

Resilience in Action: **The Guaido's Effect**

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A work in progress.





"When my suffering increased, I soon realized that there were two ways I could respond to the situation: react with bitterness or transform suffering into a creative force. I chose the latter."

- Martin Luther King

RESILIENCE

- The best example of resilience
- Resilience is a decision. Means when we choose to overcome adversity, transform suffering into a life learning, value what we have and support ourselves in it to grow.
- Strong personal convictions about what is truly important, relevant, meaningful to our life. Have dreams and goals aligned with our convictions.

A view of the Venezuelan context

For English readers my point of view of the Venezuelan context might sound strange. I have to start by saying that December 2018 will be remembered as the saddest Christmas and New Year's time in many past years for Venezuelans.

People had to face –under Maduro's regime- what economists call "the highest inflation of the planet" (nearly reaching a 1,000%).

People felt the widespread of food and medicines shortages, the lack of public hospitals attention, the diminishing of public and private transportation and even black outs in different areas of the country.

Last March 7th, a massive black out that lasted in some regions more than 7 days resulted in nearly a month of water shortage. This affected schools attendance, transportation, lack of communication, services, and the quality of life in general. This was seen not only in poor family sectors, but also what once was called "middle class", including university educated people like teachers, engineers, lawyers, between others.

Generally, in the political field people felt unrepresented by opposition leaders, and it was demonstrated by thousands of protests during the 2018. In addition, working associations like our UPEL Teachers Association took the streets to demonstrate disagreement not only with the lowest salaries, but also for the government university policies related to lack of budgets for research, libraries, services for the students, and others. However, many of these spontaneous protests ended up in arrests by the government police and Venezuelan army.

Guaidó's resilience effect

- Resilience according to Rirkín and Hoopman (1991) is defined as the capacity to recuperate and adapt to situations, having difficulties and developing social skills inspite of suffering . In other terms, it could be said that a resilient person identifies a situation that is affecting them and works to change it .This concept is applied in the developing of strengths as the result of collective trauma situations like those described previously . However, how it evolved in the Venezuelan context?
- After so many years of demonstrations in the streets and more than hundreds of deaths, last January 3rd, a change occurred in the Venezuelan political scenery that gave strength again to the people for a change in the government . This time the Maduro's regime wanted to assume a new presidential period of five more years founded in an undemocratically election unrecognized by the international community. He was hit by a young engineer, 35-year-old, that assumed the presidency of the democratically elected National Assembly. Fort he first time since the National Assembly was elected on December 6th of 2015., there was a president that took responsibility to apply the Venezuelan Constitution. Particularly, the articles numbers 333 and 350 that give the right to the president of the National Assembly to take actions for the restoration of democracy in the country.
- Masses of people went to the streets to express themselves and to support the idea of Guaidó as a transitional interim president in order to call for free democratic elections. Thus the, on January 23rd in a huge massive "cabildo", Guaidó swore with his hand on the Constitution to become the Venezuelan Interim President and to call for free democratic elections. This act was seen as "a light in the darkness" in people's terms . But also Venezuelan's received an injection of hope for democracy.



The Guaido's Strategy

- Guaido then proclaimed what he called “Operación Libertad” (Operation Liberty). The route or plan defined consisted on 3 main steps to reach democracy in the country:
 1. Cessation of usurpation by stopping the non-democratic government of Maduro.
 2. Transition government
 3. Call for free democratic elections

All of these planned steps were founded on a new organization of the people where the social network takes place a prominent role. As the old opposition parties grouping were inefficient in impacting the masses.

- At local level a 8 steps plan included a local organization and mobile social networks.

8 Steps Plan



To be continued...