

Citizenship, adult education and lifelong learning

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A British journalist predicted in the year 2000

"If education, education, education was a mantra of the 90s, then citizenship, citizenship, citizenship looks set to be the sound-bite for the new millennium"

(Heater 2004:370).

Defenition of citizenship

Citizenship is a status bestowed on all those who are full members of a community. All who possess the status are equal with respect to the rights and duties with which the status is endowed. (Marshall 1950).

Development of citizenship

- Civil rights (basic freedom from state interference), which arose in the eighteenth century;
- Political rights (electoral rights, etc.), arising in the nineteenth century;
- Social rights, (rights to health care, unemployment benefits, insurance, old age pensions), characteristic of the twentieth century evolution of the welfare state;
- Cultural rights, (right to use your own language, schools, newspapers, etc.) are now on the agenda.

Paulo Freire about adult education and citizenship

Citizenship is the exercise of being oneself in the context of the state. It is a social construction; it doesn't appear by chance. Either the masses impose themselves through struggle or citizenship doesn't exist. The dominated classes need to democratise citizenship. A literacy program must include political aims to build citizenship; the capacity to understand the world, to establish relations between facts and problems demands the politicisation of persons, the political comprehension of the world, permanent curiosity, the right to participate, mobilise, and organise grassroots groups. It demands going beyond common sense to change reality, to overcome domination, and to invent solidarity.

Non-formal adult education and citizenship

- The Danish folk high school movement
- The Finnish folk high school movement
- The Finnish Medborgar- och arbetarinstitut
- The Highlander Folk School in United States
- The Canadian Association of Adult Education

The heart and soul of Adult education

Michael Welton from Canada:

“We are in the midst of a struggle for the heart and soul of adult education”

Margaret Thatcher from Great Britain:

“Society does not exist – all there are, are individuals”

Lifelong learning 1980s and 1990s

- OECD
- Learning to do
- Human capital
- Economic growth

Lifelong learning 2000-

- European Union
- Learning to live together
- Civic competences
- Social cohesion

Key competences for lifelong learning:

Social and civic competences

These include personal, interpersonal and intercultural competence and cover all forms of behaviour that equip individuals to participate in an effective and constructive way in social and working life, and particularly in increasingly diverse societies, and to resolve conflict where necessary. Civic competence equips individuals to fully participate in civic life, based on knowledge of social and political concepts and structures and a commitment to active and democratic participation.

(The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, December 18, 2006)

Two paradigms of citizenship

Social citizenship

- T.H. Marshall
- Investment in institutions
- Adult education
- "Adult education for life long learning"

Active citizenship

- Anthony Giddens
- Investment in human resources
- Lifelong learning
- "Lifelong learning for active citizenship"

Citizenship education

- England 2002
- Spain 2008
- Denmark 2007

Why citizenship education?

- Individualisation
- Globalisation
- Europeanisation
- Multiculturalism