

Community in the Culture of Individualism – Social Dilemma of Our Times

Abstract

The keynote of the undertaken considerations is an assumption that community in the culture of individualism strengthens the individual and the individual's development. Concentration on oneself and on one's own objectives does not exclude consciousness of other people's needs. In the first part of the study I shall present theoretical assumptions of my considerations, in the second part – results of the conducted research actions concerning the meaning of confidence and solidarity in the life of young people, in the third part I will formulate conclusions, pointing out, among others, that confidence is a necessary resource letting oneself manage with the presence of others.

Key words: *community, individuality, confidence, solidarity, intercultural education*

Introduction

The contemporary world is characterized by individuality and "neotribality", which is meant as obsessive looking for community (cf. Bauman, 1995:138). The human being was forced to individualism, as Ulrich Beck observed (2002), by social and historical development. Individuality does not mean simply increased freedom, but it brings also a previously unknown risk of dependence and threat. Its domination undermines the meaning of morality and the duty of acting for the good of the whole. Individual existence is difficult to carry and therefore a need for community is growing.