

# **Cross-national evidences in the research and practice in positive youth development**

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During the past century, the study of adolescence and youth has been guided mainly by the perspective of deficit. This perspective has influenced social policies, research and professional practice, especially focused on risk behaviours and psychopathologies in young people. In contrast, over the past two decades, progress has been made in developing positive indicators of youth well-being, and strengths-based approaches have guided the design of programs that have been effective in various development contexts. Thus, the interest in promoting healthy development in young people has gained ground in the design of research and social programs and policies.

The concept of positive youth development underlines the importance of increasing the internal and external developmental assets in the contexts in which young people develop. Within this approach, a certain consensus has been reached regarding the differentiation in the positive youth development of six components, the 6C's (Lerner et al., 2005): competence, confidence, character, connection, caring and contribution. The manifestation of this positive development during adolescence and young adulthood stems from a mutually beneficial relationship of the person with their context throughout the life trajectory, which in turn contributes to the well-being of the individual, the family, the community, and civil society. Despite of the potential risks and challenges in youth's trajectories, the PYD perspective suggests that the appearance of positive behaviours in turn decreases the probability of presenting problem behaviours.

Although the PYD model is adding growing empirical evidence from non-U.S. studies, more international research is required to support the adaptation of this model to different contexts and cultures. This special issue invites researchers and practitioners from around the world in the field of positive youth development and developmental

assets to submit their manuscripts, in form of systematic reviews, research, or interventions.

The journal *Análisis y Modificación de Conducta* (Behavioral Analysis and Modification), founded in 1975, is one of the first psychology journals in Spain, and is indexed in the Psycodoc, Dialnet, Latindex and Dulcinea databases. The publication of this special issue on "Cross-national evidences in the research and practice in positive youth development" would help the international growth of the PYD theoretical perspective, especially within the territory of Spain and throughout South and Central America. The journal offers free paper and open access publication. Its publication regulations can be consulted on the institutional website: <http://www.uhu.es/publicaciones/ojs/index.php/amc/index>. The maximum length of the manuscripts will be 40 pages, following the APA format. Proposals can be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese, to the journal's email: [revista.amc@uhu.es](mailto:revista.amc@uhu.es). The deadline for submitting proposals is June 30, 2022, in order for the special issue to be published before the end of the year.