

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to find out how the participants of the Theatre of the Oppressed become empowered and how they use these experiences from the Theatre in other spheres of life. The research is based on a qualitative method and semi-structured interviews with open coding. The sample consists of Roma and non-Roma respondents. The results show that the necessary prerequisites for empowerment include meetings and dialogues with others, games and interventions, sharing of experiences and active work against oppression. In other dimensions of life, we can see personal empowerment manifest itself by higher self-confidence, advanced communication skills and responsible citizenship. In the professional sphere empowerment is presented in a work with a group, in a current job or in an involvement in new projects. For a civil society to thrive it is important that people from the majority society meet and work together with members of the minority groups. It is also essential to promote civil competences and social capital, meet with strongly engaged activists, open discussions in the public sphere and support the principle of taking responsibility for one's life and the life of the community.

Key words: Theatre of the Oppressed, empowerment, active work against oppression, Roma and non-Roma people, civil society, active citizenship