

INTRODUCTION

Works concerning the research design of Faculty of Education of Masaryk University SCHOOL AND HEALTH FOR 21st CENTURY started in 2005.

This project was based, apart from other things, on the results and experiences gained in the previous research design named “Teachers and health”, which was carried out in years from 1999 to 2004. The basic conception is basically included in the title of the research tasks: to find the connection between the educational system and health service in such areas, where these two social institutions influence each other, and to find the possibilities that would use the positive transmission of practical philosophy, methodology, theory, practice and experience for mutual enhancement. Educational system and health service does not only solve the current issues set by the needs of our society but, in the core, focusing on the future and in its general targets, it leads to development of a human being and society. When we formulate these targets we use categorising like “personality”, “health”, “the quality of life” and others.

Over the years, which we have dedicated to investigation in the given project, we have gained not only a large amount of results but also there have been many changes in pedagogy, psychology, sociology, hygiene and prevention medical science, social medical science and other scientific branches, in which workers have been involved in solving our questions. The time we have dedicated to the issue “school versus health” has shown many movements and changes, therefore some questions have now become more relevant than they were before, or on the contrary some problems have been transformed or newly created.

When we look at the publications of this project from the very first issues and ideas, theories and researches, we can see that the issue field of our investigation does not narrow down in any way but it grows and new relations and connections have occurred throughout the time. However the thing that stays the same is the permanent seriousness of our research targets, with which the research design SCHOOL AND HEALTH FOR 21st CENTURY was composed, and we even think that these issues are more obvious in terms of society.

The publication, which we are presently publishing and which we have named TOPICAL ISSUES IN HEALTH EDUCATION, presents several reports that are integrated by the topic “school and health”. They have developed as partial researches, theoretical studies, they present further stages of investigations that have already been published in previous volumes, or have been presented in conferences or seminars under the terms of this research design. Their diversity is a reflection of both the complexity of the problem and the wide field of interests that this issue evokes. This is the reason why we suppose that any reduction of this publication would be misleading and would appeal unnatural.

All the authors, whose studies are published here, carry a full responsibility for the origin of their texts and their results and they have published them as fully graduated expert in their fields.

Finally we are pleased to express our gratefulness to Ministry of Educational system, youth and physical training, the leadership of Masaryk University and Pedagogic Faculty, who have enabled us to carry out our work in this research design.

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