

# The importance of ethics in the process of education in today globalised society

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**Abstract.** The events of the recent past show fluctuating structure of today world which is characterized on one hand as multicultural cooperation of people from various cultures and ethnic groups, and on the other hand seen with many conflicts and misunderstandings. Therefore ethical behavior becomes more important, which creates our humanity. The paper focuses on the importance of ethics in the process of education in today globalized world with the aim of leading the students to multicultural perception of the society and the world. To understand the world in European and globalized consequences will lead to reduction or eradication of religious intolerance. The paper describes the changes in education system in the Czech Republic in the past years and focuses on the importance of ethics in the process during primary, secondary and university education.

**Keywords:** Ethics, moral actions, multicultural society, religious and cultural values

## 1 Fluctuating structure of current world

The current world can be characterised as fluctuating and unstable, which causes many conflicts and unprecedented social mobility. The most worrying war conflicts can arise in Libya and Egypt, Iraq and Syria, permanent Israeli-Palestinian conflict and also the Ukrainian crisis. The public is threatened around the world because all these conflicts are open and there is no solution ahead of us.

The terrorist attack on the French magazine Charlie Hebdo from the beginning of this year has been refused by the world public. This attack against journalists united the world and the solidarity was expressed from all parts of the world. Various debates started not only in Europe but all over the world with the aim of not being threatened and support the international cooperation. It is important to stand firmly against any religion connected with

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extremism or radicalism. Also in west Africa people hope that there will come some help with the fight with ebola virus because it can easily grow into epidemic.

What happens when all these countries collapse, their economy bankrupts, people will panic and the potential threat to global security will grow. Due to an increasing migration we are facing humanitarian drama represented by millions of refugees, fleeing from poverty, violence and terror looking for support from neighbouring countries and Europe. The connected problems are an everlasting topic which is also connected with the development of crime. The urgency of the situation forces us to find the solution.

Moreover, Europe must face the economic problems in the southern countries such as Greece, Spain and Italy. The supporters of the EU are disappearing and we can hear more and more critical voices. Several years ago both the German Prime minister Angela Merkel and the French President admitted that the concept of multiculturalism had failed. The former Czech President Vaclav Klaus criticised the EU but the current Czech government and the Czech President Milos Zeman are the supporters of it. The French leader of the National Front party Marine Le Pen, criticised the European Union as hiding itself behind false democracy. She tried to reduce immigration and makes it more complicated to become a French citizen and also tried to forbid building new mosques, [8].

The situation is very tense regarding the number of immigrants varying from a country to a country. An example is a Germany and the Czech Republic as two neighbouring countries. The Czech Republic has about 10 million inhabitants out of which is just 4% of immigrants, i.e. 400,000 people. The situation here is calm and the conflicts arise only between the Roma minority and the Czech majority. In Germany there are more than 80 million inhabitants out of which each fifth person is with the migration background. This cultural diversity is the reason for many debates and research, chaos of cultures only shows the difference in religions, in Europe mostly Christianity and Islam, [1]. The tragic death of a Turkish student in Turkey brings the question why the integration can function without problems but in some places can be a source of conflicts, [2]. In this context it is necessary to mention the demonstrations of Pegia in Germany and also its followers in Denmark. The Netherlands is leaving the model of multiculturalism which lead to intense muslim migration and creation of parallel society. The Interior Minister Piet Hein Donner proposed a project to focus on basic values of the Dutch nation and make the immigration more complicated.

## **2 Ethics and moral behaviour**

The inevitable part of the current globalized world where there are many cultures and societies must be ethics. Ethics as a practical philosophy deals with moral aspects of human relationship, it cannot be separated from our everyday life. We ask what is right and what we should do. Ethics is the set of values and rules and it determines the given society or group, it is the moral behaviour inside the given society. Ethics presents the relationship of the human to itself, it is a question about the sense of life and what is right and what is not. The most important was the work of Immanuel Kant and his four questions: What can I know? What should I do? What can I hope in? What is human?

Because the ideal concept of multiculturalism is based on a cooperation of various races, religions and ethnic groups, it is clear that because of many conflicts this concept is obsolete. Multiculturalism bring the problems not only economic, political, social and cultural but also has its ethical dimension. There are many differences in behaviour and attitudes of people, value systems, traditions and habits, in families, in education, at work, in public and in communication. A very sensitive topic of the recent time is religion.

The problem will not solve itself and it is clear that the upcoming years and months will be a challenge for politicians, governments and for us who are influenced by the

immigrants. The Czech philosopher Comenius claimed that we are all on the stage of one world and what happens influences us all. Not only international organizations but also the EU represent some hope for people in need and suppressed.

### **3 The importance of the subject ethics in education**

There is no doubt that educational system plays a crucial role in the globalized world. The development in the past years shows dynamic changes which must correspond with that wave of immigrants and foreigners. Much discussion and research deal with a question how to integrate newcomers in the society and how to see them.

In the Czech Republic the subject ethical education is an inevitable part of school curriculum in all basic, high schools and universities. The basic school starts from six or seven years and is for nine years. The aim of the subject is to create a mature personality who is aware of its identity. The ethical education leads to tolerance, develops empathy, assertiveness and leads to healthy lifestyle. There are many projects connected to it such as Christmas market, and other free time activities for children. The cooperation with parents is also very important because they take part in the projects. Each school year is focused on a particular topic and there is a final project day. An example is ecological ethics - the reasons to protect the environment. Ethical education can be connected with multicultural education and the project was called people around us. Another project deals with the generation problems - elderly people around us. Another project focused on solidarity with disabled people.

Each year there is a sequence of various projects connected with ethical education in high schools. High schools are for four years and finish with a graduation exam. Ethical education is a part of general education and is not an individual subject. In some grammar schools it is an individual subject or a part of civics. Grammar schools are for four years, six years or eight years.

In universities ethical education is supported and can be studied as an individual discipline and become a teacher of this subject in secondary schools. Ethical topics are represented by the areas such as People and their world, People and their society. It also contains topics such as multicultural education, environmental education, and media studies. For future medical doctors there is a compulsory subject medical ethics.

For the creations of healthy relationship in a particular profession it is necessary to establish the professional ethics such as business, medical etc. as a set of values, norms, principles and duties, [3].

### **4 Conclusion**

In today globalised world the accepted rules help us to make the life easier and they also make the human cooperation easier. Thanks to these rules we know what to do and what not to do. Human life presents the free choice and here we can see our ethical or moral behaviour. The function of schools is indispensable because the aim is to create an individual with knowledge and skills but also to lead them to multicultural perception of the world in intercultural communication, [5].

Multicultural society where we live today is the source of conflicts but also of mutual cooperation and we have to find possible ways out of these conflicts by discussion and never ending dialogue with the otherness, [6, 7]. Very important is not only the current view but also the past full of traditions and varieties of the globalised world. The respect for moral values and traditions is a part of ethical education including philosophical and

religious questions [4]. Because freedom is connected with education and responsibility, the subject ethics should educate towards responsibility, understanding and tolerance.

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