

ABSTRACT

The thesis focuses on the issue of civic attitudes adopted by students of vocational schools. The author presents an overview of previous Czech research which shows that students of vocational schools are placed at the bottom of international surveys inquiring civic and political knowledge. Moreover, the results reveal that the students of vocational schools express their support for democracy as a way of government the least. The goal of the thesis is to describe civic and political opinions of concrete students and show who influences them and how. It is designed as a multiple case study. Six students of vocational schools from Prague, a smaller town and a village in Central Bohemian Region were chosen to participate in the study. The core of the work is the description of the individual cases in a detailed context including their family, community, school and friends. The findings indicate that the studied students are usually not interested in politics. Their political beliefs are heavily formed by their family and peers. School as an institution does not have any influence, not even through civic education which is compulsory during the first years of high school education. It is most of all caused by fewer opportunities for an open discussion about basic topics in classes. Media have only limited impact on the analysed students, predominantly through shared news on social networking sites. The limits of the presented research are also discussed as a part of the thesis, as well as recommendations for civic education and for further research.