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Social Representations of School in Television Serials on the Example of Poland

Abstract

The Polish system of education undergoes constant changes. Reforms of the system, particularly those implemented by superior institutions, usually result in changes in the given models of social thinking. The subjects for analysis in the presented text are social representations of school and teachers in television serials, taking into consideration the reform of the education system.

The theoretical background for the presented considerations is constituted by the theory of social representations. Analysis was made of 5 serials broadcast on Polish television channels.

The image of school and teachers which emerges from the presented analysis shows them rather in a positive light. Teachers from the serials are committed to their roles, especially in the educational and caring aspect. School is shown from the point of view of its educational function – other functions of school are moralized (e.g., caring, recreational).

Key words: *social representation theory, school, teachers, Luhmann, TV serials, mass media, reform of education.*

Introduction

The system of education in Poland after 1989 has been continuously reformed. The most serious changes were introduced, however, by the reform in 1999, whose consequence is the division into 6-year primary school, 3-year middle school and a 3-year secondary school (in practice secondary school or technical college). Also