

## Summary

# Sociometric status of pupils in the classroom and in the school hierarchy

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The theoretical part of this paper considers the aspects of fundamental social structure evident in school hierarchy, paying particular attention to the status of those pupils who represent an elitist group within the classroom. In the period when children become pupils, and thus a part of the school hierarchy, they begin to establish stronger social contacts outside of the family and the influence of their peers on their social, intellectual, moral and emotional development increases. In the classroom environment there appears a differentiated social structure confirmed by sociometric status of pupils, which will be determined in the empirical part of this paper. Sociometric status is determined on a scale between acceptance (popularity) and refusal (isolation or rejection) of elementary grade pupils. The paper identifies the variables that can affect a pupil's sociometric status index (individual talent and pupil's age). The importance of peer acceptance is underlined as a social resource facilitating other achievements in life, as well as the significance of the curriculum of social relationships in the development of social competence.

**Key words:** classroom elite, sociometric status, classroom, peer relationships.