

## Creating Bridges: The Importance of Intergenerational Experiences in the Educational Context

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**Abstract :** Changes in family structures, immigration, economic crisis, among others, hinder the connection between different generations. This situation gives rise to a greater lack of social protection of the groups in vulnerable situations, such as the elderly and children. There is a growing need to search for shared spaces where different generations manage to break negative stereotypes and interact with each other. The school environment provides a favourable context in which the approach of different generations can be worked on. The intergenerational experiences that take place within the school context help to introduce the educational ideology for a lifetime. This induces bilateral learning, which encourages citizen participation. For this reason, the general objective of this research is to deepen the impact that intergenerational experiences have on participating students. The research is carried out based on mixed methods. The qualitative and quantitative evaluation included pre-test and post-test questionnaires (n=148) and group interviews (n=43). The results indicate that the intergenerational experiences influence different levels, on the one hand, help to promote school motivation and on the other hand, help to reduce negative stereotypes towards older people thus contributing to greater social cohesion.

**Keywords :** intergenerational learning, school, stereotypes, social cohesion

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