
PREFACE

The problems addressed in this monograph refer to children and adolescents who require support due to their difficult circumstances. These circumstances include the fragile contexts in which they function, their diverse social or developmental situations and finally, their socio-psychological entanglement in ethnic, national, cultural and social conflicts of the adult world. The consequences of the aforementioned processes, as well as the questions related to children's and adolescents' psychological and pedagogical support in re-socialisation and social reintegration, seem particularly important in the contemporary world. They are crucial with regard to the fact that a large percentage of those who are excluded and marginalized are composed of children and adolescents who are migrants, refugees or members of ethnic and national minorities. These groups are present in literature as 'invisible children', children 'out-of-place', children without access to children's/human rights. Last but not least, the social discourse about refugees and immigrants, which shapes contemporary attitudes and social interactions in European and non-European societies, is certainly not without significance. In their analyses and critical approaches to social and cultural determinants, interdependencies and generational relations, the authors expose the spheres and areas of marginalization and exclusion of children who are structurally and systemically disadvantaged and discriminated against. The discrimination may be either a consequence of their cultural heritage (the Roma) or resultant from a social, economic, migrant or refugee related situation. The contributors also discuss the inhibited access of selected groups of children and youth to social resources and the system of education. They examine processes which reflect social transformations resulting from a new social structure, productive and reproductive conditions of upbringing, educating and integrating the new generations in diverse social, cultural and national contexts, referring to the issues of readaptation and reintegration.

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The articles presented to the readers in this publication are an outcome of the 9th UNESCO International Summer School held in Warsaw, Poland between 14 and 24 September 2015. These summer sessions have been organized annually since 2008 by the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies on Child Development and Wellbeing at the Maria Grzegorzewska University. The academic profile of the Summer School as well as the research interests of its participants allowed us to look at the question of children and adolescents from a psychological, sociological and pedagogical perspective. This monograph is a collection of the lecturers' and participants' academic articles, covering both theoretical and empirical aspects of the discussed subjects. A broad, interdisciplinary insight into the problem of readaptation and integration of children and youth in European and non-European societies affords a better understanding of the complexity of the problem and the possibility to design comprehensive pro-integration solutions. This edited volume consists of two complementary parts. The first section focuses on the issues related to current problems and challenges in the area of reintegration and readaptation in diverse social and cultural contexts. The second part refers to varied issues and challenges faced in the praxis of working with and in the interest of children and adolescents in the dimensions of reintegration and readaptation. We hope that this monograph will be of use for both practitioners and theorists in the areas explored and constitute a valuable source of knowledge and inspiration for further research in the field.

The editor
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