals: Encourage and support the development of a school-based project aimed at combating incivility through civic and citizenship-oriented practices.

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