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СОВРЕМЕНОТО ВОСПИТАНИЕ И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ - СОСТОЈБИ, ПРЕДИЗВИЦИ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

ШЕСТА МЕЃУНАРОДНА НАУЧНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА – ЗБОРНИК НА ТРУДОВИ –

CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION - CONDITION, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION- RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OR MORAL EDUCATION

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Ancrpakt. There are more alternatives for introducing religious education in the educational system of the Republic of Macedonia. One possibility is to make the RE a facultative subject. It has to be mentioned that the facultative teaching means that the students are free to choose one of the offered subjects, and then those subjects become obligatory to the end of the realization period of the teaching program and the grades for that subjects are part of the students' grade point average (GPA)

Key words. Religious education, religious thought, moral education

РЕЛИГИСКО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ - ВЕРСКА ПОУКА ИЛИ МОРАЛНО ВОСПИТАНИЕ

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Abstract. Постојат повеќе алтернативи за воведување на религиското образование во образовниот систем на Република Македонија. Една можност е да се направи РО факултативен предмет. Треба да се спомене дека факултативната настава значи дека учениците се слободни да изберат еден од понудените предмети, а потоа тие предмети стануваат задолжителни до крајот на периодот на реализација на наставната програма, а оценките за тие предмети се дел од просек на учениците од просечната оценка.

Клучни зборови: религиско образование, верска поука, морално воспитание

FACULTATIVE SUBJECT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are more alternatives for introducing religious education in the educational system of the Republic of Macedonia. One possibility is to make the RE a facultative subject. It has to be mentioned that the facultative teaching means that the students are free to choose one of the offered subjects, and then those subjects become obligatory to the end of the realization period of the teaching program and the grades for that subjects are part of the students' grade point average (GPA). The facultative

subjects give the students an opportunity to expand and improve their knowledge, and also to develop their individual abilities in certain subjects.

If RE is a facultative subject and the other offered subjects would be probably Ethics, Civic Education and so on. In this situation I believe it is absurd to make the student choose, and all discussions about RE as a facultative subject are unnecessary if we have in mind the benefits from the RE. If the RE becomes a facultative subject, all Christians should feel the obligation to follow this teaching, because the religious education is accepted as part of a child's educational process during its baptism.

ETHICS

The whole world is in a moral crises, and the solution for this crisis is sought by the introduction of various subjects in the educational system, such as ethics.

"Therefore we also need ethics and the study of Ethics. In order to perceive, heal and to use our force to do something good for ourselves, our relatives and our children. The aims of the moral are always very close to the man's own life". The process of introducing ethics in our country shows the anxiety in relation to the condition of the moral and the difficulty of the present situation. Actually the ethic education would represent a kind of moral education for that age as a supposition for a developed ethic life of the future adults and mature individuals in a healthy ethic environment with a system of values appropriate for a mature society.

The contents that are offered and which would be part of the ethic education the Secondary schiils are the following themes: What are moral and ethics; The values in life; The positivity of life's ethics; The ethic doctrine in the modern world; The moral consciousness Life and ethics; The freedom of an individual; The most important ethic values; Responsibillity and obligation; Health ethics; Social ethics; Economic ethics; Work ethics; Family ethics; Politic ethics; Ethic calculation.

It can be noted from the above mentioned themes, that they are also part of the religious education. The history of the introduction of Ethics as a subject in the Secondary education in Macedonia has started with a campaign for introducing Ethics in the education as a whole. Temkov states that the lack of this subject in the Macedonian education shows that we fall behind in a specific and very important dimension of the general human education. The ethic knowledge is the basis for the human relations and the civic world, and is also the most important element in the process of building the responsibility towards life and the development of the most modern trend of the world's spiritual tendencies. In this context, Temkov shows regret because "the ethical values in our country are neither part of the education of children nor of the idealization of one's relation to the world; the behavior results from the habits, and not from a sensible relation, a relation of analysis and self-analysis toward your own value system, as well as the universal value system and practice".

All the pledges for the introduction of Ethics as a subject in the educational process represent a positive path toward real education, but we also believe that the moral education is part of the religious education and it can be a separate subject only if the RE is not allowed to be introduced.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – A FACULTATIVE SUBJECT

Facultative education is part of education in which the students learn the nonobligatory subjects that they have chosen. The grade from these subjects does not influence the grade assessment average.

The facultative education is present in order to satisfy the students' interest on learning arts and crafts, music, sport, traffic rules, the languages of the other nationalities such as Vlach or Roman language and so on.

The necessity for this type of education is expressed quite naturally by the parents and the children, and consequently it should become normal and legal in near future.

The religious education in the schools is planned as a subject that shouldn't be graded, but it will be present since first grade to the fourth year in Secondary school. According to some plans, it will supposedly be present in 1 to 2 classes a week, or 4 to 8 classes a month.

Regardless of the situation, the introduction of RE in the Elementary and Secondary Schools in the beginning will be as an alternative subject, which means that the students will be only those which have freely and willingly chosen this subject; and the classes will be in the end after all the other subjects.

The Religious Education as a facultative subject in the schools will be a spiritual turnover in the Macedonian educational system.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – AN OBLIGATORY SUBJECT

We have already mentioned that the structure of education in accordance to the program basis consists of: teaching obligatory and facultative subjects; additional and teaching for talented students; extracurricular activities; healthcare for the students; collaboration with the local community; following, assessing and developing the educational work; planning the educational work of the Primary school and pedagogical development of the teachers.

The people who didn't have some ideology that dismissed vision and memory knew how to keep the holy relation toward religious education as something that does not allow any kind of a discussion.

If the continuous emphasizing of the importance of religious teaching ends with the realization of the RE in the Macedonian schools, our church will accept this notice wit pure joy after all the discussions that preceded. We definitely need to put our attention to one thing: how and in which way is the best and at the same time the most useful to present this subject to the students, regardless of our personal experiences or the experiences of others. It is important from the way that it is accepted by the student to the way it is understood and incorporated in their daily life, because the RE can also improve the other subjects by pointing toward their core and giving them more livelihood. It would be easier and clearer for every child to understand the question: what does fighting for truth, justice, freedom, beauty and spiritual expansion means, if it is introduced to the evangelic principles. How can we talk about literacy and literature without knowing is basis and history. Students must learn about the selfless sacrifices from the past, which wasn't differentiated into religious, political nor social. Can someone be a good architect if he isn't concerned about the foundations of a particular building? Should we mention our relation towards the art, if we do not know how it appeared and evolved to its present state? There are many more examples, which not

only justify the need for the introduction of RE into regular education, but also show the alertness for it.

The religious education encourages toleration in daily communication or i.e. the politeness.

We do not dispute the tradition and the ideal of education that resides upon Christianity. We own to that tradition the belief that the feelings and the knowledge are inextricably related and that the education is in its essence a process of shaping and caring for our own celestial being.

From a legal standpoint, the unacceptance of religion in the schools as an obligatory subjects is first and foremost a disrespect of the human rights. Beside being a spiritual, historic and cultural need, religious education is also a complex right: a right to education means gaining knowledge about faith and religion as well.

If we are not familiar with religion, we will not be able to understand many other scientific disciplines and school subjects such as: philosophy, psychology, history, literature, arts, music, sociology etc.

The right to freely choose the view on the world is in favor of the religious education. In our schools this right is restricted, from the names of the schools to the schools' interiors and textbooks – which is under a large influence of the ideology and the idolatry. It all leads to the ability to freely and independently choose your view on the world and the possibility to construct the person yourselves. We who are Ortodox Christians see the faith as a personal experience and as the most intimate part of our spiritual life. The faith takes part in the formation of the moral consciousness, and also in the awakening of the spiritual independence and the process of acquiring the freedom to make decisions independently. The religious education shouldn't serve only for the above mentioned points, but it has to be derived from the tradition and herein it can't be part of neutral information, properties or lexical knowledge. This means that it shouldn't be replaced with the history of the religions, not only because we should learn about laicism or totemism equally as about Christianity, but also because the problem in relation to the historic and comparative study on religions, which is the following: in order to learn about the religions, we have to have a certain concept about it, therefore the lack of general concept for religions means that we can experience a certain religion only through our own religion.

The natural right of the parents to teach their children shouldn't be suspended by any educational system. The parents' obligation and responsibility to freely educate their children in the spirit of their own religion are derived from that right. We all know that nowadays education has a social function and one aspect of that function is the integration of the community, which is very important.

The adequate religious education and the growth of the religious culture will influence the growth of the democratic culture and tolerance. The tolerance is patience and attention toward the religious, the political and any other different beliefs of the people. In schools students must sit next to each other and learn tolerant communication. The problem with any dialogue and the interreligious as well can't be solved by rejecting our beliefs and values that we naively see as obstacles, but by introducing them in the dialogue and to change the mechanic exchange of viewpoints and information. It is not possible to reject our own values and beliefs, in order to respect other values and beliefs. The compromise doesn't mean denial of yourself, but acknowledgement that others can be right. This is best experiences, when we hold onto our rights and one of them is the right to a religious education.