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### Distance University Education. A Look From the Information and Communication Technologies, in the Framework of Complex Thought

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#### ABSTRACT

Distance university education is an independent training process mediated by information and communication technologies, with the aim of promoting learning without limitations of location, time, occupation or age of the students. Such modality must be permeated by profound transformations of thought, within the framework of complexity, which enables the emergence of innovative, holistic educational models that foster creativity, criticality and the formation of multipurpose capacities necessary for uncertainty scenarios. On the basis of such a position, the research was aimed at generating a theoretical-phenomenological approach in the framework of complex thinking, about distance education and information and communication technologies. The phenomenological interpretative paradigm was assumed as the epistemological foundation and the hermeneutic and the method of Constant Comparison of Corbin and Strauss were taken as methods. As information gathering techniques, the in-depth interview was applied. The key informants were five professors and five students from the Systems Engineering area of the National Experimental University "Rómulo Gallegos", located in San Juan de los Morros, Guárico State. The information collected was subjected to cross-checking or triangulation of sources; to categorization understood as the emergence of significant concepts and to theorizing as a process that allowed us to unveil the theoretical approach, whose central thesis supports the need for a redefinition of traditional, reductionist and simplistic conceptions of modernity, to move towards flexible, interactive epistemes, holistic in the framework of complex thinking, that allow to support the distance education model with the support of ICTs.

**Descriptors:** Distance university education - information and communication technologies - complex thinking.

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