

## **Webs of Knowledge and resistance: Strengthening Cultural Identity and Community Leadership Among Young Indigenous University Students from Alto Apure**

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Main Research Line: Culture, Identity, and Independence. Thematic Axis: Culture and Knowledge

**How to cite this article:** Andreina Yusbelina Rivero Pérez and Eva Vera “Weavings of Knowledge and Resistance: Strengthening Cultural Identity and Community Leadership in Indigenous University Students of Alto Apure” (2025), (1,14)

**Received: 09/09/2025 Revised: 13/09/2025 Accepted: 18/09/2025**

### **ABSTRACT**

The study “Weaving Knowledge and Resistance: Strengthening Cultural Identity and Community Leadership among Indigenous University Students of Alto Apure” explores how indigenous students intertwine ancestral knowledge with academic demands, turning the university into a space of cultural resistance and community leadership. Objective: To analyze the processes through which indigenous university students strengthen their cultural identity and consolidate community leadership in the context of Alto Apure. Methodology: A documentary hermeneutic method was applied, based on the critical interpretation of academic and testimonial sources. The analysis was organized into four categories: weaving of knowledge, resistance, cultural identity, and community leadership. The hermeneutic process involved comprehension, explanation, and application, resignifying theoretical contributions in relation to the local reality. Results: Findings reveal that students do not passively assimilate Western knowledge; instead, they intertwine it with their worldviews, generating creative resistances expressed in community projects. Cultural identity is dynamically reconstructed through university experiences, while community leadership emerges as an intercultural mediation that strengthens collective agency. Discussion: Results were compared with authors such as Walsh, Rappaport, and Mato, confirming that higher education in Latin America can become a space for dispute, resistance, and transformation. Indigenous resistance is not a passive opposition but rather a creative action that reinforces identity and youth agency. Conclusion: Indigenous youth in Alto Apure transform the university into a political-cultural arena where identity, resistance, and community leadership are strengthened.

**Keywords:** interculturality, cultural identity, resistance, community leadership, indigenous youth.

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