

## **GEOGRAPHY OF THE RISKS A PEDAGOGICAL PROPOSAL FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF YUMBO**

### **Abstract**

The Geography of the Risks, like field of the social science, is interested for deepening, among others aspects, in the know-how about the collective and individual perception of the risk, incorporating the analysis of the cultural characteristics of development: their history, education, economy, and political), and of the spatial organization of the companies, that favor or they complicate the prevention and the mitigation, indispensable aspects in the search and application Media troops, that permit to reduce the impact of the disasters. This field of the Geography, relatively new, interprets the processes of social production of the space of integral form, which differs of partial or sectorial the analyses that came performing traditionally the geography. The Geography of the Risks is supported in a series of concepts that transcend the specific framework of the discipline, to incorporate contribute them that on disasters they come generating other sciences, through which continues advancing in the complex reality of the threat, the vulnerability, the risk and the situation of disaster. The last decade of last century, declared

by United Nations as the decade for the reduction of disasters, favored the one that valuable advancements through investigations were reached with fundamentacion theoretical and strong empirical component in Latin America. Another favorable element, is the socialization through publications seria 'as, around different topics of the disasters: History of disasters, politics of prevention, national and local experiences, etc.

Al to investigate this field, of recent teorizacjon, "the Geography of the Risks", made use of its tools of study to develop an investigation as for the relations that builds a population and its environment at the moment of to handle its system of risks, for such effect the municipality was chosen of Yumbo, pertinent al department of the Valley of the Cauca, al south West Colombian; said municipality needs The possible generators of their emergencies locales 1, so that in this manner can develop the construction of political proactivas that aim at to reduce the disasters and to mitigate the caused threats by natural phenomena. In that measure the main questioning one on which this study was centered investigates the ^how the Geography of the Risks contributes in the formation of citizens, capable to be integrated with their space and to intervene it in such a way that manage to optimize the management of their systems of risks? A company prepared in knowledge and organizations to interpret its space inhabited, prevents and recovers more easily of the negative effects of a disastrous event. When the communities in risk become

aware of the dangers and of their vulnerability, to stop being object of the institutional intervention, to play the role of subjects actuantes and determinants of the progress of their locality, being integrated to the actions carried by other actors, be these public or private. Nevertheless, the hypothesis of which splits this investigation, evidence that the Municipality has invested significant resources in the identification and mitigation of the threats and the prevention of the risk, without obtaining at least equivalent results.

Themselves they are not reached to comply the designed expectations in The programs and a work dismantled among the official institutions, the professional personnel and the community is identified still. The scarce examples of institutional collective action refer to interventions on emergencies and current attention to the victims. Little is also the level accumulated of learning that such interventions leave in the communities and even in the own institutions, because

little or nothing there are of systematization with respect to the numerous cases and experiences lived in the municipality of Yumbo as for the history of their disasters.

The general objective of the study is to design, since the Geography of the Risks, a pedagogical proposal and politics of civic formation, that provide all inhabitants of Yumbo of new visions and options so that interpret with greater severity and base its local reality and contribute to the integral appropriation of its systems of risks. Accepting that the education should not be understood only as the formal knowledge, given since a school, but, that low social processes and of common participation and for this since the geography, that is to say, through the spatial education can be contributed to the civic formation outside of the classroom. Its specific objectives tend: Developing technical and conceptual tools that permit to build and to understand the system of risk (vulnerability x threat), of the municipality of Yumbo, in the perspective of achieving that the measures of mitigation be opportune.

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\*Contributing to the community yumbefia, in the surest construction of relations with the environment, from the reflection and recognition of its spatial singularity.

\*Recognizing in the exchange of cultural practices and techniques a social alternative for the empoderamiento in the management of the risks and the disasters.

The municipality of Yumbo, by its special conditions of industrial municipality, its topography, its demographic processes and the environmental conditions, favors in which the experience can be extrapolated to other municipalities. Since the Geography can be involved to the communities with its middle and to prepare the citizens to interpret and to respond with sufficiency to the risks.

The investments that has done the municipality of Yumbo in the study and the mitigation of the generators of risk that threaten their space inhabited, they have a technical emphasis, disregarding other variables as the population, occupation, access, adaptability and capture of the resources of the middle, that are fundamental variables for the analysis of the disasters, since the viewpoint of the Geography of the Risks. Therefore it is opportune to present for the municipality of Yumbo an alternative of civic education around its space, that propenda by options of formation and common or social participation, understood this last one as the construction of collective possibilities for a better one to inhabit and to live together. Of course, all the proposal has as axis the methodological and theoretical formulations of the Geography of the Risks.

Set against the proposals that do precarious the welfare of the population and that they admit as shelter any space, is necessary to undertake tasks that promote the self-esteem of the communities and they fortify, with knowledge of cause, the actions of the groups affected or in risk of affectation. Of any way does not aspire to discharge of evil from the responsibilities of the State, as if, to stimulate the creative initiative of the inhabitants in the construction of the places compromised and to take advantage of the resources, almost always scarce, of better way.

The pedagogical proposal for the management of the risks and disasters since the Geography of the Risks aspires to that the population can carry out other interpretations of its regional and local reality, as participatory agent of its environment and builder of solutions tending toward diminishing its vulnerability.

In the condition of Licensed future in Social Sciences, we consider that the preparation front all risk obliges not alone to reduce the vulnerability by locating or

infrastructure, but also, and in an important way, as notified by Wilches Chau (1993:30-44), the "educational, ideological, and cultural vulnerability". In the first chapter, titled "Geography of the Risk...Toward a conceptual construction," he refers to the origin and evolution of the Geography of the Risks inside the geographical science; a series of definitions is proposed or concepts referred to this field, that contribute to the precision and explanation semantics of the terms of common use in the analysis of the risk and the prevention of the disasters. In the chapter II: "Yumbo: an approximation since the Geography of the Risks," is presented the variables of the territory of Yumbo pertinent to analyze the situation temporary space of the Municipality set against the risks and disasters. This approximation carried out from the evaluation of the primary information and Secondary and the integral spatial recognition of the territory, an alternative offers us to structure a reading system in the country of the disasters, to understand the Yumbo of today, to analyze the past, its present tendency and thus to contribute an extensive vision that aims to the decrease of its risks. The elements that are presented of Yumbo as area of study, they glimpse the competitive and comparative advantages that have positioned it to national level in an important economic category; such advantages also do that the Municipality have a singular and geostrategic value in their political, cultural, social, and economic fields, being interwoven associate-spatial relations, that they give him an attractive character like model of study since *the* Geography of the Risks.

In the I surrender III: "Synthesis of the setting of risk," presents the considerations that resulted of an intense investigation of but of two years on the vulnerability in the Municipality of Yumbo, front al development of two events of disaster and the subjection of the risks to mercy of the associate-economic processes happened in the last 30 years, which they have impacted directly in the constant transformation of their space and the configuration of Very private that is put in evidence routine in its cycles of winter and summer. The history of the vulnerability Yumbena, guard with zeal two facts that have it placed to extreme test in two different phases from the municipal development, implying analogous panoramas and determinants at the moment of to face the pain and suffering lived by the population in two different epochs inside a same territory, Yumbo in April of 1974 and April of 1998. In the last titled chapter "Preparation front al risk a contribute pedagogical of the formation of citizens," itself concrete and carries out, from it it judged and observed in field, a pedagogical proposal built since the practical theoretical state in which the situation on prevention of disasters in Yumbo is found seen from perspectives that provide indications about the imaginary and the perception of the people about its local reality, proposed happiness can be carries out, not alone in Yumbo, but in other communities, to undertake the theme of the risks, like mechanism That contributes to the formation of citizenship. Resorts to the participatory observation, to the surveys and the interviews, to the histories of life, to the journalistic and documentary revision, al social map and the workshops.

The work was oriented since the theory of the systems that proposes the analysis of the phenomena from a global context, suggesting an interpretation of their structures from the identification of their elements, the functions and relations that are established to different hierarchies among the elements to invigorate the operation of the system, so much of the natural facts, as of the relations human weavings inside their Being this an alternative for the comprehension and interpretation of dynamics and interactions of you said phenomena; complementary al development made use of them contribute conceptual and the models of vulnerability (EVEN) carried out by the Network of Social studies in Prevention of Natural Disasters for Latin America (THE

NETWORK, La Red). Since the participatory action investigation method I work themselves directly with the inhabitants of Yumbo, since this tries the critical articulation of diverse ways of knowledge in three cognitive levels: the conscience of cotidianidad, the problems recognized as such by the collective subject and their interpretation in the historic-social context in which they are produced and they change. We work some qualitative and quantitative techniques for studies of Community taken of the "investigation in the community" (Guillermo Briones- 2001), especially its statistical support, to study the association and correlation of factors and properties that characterize to social groups you determined. It was since the same environmental, economic, political, ideological, cultural, social, and physical environment as they valued themselves, on the part of the citizens, the visions or interpretations of the middle inhabited.

The interpretation of the reality of the Municipality was built in direct contact with the communities, the people and its organizations, in such a way that managed to integrate scales that permitted to go comparing the reality of neighborhoods and sectors with the totality of the Municipality. In the development of the study was of sum importance the contribute documentary that was extracted from the practices of the inhabitants yumbenos, that al to interact with the local institutions, they configure the singular regional reality. Besides the analysis of the documents of the Basic Plan of Territorial Code (city Hall of Yumbo, PBOT 200), the Plan of Local Environmental Action (PAAL, 1993), the Municipal development pla.. (PDM, 2004), the Plan for the prevention and attention of disasters of the municipality of Yumbo (2004, 2005) from among other documents. Every observation with different degrees of participation, be through the instruments already mentioned, permitted us to undertake the theme since a pedagogical sense and an abundant material one of data for the development of our object of study contributed us. The interviews, the histories of life, the sources written, and the approach with the population yumbena permitted us to agree extensively to the meaning of its local realities and to its social actors.

## **Chapter 1**

The result of more than thirty years of investigation and deliberation on disasters, prompted since the social sciences, has conducted to the already known formula that the disaster, is product of a private combination of the calls threats (natural phenomena, antropicas or technological) and the vulnerability of the company. It implies the acceptance that, in most cases, are the social conditions of a population the ones that determine in great measure the level of interruption of the functions of the company, and likewise their possibilities of recovery. These conditk is in the historic process cover changes that are inherent al same development of the social organizations, transferring the physical emphasis (natural phenomena) in the study of the origin of the disaster to the convergence of multi-causal factors in permanent transformation. This social conception in the approach of the disasters inside the "Geography" has consolidated a branch that began to arise and that today is called "Geography of the risks". The purpose of this chapter refers al conceptual and historic context in which the Geography of the risks is originated; in what consists, which they have been its contribute and conceptual orientation in the country of the investigation of the Risks and disasters; added to it stands out the relevance of the theme given the last events on a worldwide basis, what carries to reflect on the relations and behaviors Of the populations with his middle and the decisions of the planners and governments set against the risks, is because of it that we have assumed a social commitment with the disclosure and overcrowding of this discipline, attending the Latin-American call

of the NETWORK of Social Studies in the comprehension of the disasters as "not simply natural".

### **1.1 THE GEOGRAFIA OF THE RISKS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCE OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

During the 20th century they are incorporated contribute of other sciences, that serve to interpret, with new foci from the identification of edges, up till then hidden, the geographical facts. The Sociology of the school of Chicago employs them in its analysis of the urban thing and the cities, under the concept of "Human Ecology" (Barrows, 1923). Said concept was inserted inside an extensive evolutionary and ecological framework, and included the study of the human impact on the environment, the nutrition, the ecological disasters, the demography and in the comprehension of the way in which the human beings respond to its environment, be this genetic, physiological, of conduct or of culture.

The implementation of this concept involved al design of sociological models to explain the middle, like the ones that develop Robert E. Park, Ernest W. Burgess and R. D. Mackenzie (cited by Unwin, 1995). They are mathematical models, that continue the general theory of systems. Such conception of the Geography succeeded in the foci positivists, since seemed to free to the Geography of the Social Sciences, classifying it in the country of the Natural Sciences. It is then, when ii the Geography begins to employ large volumes of data, that demand costly processes that throw roots in the stochastic methods and the quantitative one, al time that move away of the historicist tradition promulgated by Carl Sauer and its Cultural Geography, that quantitative geography supeditaba and, in some cases, until forgot to the company as construction company of the space, with the ideological argument to avoid slants and Promoting, in the framework of the theory locacional, languages that guaranteed the objectivity in the studies. A break in such look is presented for the geography of the perception, by means of which a subjective dimension of the space is discovered and the representations that of the same one do the individuals and the communities. For the geographers of the perception, the space varies according to the subjective image of the individual that looks it. The Psychology became the new focus, as tests it Lynch (1970) in its analysis on the urban landscape and the elements estructurantes of the urban landscape in the mental maps of the citizens and the citizens. What in a beginning was seen as the most genuine expression of the subject, very quick themselves develo like influences of a context that imposes images and builds realities, al margin of if counts or not the individual that interprets; also, the one that are not perfect logic the ones that explain the behaviors of the company and the economy and that the subjects ar> a lot more than joint predictable of producers Consumers. It was in the commotion world geopolitics of the middle of the 20th century, when the American geographers had the clarity to question the Geography as a field to discipline useful for something more than the to do thesis you give a doctorate, and they decide to work and to set its position, aiming to bring to light to the population the concepts, methods and strategies that serve to govern them, what was translated in an invitation to interpret its context Stop seeing the Geography as an only necessary, ingenuous knowledge to feed the general culture of the people. It is born thus the Radical Geography, compromised politically with the revolutionary transformation of the capitalist company (Thin, 2003).

After World War Two, in France call geographers of the size of Pierre George to reconstruct their cities and to order the in a way rational territory. Is the manifesto of the beginning of a more active geography, that worries about the problems of the people, the poverty, the third world, the inequality, the exclusion and the minorities. It

is interested, also, because that geography be al reach of the entire world. Although it is an inclination very close to the radical geography, was identified but with the marxism that with the anarchy, deriving in the social geography and, later, in sides less polarizantes, as the humanistic geography. In the decade of the seventy, geographers like Wilbur Zelinski, Brian Berry, David Harvey and William Bunge, they begin to speak of something that the poverty had been forgot, the marginalization, the immigrants; but no longer in a general way, but from concrete studies, through which the situation of the marginalized of the company is denounced. Since a geographical perspective, William Bunge writes in 1971 Fitzgerald: "The geography of a revolution". The city as a social and historic product that builds urban processes and marginality, was also object amused in the cities of the United States by David Harvey. This new geography attracts the thinkers of left and is diffused throughout the world as a movement of critical renewal of the geography. In Brazil, Milton Holy, will study the city of the Third World, denouncing the conditions in which they are found, and explaining how the geography has to do with its situation. Besides, it worried with the methodological question, has built concepts, deepened the debate epistemologico and sought an extensive vision of the company, under the study of different disciplines. Saints proposes a "New Geography." integral and compromised with the company and the Medium. For him, the Geography underlines the human aspect of the geography and critica the evil effects of the gloLilization. "The poor population is the capable social actor to promote -an another globalization-, due to that know the experience of the shortage, the poor only have not to be creative to survive as are also the ones that have the vision of the real one and of the future because feel in the skin the cruel effects of the globalization." 2 currently it is evident like the geographical science has been nourished of the phase that marked the passed century principles theories.