
Introduction

One of the characteristics of the 21st century civilization is the fast development of social life, resulting from the dynamics of the technological advancements. These processes are accelerated by temporary crises, completely new phenomena and tensions in the economic, political and social and moral sphere. This, in turn, influences numerous areas of human functioning as well as institutions which focus on supporting human development, education and preparation to functioning in the unpredictable and constantly changing reality. Changes experienced transform radically the conditions and lifestyle, modify perception of the future self and affect existential situation of contemporary humans (functioning in two opposite poles: the desire to explore and experience the new reality and leverage the benefits of innovations vs. fear of that what is unknown, what can lead to potentially negative consequences and what carries the risk of uncertainty). It means that the dynamics of the changing world require constant adaptation to new situations, understanding of the world and the ability to cope with these new situations. This volume of “Labor et Educatio” joins the discourse about the human experiences outlined above.

The articles divided in two sections: Studies and Research, focus on a widely defined problems of education in the perspective of the new social trends, challenges and tasks. It means that researchers and teachers are sensitive to changes and new social phenomena which influence the subjects of education. It means being vigil and responding to the new and unknown in order to “tame” and present to the readers both, response strategies and the ways of reading and understanding the new phenomena. Education will soon be oriented not only on achieving more knowledge, skills and social experiences. It

will be focusing also on developing the ability to regain control over the events and processes which are increasingly less knowable and manageable. Therefore, researchers and pedagogy experts play an important role in identifying and responding to these changes through research projects and translation of their results into educational practice. Transformations which today take place in every area of human life require a modified approach – the education and upbringing, which will prepare students to function in the world while keeping up with the changes and, at the same time, preserving and following the universal values. The “Labor et Educatio” vol. 12 fits this direction of thinking and reflection.

The first part titled “Studies” is comprised of five articles. The authors address issues relevant to the process of education in the global perspective. The opening article presents a discussion on the contemporary contexts of civic and ethics education, based on some historical comparisons (GALI-ALEKSANDRA BELTRÁN; ELENA ANATOLIEVNA ZHIZHKO; MARTÍN BELTRÁN-SAUCEDO, *Historical and modern aspects of civic-ethical education in technical middle school: Mexican context*). The topic is particularly important since it refers to individuals whose citizenship and ethical attitudes are already developed (early youth). Considering the dynamically changing world and socio-moral values, the issues discussed in the paper are important, for example, from the perspective of care to preserve and protect these values from devaluation.

The article *Perspectives on spiritual life during the smartphone age* by ŁUKASZ BUKSA has been written in the spirit of care for the spiritual life of modern young adults and appreciation of this dimension of life in the constantly changing reality. By referring to the increasingly dominating tendency to spend time with smartphones and in the virtual world, the Author asks how to educate in such a way so that the aspect of spiritual growth and functioning does not disappear from the life of individuals.

The perspective of viewing modern life with regards to roles played in it is presented by ROBERT POCHOPIEŃ in the article titled *The evolution of understanding of fatherhood. Attempt at synthesis*. The Author points out to the meaning and the value of fatherhood in raising children and adolescents, especially when all the relevant diagnoses indicate the absence of fatherhood and its destructive consequences for the young people.

MICHAŁ PIERZCHAŁA; ALICJA KORNICKA; PAWEŁ MARCZAK are the authors of the article titled *Masculinity without violence – the application of*

NVC in the upbringing and education, in which they present youth education in the perspective of building the image of man as someone who is strong, decisive but does not use the advantage of power in the upbringing process. Education based on breaking the stereotypes and using communication tools facilitates the development of positive masculinity or fatherhood patterns.

The first section ends with the article referring to the assistance areas (MARCIN KĘSKA, *Cash benefits in foster care*). The Author presents opportunities to obtain and allocate financial means dedicated to foster care from the legal and economic perspective.

The second section of this volume (Research) consists of research-based papers. Among them are studies into children in pre-school education (KARNI IIRIZ MIZRAHI, *Fostering Phonological Proficiency: The Role of Educational Language Games in Hebrew Kindergarten Curricula*) and teachers working in different types of schools, at different levels of education and within different contexts of functioning: from educators who have to confront challenging student behavior (SHAKIRA MUKHTAROVA; MARZHANGUL BAIMUKANOVA; ALYONA BARIKOVA, *Research of teachers' professional readiness to work with children with deviant behavior*), through leaders who strive to feel satisfied from their work (STRATAN VICTORIA, *The Role of Transformational Leadership in Increasing The Job Satisfaction of Primary Education Teachers*), to academic teachers and the nature of their workplace (MARK JOHN C. PALANCA, *Lived experiences of tertiary religious education teachers: basis for a synodal instructional model*). The closing article has been authored by KATARZYNA WASILEWSKA-OSTROWSKA and is titled *The narratives of homeless men on housing support and the role of a social worker in the process of becoming independent*. This text can be located within the area of social assistance but viewed from the perspective of the dynamics of social changes and new social phenomena. It also discusses an important aspect of education connected with the process of learning others to cope with difficult or traumatic experiences (preparation to deal with problems in order to avoid some extreme consequences of life problems e.g. homelessness).

The texts presented in this volume of "Labor et Educatio" will surely provide the readers with some valuable insights and encourage discussions, reflections and new research activities that will further fill the gaps in the existing knowledge and practices.

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