

THE ROLE OF CONCEPTS OF CITIZENSHIP IN CIVIC EDUCATION

Bahtije Gerbeshi Zylfiu

University of Prishtina ,Faculty of Education,Pristino,Kosovo
E-mail: bahtie_gerbeshi@hotmail.com

Abstract

Civic education is a critical and effective empowerment tool for promoting citizen participation in democratic and development processes. Also, the civic education is a continuous process of social education. Schools should teach students to become active participants in democratic life. In the process of civic education in schools and other educative institutions, the aims of civic education should vary according to the knowledge store and cognitive ability of students at different stages, and the corresponding contents of civic education should also be differentiated. Civic education as a central purpose of schooling cannot be disputed. Thomas Jefferson made the principles of democratic government an essential element in the free basic education for the general citizenry. Horace Mann's common school was dedicated to producing people able to critically judge the political and social needs of the nation. The main aim of civic education in educative institutions is to improve the students' ability to independently judge the value of democratic society and to achieve this aims, the knowledge of concepts of citizenship is very important. Concepts are useful tools for students. For that reason the purpose of this paper is to highlight the role that concepts of citizenship play in civic education. Besides this we will provide some of the statistical data which have come out from the research carried out in 150 urban and rural schools of Kosovo. In order to obtain as much information as possible on the knowledge of students for civic education the survey included questions on different subjects of political and social nature. There were also questions which related to obtaining information of the level of knowledge of the main concepts of citizenship among secondary school students in Kosovo.

Keywords: *Civic education, citizenship, concepts, schools, democracy.*

