



SMILE PROJECT EXCHANGE

GRANADA 07.05/13.05.2017

DROPOUT SURVEY RESULTS



Coming to School with a Smile
Reducing Dropout in School





DROPOUT SURVEY

The following research about School Dropout was carried out by the group of students of IES Albayzín (Granada–Spain) who participates in the SMILE Project.

The main objectives:

- Raising awareness about the importance of School Dropout among all members of the educational community of IES Albayzín.**
- Presenting and discussing this research in Granada in the framework of the mobility established by the SMILE Project. Italian students from Liceo A. Romita of Campobasso and Spanish students could analyse together the results of this research and reach a kind of conclusions.**

DROPOUT SURVEY



Parts of the Research:

- 1) Debate with students of 14 and 15 years old as a way of collecting opinions about possible symptoms of school failure and strategies to fight against school dropout.
- 2) Personal Interview with a member of the Educational Administration to discuss the topic of dropout.
- 3) Dropout Survey: A survey aimed at teachers and families in order to collect their opinions with regard to School Dropout.



DROPOUT SURVEY

Methodology:

- 1) **Establishing roles and responsibilities among the members of the SMILE group.**
- 2) **Establishing different methods to collect relevant information:**
 - **Summary of the debates and Students Reports about School Dropout.**
 - **Report of the Personal Interview.**
 - **Survey aimed at teachers and families.**

DROPOUT SURVEY



Methodology:

3) Dropout Survey:

- **The survey was designed taking into account the following articles and studies:**
 - ❑ **“15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention” (National Dropout Prevention Centre – Clemson University study).**
 - ❑ **“How to End the Dropout Crisis: Ten Strategies for Student Retention” (Roberta Furger article published in the virtual magazine Edutopia)**
 - ❑ **“School Failure and Dropouts in Spain” (Social Studies Collection n° 29, Fundación la Caixa).**

DROPOUT SURVEY



Methodology:

3) Dropout Survey:

- Data were collected using different statistics techniques:
 - Families were randomly selected (using stratified random sampling) and interviewed by mail.
 - Teachers were interviewed by online surveys (Google Forms).

TIC:

- Google Forms
- Excel
- Word and PowerPoint.

DROPOUT SURVEY



Results:

The results of this research are presented according to the following index:

- **Reports about School Dropout: Summary of the debates held by students of 14 and 15 years old.**
- **Survey Results: comparative study between opinions of Teachers and Families.**
- **12 Conclusions**



IES ALBAYZÍN - Students.

**Reports about School Dropout:
Summary of the debates held by
students of 14 and 15 years old.**



Q 1

Students

Could you point out the most important symptoms (warning signs) that could alert us to future case of dropout in our school?

STUDENTS' OPINIONS ON Indicators and Symptoms of School Failure



The main indicators pointed out by the students are related to the general behaviour of the student at risk in the classroom or related to his or her academic record.

- **Absenteeism: poor or chronic attendance.**
- Lack of interest, indifference or apathy with regard to some of the classes or subjects.
- Number of failing subjects (more than 6).
- Grade repetition.
- Context of the School: Dropout statistics.



STUDENTS' OPINIONS ON Indicators and Symptoms of School Failure

A more detailed list of indicators is reported by the students who have used other sources of information.

- **Intellectual capacity:** students with learning difficulties or even learning disabilities. Also gifted students can be unsuccessful.
- It is important to consider other aspects related to **the student personality** as possible indicators of school failure: emotional stability, frustration level, power of concentration, self-esteem, determination and aspirations.



Q 2

Students

**According to your opinion and experience:
Could you point out the most important strategies to
prevent and fight against the dropout?**

STUDENTS' OPINIONS ON STRATEGIES AGAINST School DROPOUT



- Contents (more practical knowledge, the educational system gives the impression of being in a hurry)
- Alternative times and environments (6 hours a day in the classroom is too much time).
- More flexibility.
- Motivation programs for parents and students

STUDENTS' OPINIONS ON STRATEGIES AGAINST School DROPOUT



- Workshops to improve study habits and study strategies
- Workshops or specific subjects, like dance classes, to overcome self-esteem and emotional problems
- Academic orientation
- Active learning and Educational Technology
 - Active learning and student engagement strategies
 - Flexible assessment methodology.
 - Ludic activities, ludic learning.



IES ALBAYZÍN – FAMILIES AND TEACHERS

Survey Results:

**Comparative study between opinions of
Teachers and Families.**



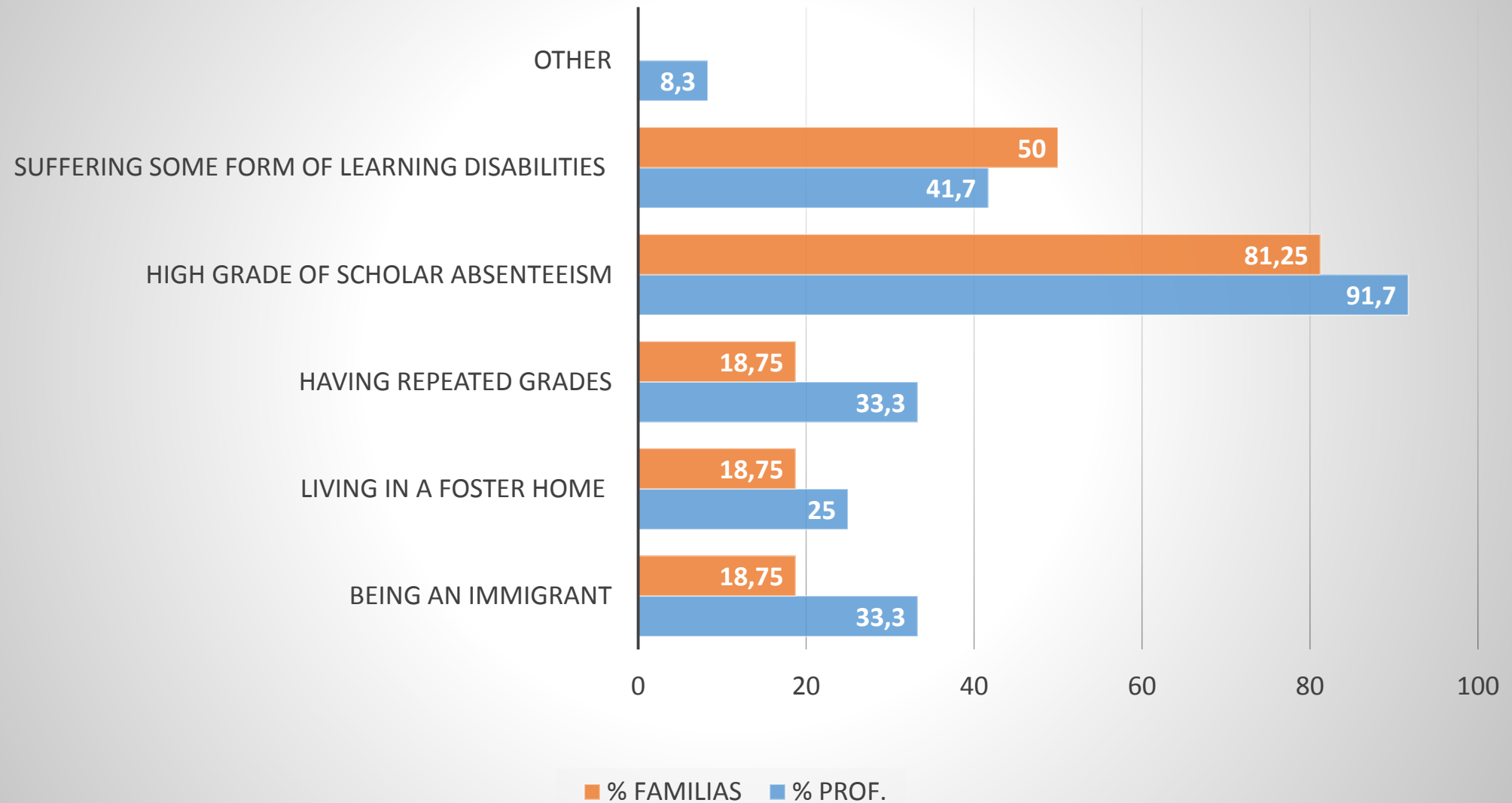
Q 1

Families and Teachers

Could you point out the most important symptoms (warning signs) that could alert us to future case of dropout in our school?

<p style="text-align: center;">Q 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING SIGNS OF SCHOOL DROPOUT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TEACHERS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">% FAMILIES</p>
Being an immigrant	33,3	18,75
Living in a foster home	25	18,75
Having repeated grades	33,3	18,75
High grade of scholar absenteeism	91,7	81,25
Suffering some form of learning disabilities	41,7	50
Other	8,3	0

WARNING SIGNS OF SCHOOL DROPOUT





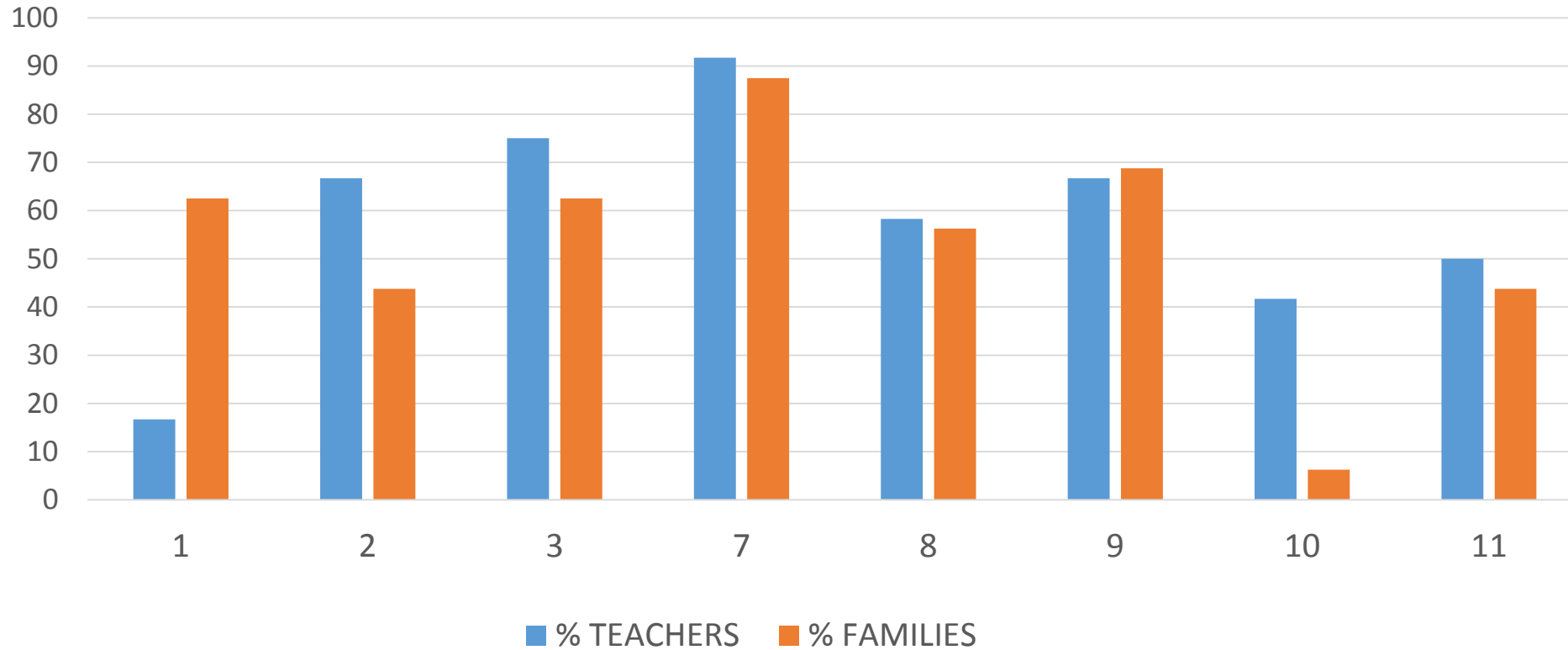
Q 2

Families and Teachers

Given the following strategies to prevent and fight against the dropout related to the legislative and socioeconomic domain (national and autonomous level), could you point out the five strategies you consider most effective?

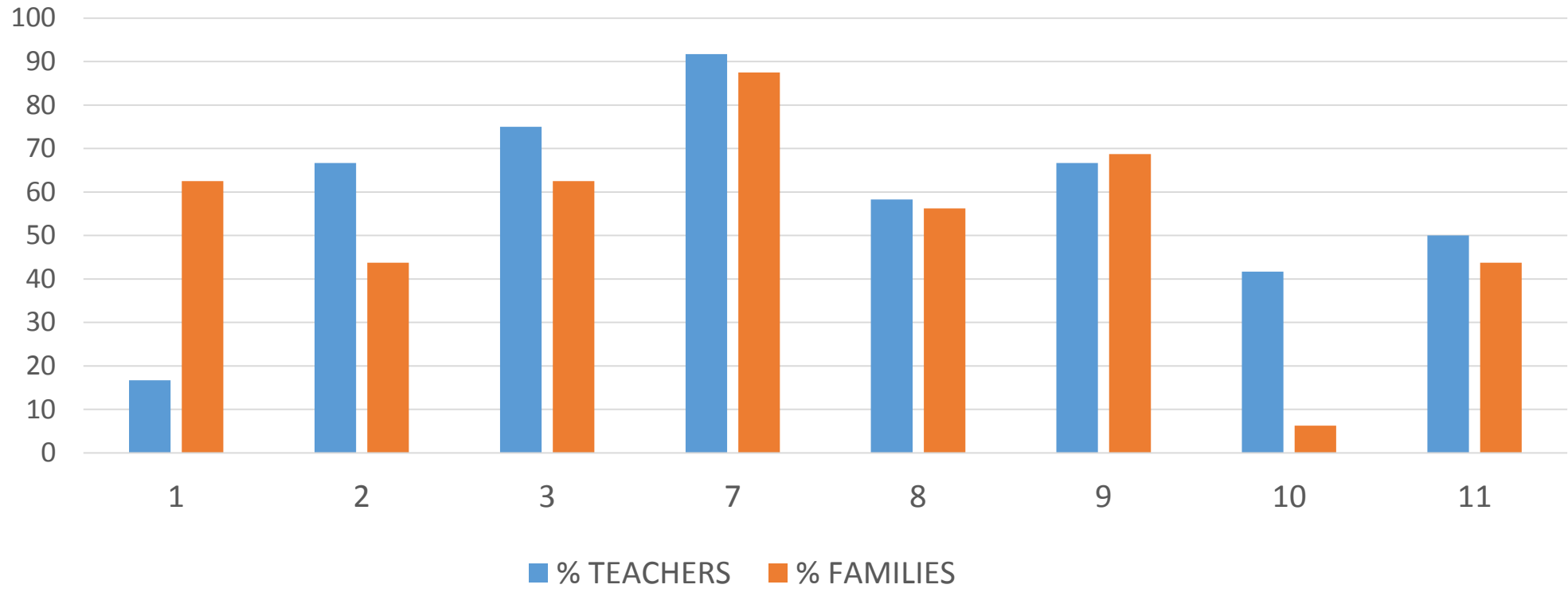
Q 2		% TEACH.	% Families
Education laws and policies that take into account the dropout rates reduction as a specific objective to be fulfilled.	1	16,7	62,5
Socioeconomic context improvement (unemployment rate, income inequality rate, corruption perception index...)	2	66,7	43,75
Increasing awareness of the importance of: education and supporting and developing a public school system.	3	75	62,5
School Dropout as a common target through the whole educational system..	4	33,3	37,5
Early Childhood Education	5	0	6,25
Early Literacy interventions (and later if necessary) to help low-achieving students improve their reading and writing skills.	6	8,3	12,5
Programs and curriculums paying special attention to the connection between academic contents and modern world of work (internship in an enterprise, community service...)	7	91,7	87,5
Alternative Schooling: alternative times and environments, virtual learning, combining paced and tailored learning with flexibility in contents...)	8	58,3	56,25
Specialised staff recruitment or Professional development	9	66,7	68,75
Programs and curriculums paying special attention to particular needs of immigrant students.	10	41,7	6,25
Specialised programs such as PMAR	11	50	43,75

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST DROPOUT
LEGISLATIVE AND SOCIECONOMIC DOMAIN



- 3. Increasing awareness of the importance of: education and supporting and developing a public school system.
- 7. Programs and curriculums paying special attention to the connection between academic contents and modern world of work (internship in an enterprise, community service...).
- 9. Specialised staff recruitment or Professional development.

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST DROPOUT
LEGISLATIVE AND SOCIECONOMIC DOMAIN



- 8. Alternative Schooling: alternative times and environments, virtual learning, combining paced and tailored learning with flexibility in contents...)
- 10. Programs and curriculums paying special attention to particular needs of immigrant students.
- 1. Education laws and policies that take into account the dropout rates reduction as a specific objective to be fulfilled.
- 2. Socioeconomic context improvement



Q 3

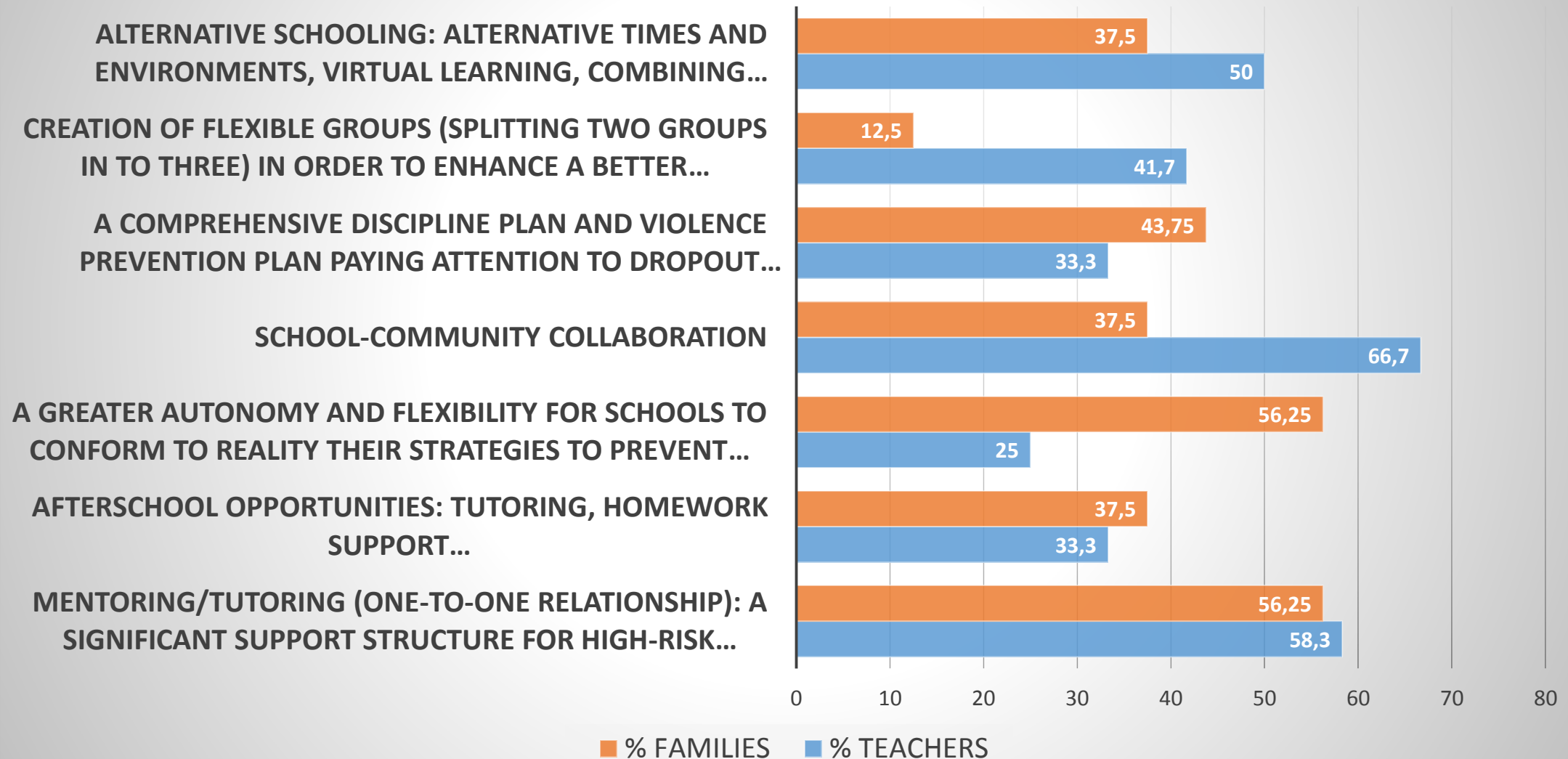
Families and Teachers

Given the following strategies to prevent and fight against the dropout related to the institutional domain (School level),

could you point out the three strategies you consider most effective?

Q 3	% TEACH.	% FAMILIES
Mentoring/tutoring (one-to-one relationship): a significant support structure for high-risk students.	58,3	56,25
Afterschool opportunities: tutoring, homework support...	33,3	37,5
A greater autonomy and flexibility for schools to conform to reality their strategies to prevent the dropout.	25	56,25
School-community collaboration	66,7	37,5
A comprehensive discipline plan and violence prevention plan paying attention to dropout problem	33,3	43,75
Creation of flexible groups (splitting two groups in to three) in order to enhance a better teaching and will reduce the academic failure	41,7	12,5
Alternative Schooling: alternative times and environments, virtual learning, combining paced and tailored learning with flexibility in contents...)	50	37,5

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST DROPOUT INSTITUTIONAL DOMAIN (SCHOOLS)





Q 4

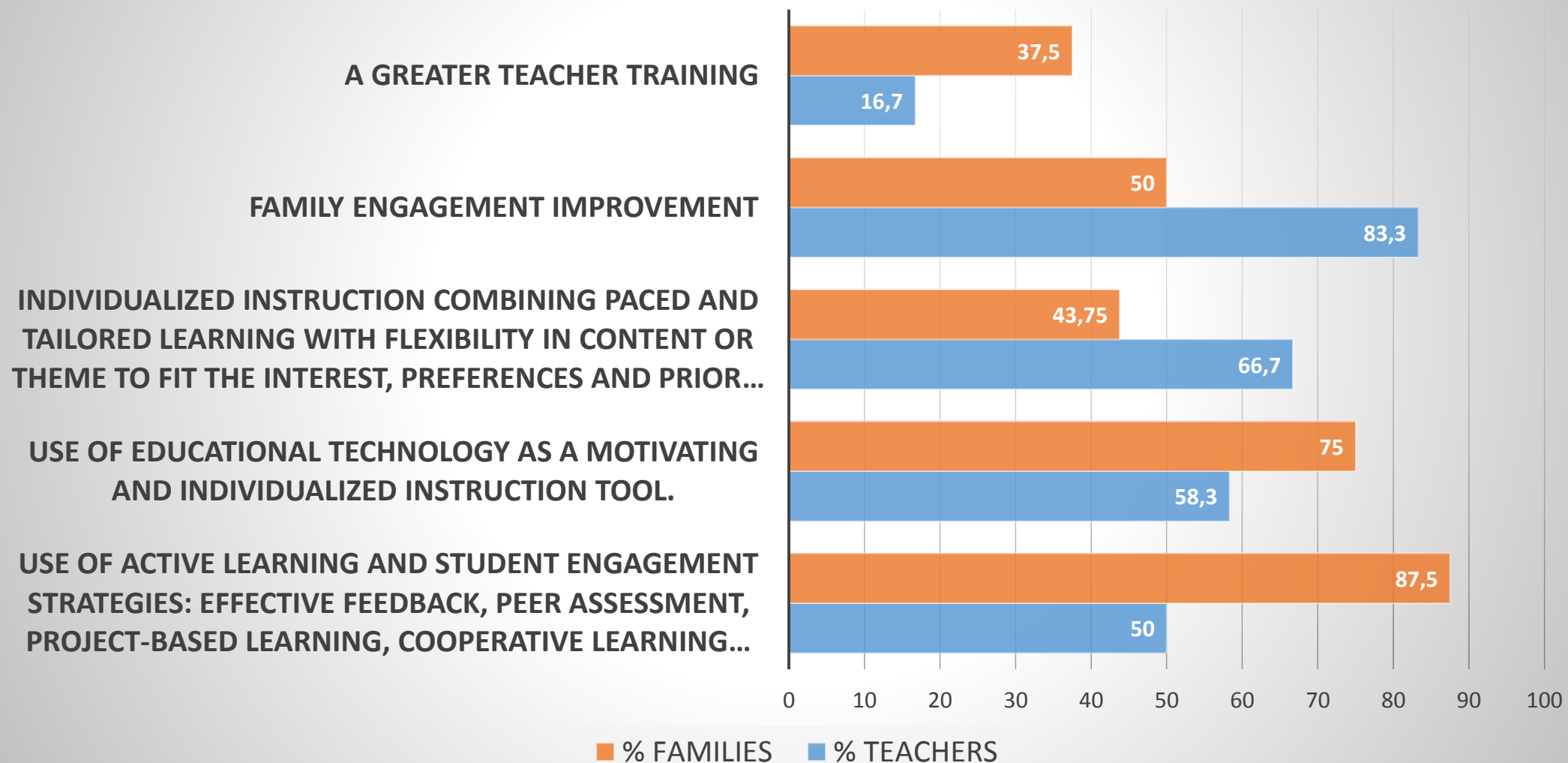
Families and Teachers

Given the following strategies to prevent and fight against the dropout related to the practical domain (teachers and families level),

could you point out the three strategies you consider most effective?

Q 4	% TEACHERS	% FAMILIES
Use of active learning and student engagement strategies: effective feedback, peer assessment, project-based learning, cooperative learning...	50	87,5
Use of educational technology as a motivating and individualized instruction tool.	58,3	75
Individualized instruction combining paced and tailored learning with flexibility in content or theme to fit the interest, preferences and prior experiences of each learner.	66,7	43,75
Family engagement improvement	83,3	50
A greater teacher training	16,7	37,5

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST DROPOUT PRACTICAL DOMAIN (FAMILIES Y TEACHERS)



CONCLUSIONS



As a Result of the activities developed during the SMILE Project by the group, (not only this research but the totality of activities carried out by the group) and as a result of the experience of participating in the project, the SMILE group (Italian and Spanish students) reached a number of conclusions.

The group presented his opinions and conclusions about School Dropout in a Round Table with different members of the Granada Educative Administration.

The following 12 Conclusions must be seen as a small sample of the effort, the effective work and the solid cooperation displayed by the SMILE group.

12 CONCLUSIONS



1. Politicians have to make laws to reduce the spread of the dropout.
2. It may be a good idea to develop strategies to improve education during childhood (Early Childhood Education).
3. Educational Systems should try to focus on the connection and the possible relationship between school programs and the world of work.
4. Referring to school programs and alternative schooling: there should be more activities to make students happier when they go to school. For instance, some extra-activities such as having lessons outside, virtual learning, and a sort of individual lessons referring to the personality of each person (tailored learning). Active learning versus passive learning.

12 CONCLUSIONS



5. Adults should support students at risk of dropout, helping them to understand the importance of learning new things.
6. After school opportunities: tutoring, homework support.
We consider it is important to develop this type of strategies in order to prevent/reduce bad marks, to help students who have difficulties to study (having individual lessons), and to help parents on the economic aspect (they don't have to spend money for private lessons)
7. A greater autonomy and flexibility for schools to conform to reality their strategies to prevent the dropout: Students should be free to decide which school or university to attend and to choose to go to school or not. Schools shouldn't oblige students to study. Schools should have more autonomy to help students who have economic problems.

12 CONCLUSIONS



8. A comprehensive discipline plan and violence prevention plan.

Prevent violence helps to reduce bullying and bad relationships. For instance, a Peer Mediation Program can help students in many ways: students can understand better their classmates' problems, this program promotes collaboration and harmony among students, and socialization out the classes.

9. Creation of flexible groups in order to enhance a better teaching.

Small classes and flexibility to group the students promote: a better way of teaching, interesting lessons and arguments, a better understanding of students capacities to make them better, and finally a greater students motivation.

12 CONCLUSIONS



10. In the last century technology is the most important phenomenon, it is developing really fast. An effective way to prevent drop out could be giving more importance to the use of technology as a way of learning. Even if, we have already got technological instruments at school, they are not enough.

11. We also agree about the fact that school should have personalized strategies of learning because each students has different interests, so school should present engaging topics to catch their attention.

12. At last but not least, school has to focus attention also on families' situation. School should give families the opportunity to share enjoying projects and ideas to avoid drop out.