Title: A Q methodological approach to resolving social exclusion in inclusive classrooms

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Abstract:
In the proposed presentation, the results of a Q methodological study are presented. This method is not very common in primary educational research, but much-used in economic and health research. Q methodology is a qualitative research method, that applies quantitative techniques to reveal views, beliefs and opinions of people (Watts & Stenner, 2012). Participants individually rank a set of statements regarding the topic of interest in a quasi-normal distributed grid. The ranking reveals how someone identifies with the statements. By applying a by-person factor analysis, factors based on correlations between participants not items are extracted. Each factor represent a shared view-point among a group of participants.

To elucidate Q methodology as a research method for social inclusion studies, the results of a Q methodological study with young socially excluded students, with or at-risk of social,-emotional and behavioral difficulties (SEBD) will be used as an example. The aim of this study was to explore the perspectives of young students, with or at-risk of SEBD, regarding approaches to resolving situations of social exclusion in the inclusive primary classroom. The results highlight the importance of not embarking in a one-size-fits-all approach when facilitating social participation in the inclusive classroom and include student participation when addressing topics regarding their daily life.