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ICT INTEGRATION MODEL FOR SOCIO-EDUCATIVE FAMILY INTERVENTIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

As it can be seen in the literature, principally schools and universities include ICT in their educational practices. The school curriculum contemplates the use of ICT, in the same way that many universities do in their degrees. Socio-educative interventions in Spain do not have a specific curriculum or a plan that defines educative practices done through ICT. Responding to this lack, Gallego, Alonso, and Cacheiro (2011) expose five types of ICT use in socio-educative interventions:

- 1. Design, development and evaluation of socio-educative programs and projects.
- 2. Management and administration of social and educational institutions.
- 3. Analysis and research about socio-educative contexts.
- 4. Professionals of socio-educative practices training.
- 5. Social and cultural development.

Concretely, we focus our work on the first and fourth point, contextualizing the implementation of socio-educative family interventions.

2. JUSTIFICATION

The communication presents a part of the results of the dissertation "ICT use for the development of the socio-educative program 'Walking family'" (Balsells et al., 2015). Walking family is a socio-educative program to support specific parental competences, which families have to develop in a foster care and reunification process. The program is a resource and a tool for professionals of the Child Welfare System, aimed to families with children between 8 and 16 years old. The evaluation of the program is done through a participatory-action research, which involves the implication of both professionals and researchers. By the need to communicate, to facilitate materials and resources, and to share evaluation tools, the research team makes available the following virtual resources:

- Tools for online surveys (www.typeform.com). Some of the instruments for evaluating the program are characterized by being quantitative. These instruments have been digitized through "Typeform" to facilitate their completion, as well as for greater speed in the introduction, sending and management of protected data.
- Website of the program (www.caminarenfamilia.com). It has the purpose of publicizing the program, offering general information about it, such as structure, objectives and contact information.
- GRISIJ Virtual. It is a virtual environment created with Moodle, which acquires some functions to develop
 the program: a) it is used as a media between professionals and researchers to resolve doubts and
 answer questions through the forum; b) it is used as a repository of resources and educative materials;
 c) it is provided to professionals the direct link to each instrument made with the "Typeform" tool in the
 platform.



• QR Codes. A printed guide about the implementation and evaluation of the program contains QR codes to access to all of these online resources through mobile devices.

In order to contextualize the way in which ICTs are used for the development of the "Walking family" program, the following questions are addressed: What use do families and professionals do of ICT in the area of family and parental education? Which ICT tools can be used to support family interventions in social work? How can we define the way in which ICT are used for the program "Walking family"?

Responding to these questions, the aim of this study is to propose a model for contextualizing socio-educative family interventions with ICT.

3. METHODOLOGY

To achieve the goals, a theoretical review has been carried out, taking into account the literature that comes from research and which has been published in scientific journals, books or other published documents. Next, these steps have been followed:

- a) Proposal of research questions and aims.
- b) Definition of keywords.
- c) Definition of databases. Principally, we have searched in Google scholar and in Scopus.
- d) Selection of studies. It has taken into account educative experiences, evaluation results, and evidence-based practices.
- e) Identifying the data and the information of each reference. The main results and the educational experiences of the investigations were extracted.
- f) Synthesis of the results.

4. RESULTS

The main result of the study is the creation of a model to contextualize socio-educative family interventions with ICT. The model consists in three dimensions which are "Support", "Training" and "Management". These dimensions are addressed for professionals and families. The model is shown as a table created taking into account all the literature reviewed (picture 1). The uses of ICT in family interventions can be classified in one or more of these cells.

The first dimension is ICT as a media for receiving support. When it is talked about support, we refer to the use of ICT for communication, advising, asking and answering questions about intervention. It can serve as be social, technical and professional support. This support can be done for or among professionals, or for or among families.

Secondly, "Training" represents all of ICT utilities to improve or facilitate the training or education of professionals or families. For professionals, it represents the training for improving their educational practices. For families, training with ICT is referred principally to online programs and other educative resources that families can found on Internet.

Finally, when we talk about "Management", we refer to the use of ICT to follow-up the process of families in a socio-educative intervention, for managing, exchanging or sharing specific information and data. This process could be followed by the professionals or, also, by families.

	ining (T) and Management (A (STM for F model for socio-educative fa	PF):	
	Support (S)	Training (T)	Management (M)
Professionals	Support for or between Professionals	Training of Professionals	Management for Professionals
	(SP)	(TP)	(MP)
Families	Support for or between Families (SF)	Training of Families (TF)	Management for Families (MF)

Picture 1: STM for PF model.

4. 1. ICT AS A MEDIA FOR THE SUPPORT FOR OR AMONG PROFESSIONALS (SP)

Firstly, taking into account the communication tools of everyday use, instant messaging systems, like WhatsApp, can be a good option to promote collaborative work between professionals. In schools, for example, they are used among students, or in some cases between students and teachers, to clear doubts about various situations, asking questions, sharing multimedia resources and promoting collaborative learning (Padrón, 2013). In the same way, message systems could be a way to offer continuous and immediate support to professionals who carry out a socio-educative intervention. Other tools are virtual environments for Communities of Practice (CoP), which improve the interaction between participants, the peer support, the communication and the information exchange (Murty, Gilmore, Richards, & Altilio, 2012).

4.2. ICT AS A MEDIA TO SUPPORT FAMILIES (SF)

According to Niewboer (2013), the communication modalities used by parents to receive professional support or peer support are: information pages 61.3 %, forums 36 %, consultation messaging between professional and parent 32 %, mailing list 13.3 % Chat between peers (13.3), chat between parents and professionals (1.3 %). In the same way, Hall & Biernan (2015) show that ICT can have an important role in family interventions but in some of these cases, they are a complement for face-to-face interventions among parents or between parents and professionals.

In the Domenech (2016), it was studied the efficacy of the mobile app "Remind". Remind offers to education professionals a simple and secure way to send messages to parents. Participants were satisfied with the use of Remind and it became the main communication media between families and professionals of the centre. It can be seen as another example about a specific tool in the study of Dodsworth et al. (2013). It shows the use of a webpage as a Community of Practice in which were involved both social workers and foster care families. Both studies mentioned above offer a communication media between families and professionals to improve their participation.

4.3. ICT AS A MEDIA FOR TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS (TP)

In Italy, the professionals of the Child Welfare System are trained by a flipped classroom and b-learning methodology through Moodle to implement the socio-educative program "P.I.P.P.I". This program provides instruments and working methodologies to prevent children placement out of their home (Milani, 2013). Over the training, professionals do some tasks for learning the theoretical section of the program and assist to face-to-face sessions for doing the practical activities in group. It was found that the flipped classroom approach provides more opportunities to develop student autonomy through active and experiential learning and critical and reflective discussions between professionals from different services and territories.

In addition, the design of this flexible and interactive course produced a high score in terms of satisfaction among professional trainers (Di Masi & Milani, 2016).

In scholar context, the virtual environment M.A.D.E.I. was implemented. This environment is aimed at providing continuous training to teachers involved in teaching design tasks related to a particular topic of the primary curriculum (Ballesteros, 2012). The tool was created and designed specifically for this function, not part of any open virtual platform like Moodle or Sakai. Although this tool was implemented in schools, creating specific tools to support Child Welfare System professionals could be a good option to support their practices too. On the other hand, it was found another study in which was also developed a specific tool for training professionals, but about suicide prevention. The findings of the study of Ghonchech and collegues (2016) indicate that Web-based suicide prevention elearning modules can be an effective educational method to enhance knowledge and self-confidence of professionals with regard to adolescent suicide prevention. Professionals with limited time and resources can benefit from the accessibility, simplicity, and flexibility of Web-based training.

4.4. ICT AS A MEDIA FOR TRAINING OF FAMILIES (TF)

In the study of Baker, Sanders & Morawska (2017) it has been seen that families use different types of ICT resources to train their parental competences: webpages (65 %), social networks (45 %), TV programs (19 %), radio programs (6,1 %), videos (4,4 %), and online parental programs (4,4 %).

Although parental programs are the least used resources for families, they can be a useful educative tool. For instance, The *Positive Parent program* got good results about their users. Participants reported high satisfaction with the ease of use of the program, the content of the module, and their perception of parental self-efficacy (Suárez, Rodríguez, & Rodrigo, 2016).

Moreover, Torres & Rodrigo (2013) propose some tools for using in interventions for parents: webquest to integrate information from various sources on the subject; podcast of expert presentations and parent testimonials; micro-texts; videos with educational micro scenes; animations with educational micro scenes; creation of blogs; participation in social networks; questionnaires and checklists to evaluate the knowledge acquired in the session.

4.5. ICT AS A SUPPORT FOR MANAGEMENT FOR PROFESSIONALS (MF)

In the health field, the concept of "tele-nursing" is used to define the follow-up performed by professionals on patients through online tools, including diagnosis, planning, exercise and its evaluation. Through the "tele-nursing" programs nurses are trained on diseases, firstly. Secondly, nurses follow the whole process of patient education, which is intended to improve their skills, through a virtual environment (Kazawa, Moriyama, Oka, Takahashi, & Kawai, 2015). In the same line, during the implementation of Walking Family, professionals can use a virtual environment and a survey tool for introducing the data of families and evaluate the implementation of the program (Fernández-Rodrigo, Vaquero, & Balsells, 2016; Vaquero, Balsells, & Fuentes-Peláez, 2016).

4.6. ICT AS A SUPPORT FOR MANAGEMENT FOR FAMILIES (MF)

According to Milani (2013), professionals who implement the P.I.P.P.I. program use a virtual tool as a support. This tool is called RPM, whose acronym in Italian means "Evaluation, Planning and Following up". Through RPM, both families and professionals can work together to evaluate, plan and follow up the process over the program. Professionals and families can access to RPM by its webpage and by its app for Android.

5. CONCLUSIONS

There is a lack in the literature, specifically, about the use of ICT by families to manage their follow-up about a socio-educative intervention. Moreover, it is seen that there are not many studies about ICT in social work, compared to all studies in formal education and ICT, as also say Vaquero (2016) and Niela-Vién et al. (2014). Some studies in other fields can provide good practices or ideas for intervention with families with ICT as a support.

Finally, this study has helped to contextualize the use of ICT in the program "Walking Family". Taking into account all the "STMforPF Model", it seems like the use of ICT in the Walking Family program can be integrated in these dimensions: Support for or between Professionals (SP) and Management for Professionals (MP).

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LA QUALITÉ DE VIE DE L'ENFANT AUJOURD'HUI / CHILDREN'S QUALITY OF LIFE TODAY





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