

**Specific Educational Dimensions - interesting viewpoint and rethinking  
of contemporary education situation.**

**Dobrinka Peicheva**

*Review of the new book of Valentina Milenkova "Social Dimensions of Education",  
edited in 2010 by University Publishing House "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad*

In the contemporary situation the most important for European countries is the development of scientific researches and education. This becomes a crucial center of efforts, because only educated nations, with clear vision for their present and future, investing in the intellectual potential, can attain successful development and conduct their fundamental aims. The main thesis of the present book is that education resides at the base of the progress: in individual and social plan, which means that education is a basic factor for the upper movement of societies and people. The present analysis reveals a reflection of basic and essential aspects of education as a phenomenon which focuses on relations: 1) education and social integration; 2) education and social mobility.

The content is centered to particular theoretical questions addressed to development of educational institutions in historical context, with the aim to underline and to take out the integrative role of literacy and instruction in different societies as well as in Bulgarian one. Choosing the historical angle is important and connected with the whole frame, revealing the changes in political and legal plan that have influenced on the systems for training and teaching as well as on principles and values that have organized and expressed them.

The specific moment in the monograph is the thesis for the social control "in" and "through" education and designing educational realities and structures. In these context different political measures, decisions and practices, which become a medium of rational organizing orientation, are concentrated in specific political artefacts instruction and training: knowledge, principles, rules and "organizing spirit". By the way, just these

manifestations of political construction are clearly presented in the educational reforms. In the context of theoretical analysis are used data from different surveys (some of them with author's participation) that present additional information issue.

The present book is oriented to structures and realities of secondary education and its specific profiles and specialization aspects. From this point of view we can draw that institutional modifications connected with particular types of scholar structures are important because they bring additional subculture values and organization spirit. An accent in the analysis is on the vitality of the educational institution, its role on creating social integration and being an essential resource in socialization. It is necessary to note that the key issue related to the creation of a "knowledge based society" is a quality of education. As a result of low quality of education the following problems arise: low discipline, corruption of relationships in universities and schools, preparing of research works and papers by outside people, lack of knowledge and skills of individuals graduated and hold a certificate or diploma for a specific degree. On the other side, quality of education depends not only on the educational system but on the whole social context, on state investments in education as a public institution. Quality of education is demanding modern material conditions, opportunities for people who have graduated, an active civil society that is the conscience of the school system. In addition, education has to impose new values connected with European cultural heritage. So are the universal ideas for the European society and identity recognised since globalization is also a process of consolidation of values. This entire means that educational realities have to follow the changes and to be more adequate to new conditions.

The objective of this book is to provide theoretical analysis and empirical data and surveys, to present some explanations and specific features and phenomenon as it exists in Bulgaria. In this sense the work would be of interest both for specialists in the field of education and for the part of the general public that is following with great interest the problems and development of education.