

## The pursuit of emancipation through education in the light of critical theory

### Abstract

This paper explores the concept of emancipation through education in the light of critical theory, with a focus on critical pedagogy and critical educational science. The concept of emancipation carries a dual meaning, liberation from oppression and a striving for maturity. It involves personal and societal liberation, fostering critical thinking and action against injustice. Critical theory, rooted in the Frankfurt School, provides a fundamental framework for questioning power relations and promoting societal transformation. Critical educational science (Mollenhauer, Klafki, and Giesecke) sees maturity as the goal and purpose of educational measures. Critical pedagogy, especially inspired by Paulo Freire, emphasizes the importance of dialogue, critical thinking, and action while advocating education for emancipation. The paper illustrates how the pursuit of emancipation through education is one of the paramount concepts in educational theory overall.

**Keywords:** critical educational science; critical pedagogy; Paulo Freire