

Abstract

Because of the new Education Act (Hasner's reform), the second half of the nineteenth century was a very important time for education. I introduce a primary school teacher living at that time, his way to 'success' and whether the image, which surrounded him, corresponded to the reality.

Using the Bourdieu's theory of capital, I investigate the individual aspects of the life of Vincenc Paulus (1840–1913), the school director in Chrast. He was the educator of the public, an amateur historian and archivist, an organizer of an ethnographic exhibition, a founder of a local museum, an active official of teachers' association Budeč chrudimská, and a member of municipal committee. Hence, it seems that he met the contemporary ideas about a publicly, and especially culturally active teacher and educator; who carries out all the work selflessly and enthusiastically, thinking only of the welfare of teachers, his pupils, local citizens, the municipality, the nation, the State and the Church. Convinced of the importance of his mission, he withstands any „slights“ with patience and with belief in the future awards; and pays attention to avoid any unnecessary conflicts in order to protect his most important work – the education. Although, his behaviour may seem as conform, it was rather a „strategy“, which, in the end, earned him respect and good social status.