



Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos
Centrales
Rómulo Gallegos
Decanato del Área Ciencias de la Educación
Centro de Estudios E Investigación (CEIACERG)

REVISTA CIENTÍFICA
CIENCIAEDUC

Depósito Legal Número: GU218000006
ISSN: 2610-816X



Volumen 8 Número 1 Enero a Julio 2025 Revista Semestral- Venezuela

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How to cite this article: Cesar Gómez "Epistemological Theorization of Public Policies and Governance in the Promotion of Endogenous Development in University Institutions" (2025), (1,14)
Received: 10/15/2025 Revised: 10/20/2025 Accepted: 11/10/2025

Epistemological Theorization of Public Policies and Governance in the Promotion of Endogenous Development in University Institutions

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to reveal the relationship between public policies and governance in the promotion of endogenous development in Venezuelan university institutions, from an epistemological perspective. The central problem lies in the gap between the design of university public policies and their actual impact on strengthening local capacities. The study is theoretically grounded in the endogenous development postulates of Vázquez Barquero (2004), Sen's theory of human development (1999), governance theory, and Gadamer's epistemological contributions on hermeneutical understanding. Methodologically, the research adopted an interpretive paradigm with a qualitative approach, employing Gadamer's hermeneutic method, complemented by Derrida's deconstructive technique and Gagné's eclecticism. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with three significant subjects holding managerial positions at UNERG. Results show that university governance acts as the articulating axis between public policies and concrete institutional actions, and that university autonomy, citizen participation, adequate funding, and knowledge transfer are the determining categories of endogenous development. The study concludes with the emergence of a theoretical-epistemological model that proposes a humanistic, participatory university management oriented toward strengthening internal social capital as a sine qua non condition for sustainable development.

Keywords: public policies, governance, endogenous development, university institutions, epistemology, humanistic management

Biographical sketch: Venezuelan, holds a Doctorate in Administrative Sciences and is the Rector of the Rómulo Gallegos National Experimental University of the Central Plains (UNERG). He is a university professor with extensive experience in management and public administration. He has held leadership positions in the university setting and in regional public administration bodies.