

Women's Contributions to Living Fully in a Tselal Indigenous Information System



Culture and Identity

Women nurture, maintain, and promote culture, language and religion, key elements of the Tselal identity.



Women across Generations

Women have gained more independence and autonomy, but family ties may have suffered as a result.



Productive Processes

Women are leaders in alternative economic projects that benefit the community.

Method

We use Fotohistorias, a participatory photography method that combines images and interviews to elicit community voices and experiences.

Based on the notions of "Lekil Cuxlejilil", we examine the ways in which women contribute to living fully in the Tselal communities.

Women's stories were coded and analyzed to result in five emerging themes.



Care of Mother Earth

Women are in charge of earthworm farming, which enables organic production of fruits and vegetables.



Women's and Children's Rights

Education and training activities help women be more aware, protect and promote their rights and those of their children.

Conclusion

Women are integral to the creation of a fully formed information system. Tselal women are active in the creation and presentation of information, including radio programming and the classification of library materials.

Through Fotohistorias we uncover specific ways in which women experience their contribution to quality of life in their communities, which is vital to the creation of harmony, a key concept in "Lekil Cuxlejilil".

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