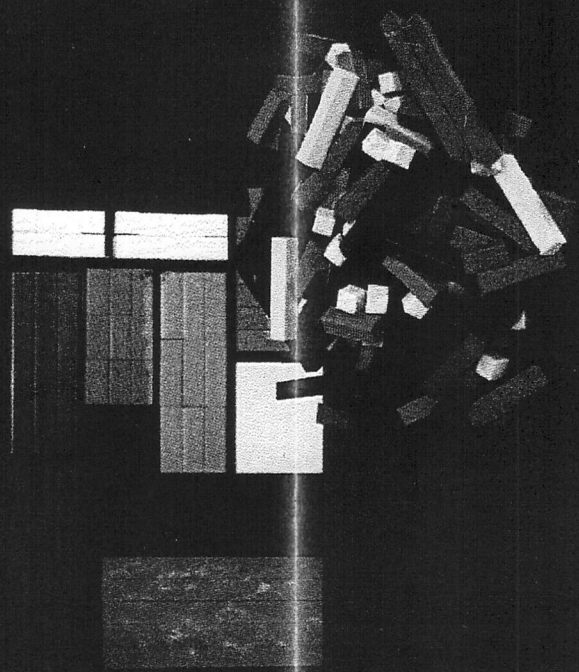


ПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКОТО
ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ
В БЪЛГАРИЯ



СЪСТОЯНИЕ
И ТЕНДЕНЦИИ



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FAMILY AS A FACTOR OF EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA – AN ETHNIC DIMENSION

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Abstract

The problems resulting from the transition, especially in the countries with a greater number of ethnic communities, pushed into the foreground the problem of their education, which in a great degree is present in the Republic of Macedonia also. Ethnicity and the problems resulting from it in our country are reflected in the social ethnic grouping, then in ethnic culture as an important part of multi-culture, and in what is the topic of this paper – education of ethnic communities and their educational achievements. In this context, we analyzed the characteristics of families of the following ethnic communities, Macedonian community as a referent majority community, Albanian, Turkish, Roma and Vlach community, which have great, if not crucial importance for the education of their children in relation to motivation for school learning and achieving better educational results

Key words: ethnicity, education, family, community.

Ethnic communities in the Republic of Macedonia are organized as sub societies with their subcultures, in the frames of which they build ethno-cultural identities that have strong influence on their ethnic motivation for education.

Family as a community of parents and children, because of the very nature of relationships and quite strong connections among its members, and especially because of great possibilities for parental influence on the total development of young people's personalities, also has great, if not crucial influence on their education. In that context we have pointed out in this paper the statement that educational legislation, which is at the highest level, is not the main reason for the insufficient involvement of respective ethnic communities into the educational system of the Republic of Macedonia, and for the achieving poorer educational results in school learning.

We have considered the family not only as a human community of parents and children generally, but we have also analyzed all ethnic dimensions of families in R. Macedonia as follows: the Macedonian community family which is globally a majority on the territory of R. Macedonia, but a minority in some areas; Albanian which is a minority, but in some areas a majority, as well as Turkish, Roma and Vlach community which are minorities.

On the basis of the realized all-inclusive analysis of the families in the Republic of Macedonia with an ethnic sign, we have accepted the following typology of families in the Republic of Macedonia (having in mind their ethnic dimension also): **traditional (conservative) and modern family. In forming this typology we have started from the**

following criteria: father's authority in the family, mother's position in the family, parents' attitudes towards their children, and relationships among children and their position.

According to this, "traditional family" is a family in which the wife's status is as a rule inferior compared to the husbands, and the father of the family at the bottom line has the last word in essential issues in the family, including here the attitude towards children, their education and partly their future family relations, while "modern family" is characterized by the principle of equality of husband and wife in the family, with appropriate consequences upon the children's status in family relations that are increasingly becoming the foundation of the family form in new historical conditions, receiving wide legal, but even more social and moral confirmation.

The family and its influence on greater motivation for education for all ethnic communities will be analyzed from the aspect of the socio-economic (social) status of the parents, the family's structure (size), parents' education, their profession, cultural characteristics of the family, the behavior of the parents towards the children, the level of ambition and parents' aspirations, parents' attitudes towards education, and the relation urban-rural family.

In the Republic of Macedonia the family has both the characteristics of traditional and modern family. Traditional features are characteristic for rural areas, in small percentage also in urban areas (especially in some ethnic communities). Modern families are characteristic for urban surroundings and exceptionally for rural areas where there is still a degree of patriarchy which is characterized by an exceptionally positive attitude towards all levels of education, no matter whether boys or girls are in question. This does not mean that traditional families by definition have a negative attitude towards education.

Disregarding whether we are speaking about either of these types of families, the family represents an exclusively significant factor for motivation of young generations for education. In order to analyze the family in its function of a factor in education more qualitatively, we bear in mind above all the following conditions of the family environment.

- Socio-economic status of the family – material conditions, parents' employment, housing conditions;
- Family structure: marital status of the parents, number of children in the family, number of family members;
- Behavior of parents towards children – the kind of family and educational practice, parental style in behavior (democratic, autocratic, elemental support, support, stimulation and helping children in learning, applying corrective measures – stimulation and repressive), parents' attitudes, cooperation;
- Relationship among the family members – climate in the family (Stanoljović B. 1997, pp 83-84).

The above mentioned factors make a complex system of various influences in which children are motivated for education and achievement of educational results in learning. Because of the importance of these factors for education of pupils in schools, the family was a subject of many researches made by many scientists abroad, but also in our country, having in mind the multi-ethnic character of the Macedonian society.

Analyzing the family characteristics of the ethnic communities encompassed by this analysis, we came to the conclusion that the first family type prevails in the Roma and Vlach community (modern, democratic family), while in the Albanian and Turkish communities the characteristics of the second family type prevail (traditional).

As for the family characteristics in the Roma community, despite all the results of the research which show that changes happened in their family structure through which families are gradually getting the form of a modern family, their families cannot be classified neither into traditional nor into modern families, above all because of the small number of examinees from the Roma community. This speaks of their small number in secondary education, and of the fact that only children from families with a higher social status are present in secondary education. Knowing the factual position of the members of the Roma community, their economic status and their relation to children (who are mostly left to themselves, although not all of them), and also their status in all the segments of public life in the Republic of Macedonia, we can state that we are not in the condition to profile the separate type of family in the true sense of words corresponding to the members of the Roma community, and we would not be able to fit their families in the already given classification.

What we can say from the results of the questionnaire research is that the Roma families show signs of weak organization, anarchy, absence of clearly defined rules of behavior of both parents and children, meaning that every person in the family, including children can do what they want.

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