

On the political nature of “formal” and “non-formal” concepts in education

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Abstract

In this article there is a wish to critically examine the ideological and political logic of the “formal” and “in-formal” concepts in education. At its first part, there is a criticism of the non-formal education pretense to achieve educational spheres which is devoid of power relations. Later on, the paper discusses the various political and pedagogical opportunities which stems from formal education anachronistic and unconcealed political nature. The claim in the article is that empowering and emancipatory pedagogical sphere is one that allows children to practice various methods of struggle and political experience. Hence, educational institutions should renounce their ideals of “harmony” and alleged freedom.

Key words: Critical pedagogy, political education, public schools, informal education