



AXIS — quality education in Latin America and West Africa

Why does AXIS work with quality education?

We believe that quality education...

- ... is a right.
- ... is the route to the fulfilment of other rights throughout life.
- ... ensures influence on one's own life.
- ... is a condition for sustainable change and development.

Quality education...

- ... takes its starting point in the pupils' own local context – their knowledge, language and culture.
- ... makes use of a participatory approach that encourages pupils to be active in their own learning processes.

AXIS' approach to quality education is in accordance with UN Global Goal 4:

"Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

In AXIS' view, this type of education develops students' curiosity, critical sense, creativity, reflection, knowledge, skills and attitudes. It is an education that strengthens both children's, young people's and adults' awareness of their own and others' rights, and their influence and ability to act within the framework of their own lives as active citizens in a democratic society.

In practice, this means that teaching is based on the participants' own point of view, and that their knowledge, experience, language, and culture are respected and integrated in all activities in, for example, the school classroom, youth and women's training workshops and educational institutions' teaching.

AXIS believes that when education is based on the participants' knowledge and experience, it provides opportunities for new knowledge, insights and opportunities for action that are relevant in relation to the participants' own context.

AXIS supports marginalized populations in West Africa and Latin America in achieving quality education both within and outside the official education system.

Quality education in interaction with the other Global Goals

World Goal 4 cannot stand alone but works in interaction with the other 16 Global Goals. In AXIS, we focus in particular on the interaction between Objective 4 (Quality education), Objective 5 (Gender equality), Objective 10 (Reduced inequalities) and Objective 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

This means that we focus on equality in terms of ethnicity, language, culture and gender when we collaborate with marginalized, indigenous peoples and when we work with teaching / sex education in schools and in teacher education. Equality is a key condition in relation to the fulfilment of basic rights to participate in a democratic society / education.

How AXIS works with quality education - the participatory approach

In order for education to achieve the desired high quality, it must be supported by a relevant curriculum and content, have relevant goals and build on participant-oriented methods.

An example of this could be when AXIS in Peru and Ghana, in collaboration with local NGOs, has established school gardens based on local crops and cultivation methods which are used as a starting point for teaching school subjects. This approach makes it more likely that students will be involved in school work because they can identify with the content they are working with.

For AXIS, the foundation of quality education is a participatory approach to the teaching itself. A participatory approach does not consist of a single “method”, but covers a variety of ways of creating dialogue, reflection, interaction and development in people around a specific topic or focus. This happens, for example, when youth leaders in Bolivia hold workshops on sexual and reproductive rights where the participants' own dilemmas, experiences and solutions are brought into play through games, role play and dialogue methods, and where the participants' perspectives are thereby central.

For AXIS, quality education is fundamentally the responsibility of the state. This means that AXIS, in collaboration with local partners in all projects, works to influence local and national authorities to take responsibility for ensuring quality education and equal opportunities for all. One example could be to work through advocacy to integrate intercultural perspectives and sex education into curricula for both primary school and teacher education. Another could be or when AXIS and local partners collaborate to support young people in Peru and Ghana to campaign for the right to quality education.