

LIVING AMONG OTHERS AS A CHALLENGE. THE ROLE OF GENERAL EDUCATION

Abstract

Communing with otherness is a part of the contemporary human condition. Every day he encounters otherness in very different manifestations - cultural, religious, related to gender identity and sexuality, age, illness or disability. Such situations are not easy for the individual.

We often react to what is foreign, different, with fear, uncertainty, and sometimes outright hostility. The aim of the considerations undertaken in this article is to show the role of education in preparing a person to live among others; laying the foundations for the ability to relate to the Other in a reflective, critical and responsible way. In this article I refer to the idea of general education aimed at developing such qualities and predispositions as critical thinking, self-reflection, empathy, imagination, and civic responsibility. I point to the ancient traditions from which this idea grows. I justify why general education has an essential role in preparing people to meet the Other and why it should be a commitment that all - not just a select few - teachers and educators will make.

Keywords: The Other, education for peace, general education, Paideia.

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