

Ivan Beroš

Faculty of Science and Education Mostar
University of Mostar

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION AS THE FOUNDATION OF THE POSTMODERN CURRICULUM

Abstract

The field of education, through application of its pedagogical principles and methods, is one of the factors of a successful civil society capable of active engagement in participatory democracy. The importance of education for democracy has been recognized by John Dewey, but the implementation of the idea has been hampered by the rise of neo-liberalism as the dominant political ideology. Contradictions between goals and methods of democracy and neo-liberalism are manifested in the field of curriculum, which, under the influence of postmodernism, became more flexible and open to different discourse and the perception of reality from the position of the "Other". The roots of democratic education originate from the ideas of alternative schools established in Germany, England and Norway. True democratic education requires the transformation of the entire educational system based on the dialogic approach to educational processes and pedagogical practices, acknowledgment of the importance shared spaces have as a polygon of democratic education, critical analysis of the process of knowledge (co)-construction and legitimation rooted in common action from the current socio-political framework to the world of possibilities.

Keywords: *alternative schools, critical pedagogy, dialogic education, knowledge (co)-construction, neo-liberalism, shared spaces*