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HAND IN HAND WITH THE SCHOOL - The participation of the 2nd cycle parents of the School EB 2,3 Barbosa du Bocage

ABSTRACT

This study investigated parent-school relationships in the public Portuguese school, in order to research the involvement, engagement and power relationships between parents and teachers from a 2nd cycle Basic school.

Teachers and parents from a public school responded to questionnaires and interviews which made possible to compare and contrast their views about the topic under study.

This thesis reviews some of the national education law from the 25th April 1974 to 2008, in the light of parents' rights and duties. It also reviews the literature on the concepts in study and some previous studies.

The results show that teachers recognize the importance of parents' involvement in ludic and educational issues, students' academic achievement and misbehaviour.

Perspectives between parents and teachers diverge in what concerns teachers' evaluation and students' misbehaviour sanctions. Analyses also revealed that parents are available to become more engaged and involved in school, although teachers tend to limit parents' involvement.

These findings may contribute to find new ways to improve parental involvement and build stronger school-parents' partnerships. Schools need to work to encourage parents to be involved and to make them feel welcomed, as members of the school community with shared interests and responsibilities.

Palavras Chave: School family relationships , Public Policy Education ; Participation and parental involvement ; Sociology of Education.