

Thematic Article

Social Mobility through Education: Lifelong Learning and the Roma-Minority in Selected Central and Eastern European Countries¹

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Abstract

Education plays a central role in supporting or impeding social mobility (Bourdieu & Passeron, 1974; Fend, 1980, 2006). The disadvantaged social and economic situation of the biggest part of the Roma minority (not only) in Central and Eastern Europe is usually seen as the main reason for their low educational attainment and success. And vice versa: the poor educational results are considered the main reason for their social deprivations. Therefore, education and lifelong learning have become the main strategy for improving their situation, especially since the 'Europeanization of the Roma issue' (Ram, 2015) through the European Union. Today, Education and lifelong learning are now the centre of EU-policies for achieving political and economic goals, like economic growth and social cohesion (Óhidy, 2008, 2009). This article analyzes the problems faced by and opportunities presented to the Roma people in selected Central and Eastern European countries, problems and opportunities arisen in the years up until 2020, regarding social mobility through education. In its analysis, this paper focused on the similarities. The article is based on 5 country studies from 2019, written by experts from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia (see Óhidy & Forray, 2019). The study uses the evidence from the country studies from Markéta Levínská, Dana Bittnerová & David Doubek, 2019 (Czech Republic), Julianna Boros & Eszter Gergye, 2019 (Hungary), Agnieszka Swietek & Wiktor Osuch, 2019 (Poland), Aurora Adina Colomeischi, 2019 (Romania) and Rastislav Rosinsky, 2019 (Slovakia) to explore the similarities in challenges, to increase the participation and success of Roma people.

Keywords: social mobility, roma, Central and Eastern Europe, education, lifelong learning

Introduction

Roma have lived for several hundred years in Central and Eastern Europe. Although at the beginning of their migration from India to Europe in the 15th century they were appreciated for their craftsmanship (Fings, 2019), prejudice soon followed them. Today antigypsyism³ is often seen as a part of European history (Agarin, 2014; Selling et al., 2015, Tosi Cambini & Beluschi Fabeni, 2017, Kóczé & Rövid, 2017), which has only recently been discussed publicly. Despite the increasing political, scientific and public interest regarding the European Roma minority, there are still many knowledge gaps in relation to them. Not even the correct population number

¹ This article is based on my analysis, published under the title "Conclusion: Participation and Success of Central and Eastern European Roma in Education and Lifelong Learning: Common Challenge, Similar Solutions and Hitherto Unsatisfactory Results" in the book Andrea Óhidy & Katalin R. Forray (Eds.) (2019): *Lifelong Learning and the Roma Minority in Central and Eastern Europe*. Emerald: Bingley, p. 201–208.

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³ Antigypsyism, also known as anti-Romani sentiment or Romaphobia is a form of Group-focused enmity against people, who are recognized as 'Roma'. Group-focused enmity means prejudices and hostility towards various target groups, based on an ideology of inequality (Heitmeyer, 2002). The European Commission defines it as a form of racism against Roma, which "is a historically rooted structural phenomenon that appears at institutional, social and interpersonal levels. It has its origins in how the majority views and treats those considered 'gypsies'. It is rooted in a process of 'othering' that builds on negative as well as positive, exoticising stereotypes" (European Commission, 2020).

Social Mobility Selected Readings

P.T. Thomas



Social Mobility Selected Readings:

Social Mobility Anthony Peter Macmillan Coxon, Charles L. Jones, 1975 Class Structure and Social Mobility, 1977

Social Mobility, 1951 **Selected Writings** Franz Baermann Steiner, 1999 Sport and American Society: Selected

Readings George Harvey Sage, 1974 **Education and Social Mobility** P.T. Thomas, This book focuses on the provision of basic social services in particular access to education as the central building blocks of any human development strategy and it also signifies a substantial contribution towards the central role of education in social mobility In examining the impact of educational development of any society or group the questions that the proponents of egalitarian approach ask are Who benefits Who loses What is the resulting socio economic status of the people Although gender inequality in education is not so prominent in Kerala the difference between communities and classes is one of the critical aspects of this broader phenomenon of disparity in Kerala Recent studies regarding poverty and inequality show that although poverty is declining inequality between socio economic groups is increasing in Kerala In this scenario the educational backwardness of the socio economic groups in Kerala is a matter of particular concern to the policy makers and this book hopes to provide some insight into this subject It will be highly useful to policy makers administrators and academicians *Social Class in Urban India* Aloo E. Driver, Edwin D. Driver, 2023-08-14 **Selected Readings in Municipal Problems** Joseph Wright, 1925

Selected Writings on Media, Propaganda, and Political Communication Siegfried Kracauer, 2022-05-17 Siegfried Kracauer stands out as one of the most significant theorists and critics of the twentieth century acclaimed for his analyses of film and popular culture However his writing on propaganda and politics has been overshadowed by the works of his contemporaries and colleagues associated with the Frankfurt School This book brings together a broad selection of Kracauer's work on media and political communication much of it previously unavailable in English It features writings spanning more than two decades from studies of totalitarian propaganda written in the 1930s to wartime work on Nazi newsreels and anti-Semitism through to examinations of American and Soviet political messaging in the early Cold War period These varied texts illuminate the interplay among politics mass culture and the media and they encompass Kracauer's core concerns the individual and the masses the conditions of cultural production and the critique of modernity The introduction and afterword explore the significance of Kracauer's contributions to critical theory film and media studies and the analysis of political communication both in his era and the present day At a time when demagoguery and bigotry loom over world politics Kracauer's inquiries into topics such as the widespread appeal of fascist propaganda and the relationship of new media forms and technologies to authoritarianism are strikingly relevant **Beginning Theory** Peter Barry, 1995 Though poets have always written about cities the commonest critical categories pastoral poetry nature poetry Romantic poetry Georgian poetry etc have usually stressed the rural so that poetry can seem irrelevant to a predominantly urban population Explores a range of contemporary poets who visit the mean streets of the contemporary urban scene seeking the often cacophonous music of

what happens here Poets discussed include Ken Smith Iain Sinclair Roy Fisher Edwin Morgan Sean O'Brien Ciaran Carson Peter Reading Matt Simpson Douglas Houston Deryn Rees Jones Denise Riley Ken Edwards Levi Tafari Aidan Hun and Robert Hampson Approaches contemporary poetry within a broad spectrum of personal social literary and cultural concerns Includes loco specific chapters on cities including Hull Liverpool London and Birmingham with an additional chapter on post industrial cities such as Belfast Glasgow and Dundee

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Social Mobility Selected Readings Introduction

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