

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL VALUES IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT: The importance of educational values in today's society.

Education plays a crucial role in today's contemporary society, being of particular importance in the development of individuals and communities. In a constantly changing world, where technology and information are accessible at every step, education becomes a fundamental pillar for the formation of a progressive and sustainable society. This article aims to explore the importance of educational values in today's society, highlighting its key aspects and its effects on the individual and society as a whole. By analyzing the benefits of education, we will discover that an educated society is a strong one and able to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Education plays an extremely important role in the development of contemporary society, having a significant influence on the formation and shaping of the individual. Through education, people acquire knowledge, skills and competences that help them develop and integrate effectively into society. In addition, education contributes to the formation of individual and collective values, attitudes and behaviours.

A quality education is essential for a healthy and progressive society. It provides equal opportunities for all citizens, regardless of origin or social status. Through education, equal opportunities are promoted and discrimination

and social exclusion are fought. Also, through the educational system, young people are trained to become responsible citizens, able to contribute to the development of their society in a constructive way.

Through education, people learn to think critically and make informed decisions, develop their creativity and communication skills. Education also helps them develop their emotional intelligence and manage their emotions effectively. These skills are essential in contemporary society, which faces increasingly complex and diverse challenges.

Keywords: *progressive education, contemporary society, individual, modernism.*

1. Introduction

Education is an essential component in the development and progress of contemporary society. Through education, stereotypes can be gradually shaken and dismantled, allowing for a more open and tolerant perspective on human diversity. By encouraging critical thinking and promoting the values of inclusion and equality, education has the power to educate and raise awareness about prejudice and discrimination in society.

A quality education provides equal opportunities for development and success for all individuals, regardless of gender, race, religion or social origin. Through the Competency-Based Curriculum, schools can actively address social issues by helping students understand and deconstruct prejudiced stereotypes. This can be achieved by introducing into the curriculum subjects that focus on cultural diversity, gender and universal values such as tolerance, respect and empathy. Education therefore becomes a powerful tool for change and a means by which we can evolve as a society.

A crucial aspect of adapting the educational system is the integration of technology into the learning process. Technology is ubiquitous in our daily lives and it is vital that students acquire strong digital skills so that they can meet the challenges of the digital world. Using smart devices and educational apps can provide an interactive and engaging way to reinforce knowledge and develop skills in an effective way. Online platforms can also facilitate access to diverse and up-to-date educational resources, allowing students to learn at their own pace and explore topics that truly interest them¹.

1 Golu, M., *Fundamentals of psychology* (vol. II), Bucharest, Romania de Maine Foundation Publishing House, 2004, pp. 52-53.

In contemporary society, education represents the basic pillar for the economic, social and cultural development of a nation. It plays an essential role in shaping the future of a society and provides the foundation for a prosperous life. However, effective education requires a holistic approach and adapted to the needs of today's society.

To ensure effective education, it is crucial to encourage and capitalize on learning opportunities in today's context. Digital technology, for example, can play a fundamental role in facilitating access to information and developing key skills for the 21st century. It is essential that we integrate these tools into the education process so that students can acquire the skills necessary to navigate the modern world. It is also important to promote lifelong learning so that education does not stop at the end of the school years. Continuing professional education courses and programs, workshops and conferences should be encouraged and available to all individuals, from the young to the old.

In addition to the technological aspects, it is essential to pay special attention to the formation of individual character and values through education. Assertive learning, the development of communication skills and teamwork not only support academic success, but also prepare students for the challenges encountered in contemporary society. By providing a safe environment and certain moral frames of reference, education can develop students' ethical characters and behaviors. This can form generations fully prepared to face the complexity of the modern world and actively contribute to the social and economic development of our society. Therefore, an effective education must emphasize fundamental values and cultivate critical thinking and civic responsibility among students.

In conclusion, we cannot underestimate the importance of education in today's society. Education is an essential way through which we can ensure the sustainable development of our society. It not only gives us knowledge and skills, but also encourages us to become responsible citizens, critical and aware of the needs of the community in which we live.

Through education, we have the chance to form ourselves as individuals, get better opportunities in life and contribute to the development of our society. An educated society has the potential to make progress in all areas, from economics, science and technology, to politics and culture.

However, for education to achieve its full benefits, concerted efforts are needed from all stakeholders: government, schools, teachers, parents

and students. Investing in education must be a priority so that we can create a quality education system that is accessible to all. It is also necessary to open the dialogue about the need for a modern and relevant approach to education, adapted to the present and future demands of society.

By realizing the importance of education in our society, we can have a positive impact on our future. Education is the key to building² a more prosperous, fairer and more understanding society. Let's not forget that every individual has the right to get a quality education that gives them the chance to reach their full potential and develop in a harmonious way.

Finally, we remind you that education is a continuous process, which does not end with the graduation from a school or university. Our education must be accompanied by a desire to constantly learn and continuously develop our skills and knowledge. Only in this way can we contribute to the progress of our society and create a better future for all.

2. Formation of Character and Personality

The formation of character and personality is one of the essential objectives of contemporary education³. Through the educational process, students are guided to develop moral and ethical traits that enable them to become wholesome, responsible and empathetic individuals. Here is how education contributes to the formation of character and personality:

a. Honesty and Integrity

Value education places a strong emphasis on developing honesty and integrity. Students are encouraged to be honest in their relationships and keep their word. Educational activities that involve solving ethical dilemmas, discussions about morality, and positive examples help strengthen these traits.

b. Responsibility and Sense of Duty

Students learn to be responsible for their actions, complete assignments

2 Rotaru, Ioan-Gheorghe, "Current Values of Education and Culture", în *Proceedings of the 23th International RAIS Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities*, August 15-16, 2021, Princeton, NJ, United States of America, pp. 87-92.

3 Jelescu, P, Racu, I., (co-author), *General psychology*, Chisinau, Univers pedagogic Publishing House, 2007, p. 75.

and meet deadlines. Group projects, individual responsibilities in school activities, and involvement in community initiatives are effective ways to develop a sense of duty and personal responsibility.

c. Empathy and Compassion

Empathy and compassion are essential to healthy interpersonal relationships. By participating in activities that promote collaboration and understanding, such as volunteering or community service projects, students learn to understand and appreciate the perspectives and feelings of others.

d. Self-discipline and Perseverance

Education helps develop self-discipline and perseverance, essential skills for long-term success. Students are encouraged to set goals, plan their activities and manage their time effectively. Overcoming obstacles and learning from mistakes is an integral part of this process.

e. Respect and Tolerance

Respect for self and others, as well as tolerance for cultural diversity and opinions, are fundamental values in modern education. Activities that promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures and perspectives, as well as discussions about human rights and equality, help cultivate these traits.

f. Courage and Self-Confidence

Values education encourages students to be brave and have confidence in their abilities. By encouraging participation in debates, public presentations and projects that require them to take calculated risks, students develop self-confidence and the ability to express themselves freely and assertively.

g. Altruism and Civic Sense

Involvement in activities that benefit the community helps develop civic sense and altruism. Participating in voluntary projects and environmental or social initiatives teaches students to actively contribute to the well-being of society and assume a constructive role in the community.

In conclusion, the formation of character and personality through education is essential for creating balanced and responsible individuals. By cultivating moral and ethical values, education not only prepares students

for professional success, but also to become active and engaged citizens capable of contributing positively to society. Thus, value education is a fundamental pillar of personal and social development in the contemporary world.

3. Prevention of Extremism and Discrimination

Internationally, there is an exponential increase in acts of violence associated with anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech⁴. As a result of the atrocities of the Holocaust, a series of mechanisms have been developed to combat the denial and distortion of the Holocaust, as well as to prevent the emergence of racist, xenophobic, homophobic, extremist, radical movements that can degenerate into violent actions, but unfortunately, sustained efforts are still needed in this regard. We are still witnessing murders committed in the name of races, ethnicities or religions that claim to be superior, and the victims had no fault other than being different from the perpetrators, in terms of religion, race, skin color, language spoken, cultural affiliation or ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

The severity of recent anti-Semitic, racist attacks and terrorist attacks, regardless of motivation, as well as the diversification and intensification of the use of social media to promote hate speech, have led several democratic states and international organizations to develop complementary national strategies to combat anti-Semitism, xenophobia and radicalization, in all its forms of manifestation. In Romania, although no acts of violence leading to the loss of human lives have been registered, there is a risk that in the future there will be an increase in acts associated with anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and especially hate speech, which is spreading in accelerated mode especially on social networks.

4 FRA Report on Antisemitism – Overview of data available in the European Union 2008-2018 – November 8, 2019. European Commission: Eurobarometer survey on Antisemitism in Europe – January 22, 2019. FRA Report on Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism – Second survey on discrimination and hate crimes against Jews in the EU – December 10, 2018. European Parliament: Europeans in 2016: Perceptions and expectations, the fight against terrorism and radicalization – April 2016.

On the territory of Romania, acts of vandalism on Jewish institutions and cemeteries, graffiti with Nazi, neo-Legionarian, anti-Semitic⁵ and racist slogans, isolated incidents of physical violence on an ethnic basis, sporadic local anti-immigration demonstrations, racist chants and the proliferation, in the online environment, of racist, radical, xenophobic messages that incite hatred against those who are perceived to be different from an ethnic, religious, linguistic or cultural point of view.

The activities regarding the prevention and combating of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and speech inciting hatred are subject⁶, in their entirety, to the following principles, the observance of which is essential and mandatory:

- ✦ **1. The principle of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms** - all activities carried out by state institutions, non-governmental organizations and other structures of civil society to prevent and combat anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hateful speech, are carried out in compliance with the provisions of international conventions and treaties regarding fundamental human rights and freedoms⁷, to which Romania is a party.
- ✦ **2. The principle of legality** - the activities for the achievement of strategic objectives are carried out on the basis of the law and in accordance with it.
- ✦ **3. The principle of prevention** - assumes that the entire activity carried out to achieve the strategic objectives must ensure the prevention of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech, both through good cooperation between the institutions and organizations involved, and through effective coordination of the implementation National strategy.
- ✦ **4. The principle of complementarity, transparency and social dialogue** - implies, on the one hand, the transparency of the decision-making process, and, on the other hand, the consultation of civil society members within this process. The implementation of the National

5 INSHR-EW: Anti-Semitism Monitoring Report in Romania. 2019 – April 2020.

6 Matthews, G., et al., *Personality Psychology. Traits, causes, consequences*, Iasi, Polirom Publishing House, 2005.

7 Rotaru, Ioan-Gheorghe, “Plea for Human Dignity”, *Scientia Moralitas. Human Dignity - A Contemporary Perspectives*, The Scientia Moralitas Research Institute, Beltsville, MD, United States of America, 2016, 1, pp. 29-43.

Strategy will be done transparently, with the participation of civil society, alongside government institutions, in order to achieve the objectives.

- ✦ **5. The principle of cooperation** - the institutions and organizations involved in preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech will cooperate, so as to ensure a coherent, integrated conception of the problem and the measures undertaken or planned, an adequate coordination of efforts submitted and the steps taken.
- ✦ **6. The principle of public-private partnership** - implies the co-optation of civil society in the concrete activities of implementing measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech, as well as the consultation of civil society members in the decision-making process.
- ✦ **7. The principle of responsibility** - implies the obligation of the institutions responsible for carrying out the activities subsumed to the achievement of the objectives provided by the National Strategy, as well as of the partner institutions, to fulfill the established tasks in the best possible way⁸.
- ✦ **8. The principle of sustainability** - involves the allocation of financial and human resources necessary to achieve strategic objectives.
- ✦ **9. The principle of proportionality** - assumes that none of the actions undertaken must exceed the level necessary to achieve the established objectives.

In conclusion, it can be stated that there are signals of concern launched by civil society regarding the slow implementation, in certain cases, of the legislation in the field, as well as regarding the need to update the educational programs, which determines the need for an evaluation of the instruments current and establishing ways to modernize the set of tools available to Romanian society to prevent and combat these phenomena⁹.

8 Țuțu, M. C., *Personality Psychology*, 4th Edition, Bucharest, Romania de Maine Foundation Publishing House, 2007, p. 62.

9 INSHR-EW: Opinion survey on the Holocaust in Romania and the perception of inter-ethnic relations – November 2019. European Commission: Eurobarometer survey on Antisemitism in Europe – January 22, 2019.

INSHR-EW: Opinion poll on the Holocaust in Romania and the perception of inter-ethnic relations – October 2017. INSHR-EW: Opinion poll on the Holocaust in Romania and the perception of inter-ethnic relations – May 2015.

4. Preparing for Global Citizenship

Today, more than ever, society is faced with changes of a particularly large scale, with challenges on a global scale. The phenomenon of globalization¹⁰ consists of unprecedented structural transformations of an economic, social, political, cultural, environmental nature, which constitute as many stakes in society involving choices and requiring solutions: climate change, the problem of energy security and the depletion of resources, the change in consumption patterns and lifestyles, the increase in migratory flows, economic and financial crises, the decline of nation-states. Some phenomena, such as the unprecedented development of exchanges at the global level, the increase of interdependencies in various fields, the large-scale access to information and the development of communications, the development of new media, offer individuals and states new opportunities and possibilities for development, but they involve and negative aspects: poverty, conflicts, great social inequalities, injustice. All these changes require more than ever joint management and global cooperation.

Other phenomena, such as the increase in competition between states, companies and individuals, the increase in unemployment (through the opening of borders and the access of foreign workers to national labor markets), the increase in illegal migration, are developments that highlight a great divergence of interests at the national level, but also regional and international. In many countries, citizens perceive these changes as a loss of national sovereignty, as a process of uniformity, which produces rejection, discrimination, identity folding, resentment and fear.

Therefore, the manifestations and impact of globalization must be analyzed from the perspective of the values that are the basis of human rights, the international instruments that guarantee the application of these rights and fundamental freedoms¹¹. In this sense, a redefinition of the concept of citizenship and the promotion of a new type of education that addresses the issues of globalization in a holistic and coherent perspective are more necessary than ever.

10 Rotaru, Ioan-Gheorghe, "Globalization and its effect on religion", *Jurnalul Libertății de Conștiință*, Mihnea Costoiu, Liviu-Bogdan Ciucă, Nelu Burcea (eds.), Les Arcs, France, Iarsic, 2014, vol.1,nr.1, pp.532-541.

11 Rotaru, Ioan-Gheorghe, "Freedom of Religion, Always a Hot Issue". *Jurnalul Libertății de Conștiință* (Journal for Freedom of Conscience), 4,1: 545-550;

5. Conclusions

The formation of character and personality through education is essential for creating balanced and responsible individuals. By cultivating moral and ethical values, education not only prepares students for professional success, but also to become active and engaged citizens capable of contributing positively to society. Thus, value education is a fundamental pillar¹ of personal and social development in the contemporary world.

In conclusion, the importance of educational values in today's society cannot be underestimated. They are the foundation upon which responsible individuals and strong communities are built. By integrating values into education, we can contribute to the development of a more peaceful, fair and sustainable society, able to face contemporary challenges.

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¹ Rotaru, Ioan-Gheorghe, "Valences of Education", în *Proceedings of the 23th International RAIS Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities*, August 15-16, 2021, Princeton, NJ, United States of America, pp. 190-196.

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