

## **Review: Human development**

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**Abstract:** *Review of:*

Beatriz Peña-Acuña (Coord.), (2012) *Human development*, Jaipur: Yking books.282 pages.

### **1. Introduction**

A new book on the topic “Human Development” and titled as such has recently appeared on the academic scene. The foreword is written by Maria del Mar Pintado Gimenez, Vice Chancellor of the Department of Education and Department of Social and Labour Inclusion of San Antonio Catholic University in Murcia. The essayists are a group of university professors and researchers belonging to Social Sciences, Humanities and Sciences, and who belong to an interdisciplinary research group called "Personal Development", headed by Professor Beatriz Peña Acuña. In the book there is an additional contribution of three professors from the Department of Political Science and Sociology from the University of Florence (Italy).

Beatriz Peña Acuña, coordinator of this book, has an interdisciplinary training in Humanities and Communication and a broad research background at universities like New York University, University of East Anglia in Norwich or Queen Mary College, University of London, which has resulted in various texts in scientific journals and books. She is also an honorary professor at the University of the International Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences in San José, Costa Rica, and Fellow of the Royal Society for Asian Studies in Ireland and Britain.

## **2. Review**

The chapters are essay-type works except for two of them, which have a qualitative empirical basis. The volume comprises ten chapters on assorted and suggestive topics: emotional intelligence in teachers, Howard Gardner and artistic intelligence, education and leadership training of cognitive strategies in adults, family model suitable for branch education, pedagogy of good and beauty, personal identity through music, ethnography of first courtship among teenagers, the social network circle in the context of palliative care and the dilemmas of an engaged anthropology.

The topic of personal development is a project with future, linked to the objectives of a broad European project. However, there is still much to delve into the matter, and a need to raise social and political awareness on this issue.

This group intends to foster a scientific research that seeks a philosophy belonging to the more advanced culture, a cultural philosophy of development. This is the idea presented in the first volume of the “Personal Development” collection. In this sense, the text favors the need of more in depth studies, and contributes to the building of this culture of development, a basic issue to the progress of Western civilization and its hegemonic influence over the other nations. The reader will find reasons for perusing the chapters in the in depth and entertaining investigation and through the suggestive and provocative ideas that these researchers don’t hesitate to raise.