

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor's thesis called „Parental Choice of Elementary School in the City of Vrchlabí” is to find and describe strategies used by parents when choosing elementary school in a small town, in this case Vrchlabí. The text engages with the way parents influence educational trajectory of their children, and which factors play a role in deciding about the elementary school selection. In this respect it aims to discover and disclose the different strategies of parents from a small town opposite to those of parents from Prague a few years ago. The thesis presents parents as players of educational policy; it attempts to find opportunities for parents to join in on its creation and later to discover up to which level parents take advantage of these opportunities. The thesis describes possible educational inequalities and their impact on child's educational trajectory. It displays differences between elementary schools, which are enabled by current educational system of the Czech Republic, and differences which exist between individual elementary schools in Vrchlabí. It describes changes, which happened in the compulsory schooling in the past. Further, aims to show how big the impact of parents own experience is on their choice. The next part of the text stems from interviews, which were conducted with mothers of children visiting the first year of school. It analyses, states strategies and attitudes to education of parents when selecting elementary school. In the end parents are divided into groups according to two different criteria representing their choice strategy. First according to the size of their chosen school and second according to their previous experiences with particular school.