

Abstract

The thesis *Education in the Third Three-Year Cycle of Montessori Schools* explores the concept of education in 7th—9th grades according to Maria Montessori's pedagogical system "Children of the Earth" and how this project is implemented in contemporary Czech Montessori schools.

Introduction to the theoretical part consists of a biography of Maria Montessori, an important educator and scientist, but also a fighter for children's and women's rights. To gain a deeper understanding of how Montessori pedagogy works, the Montessori's concept is described in detail. Also the requirements for the teacher in the 3rd three-year cycle are described — the role and personality of the teacher is highly emphasized in Montessori methods. At present, there are only a few courses for the 3rd three-years cycle teachers. Organizations where these courses can be taken are listed. A brief history of the Montessori approach is included.

Part of the thesis is dedicated to the concept of Montessori education in the Czech Republic, how many Montessori schools currently exist in the country, if there are any criteria and conditions for the implementation of a Montessori programme, role of the Ministry of Education and Science in this programme and how the quality of the programme is evaluated.

This part also describes the education of children in the 3rd three-year cycle according to Montessori's Children of the Earth concept, and how her vision is being applied in Montessori schools today. The role of the adult in this period, the methods of school assessment and the necessary qualifications of teachers are also described.

The empirical part of the thesis describes how the selected Montessori schools implement the Children of the Earth project in practice and whether Montessori's concept, which she invented almost a century ago, can be applied in the current conditions. The survey also looks at how schools prepare children from the 9th grade for the entrance exams to secondary schools. A description of the methods of data collection and analysis is included.

Keywords

Montessori Pedagogy, Adolescent Education, Erdkinder, Children of the Earth, Maria Montessori's Educational Methods, Education in Czech Montessori Schools