

Abstract

Everything is changing. Human society is not and has never been a stable and rigid structure. On the contrary, it is rather a dynamic structure that is constantly evolving and changing. The world is becoming more and more complex and complicated. We are witnessing rapid and fundamental changes in all realms of our life. It is often said that the speed, discontinuity and turbulence are the main characteristics of the contemporary world and society.

The principal aim of my work is to describe how these changes could be related to processes of learning and education how these processes are dependent on social changes and vice versa whether they could be a tool that brings other changes. I try to focus on this issue from different angles as a matter of mutual dependence between adult education and social change. My thesis is especially based on analysis and comparison of the recent policy documents concerning this issue, and on more theoretically and critically-oriented scientific andragogical, sociological or pedagogical sources.

The presented doctoral thesis is derived from the characteristics of social change and the social development theories. The second chapter is devoted to issues of mutual influences on social transformations and education on theoretical basis. I distinguish four different approaches, groups of authors and their theories, in terms of their interpretation of the relationship between education and social change. The third chapter deals with changes linked to the transition from the traditional society to the modern society and the role of education throughout these changes. This transition, that can be characterized by complex of the social transformations and that dramatically transformed the then social reality can be understood as the basis of the changes we have observed in these days. The main attention is addressed to the last fourth chapter that is devoted to the current social transformations and their relation to adult education. I attempt to analyze and clarify the role of education in the complex of transformation processes associated with globalization, individualization, the technological development, the processes of economization and commodification, and with the social conflicts linked with new social inequalities.