

Summary

School at Home? The Functioning and Socialization of Homeschooled Adolescents

This doctoral dissertation explores the educational and social aspects of the functioning of Polish homeschooled adolescents aged 14 to 18. The goal was to understand and analyze the various components that make up the everyday experiences of these young people, educated outside of the traditional school environment. Based on the gathered data, I aimed to develop practical solutions, recommendations and strategies, for adolescents interested in homeschooling.

The research was conducted using a qualitative approach, focusing on semi-structured interviews, where the voices of the adolescents were central. The choice of topic was motivated by the growing interest in homeschooling in Poland.

In the first chapter of the theoretical part, I discuss homeschooling by analyzing its history, legal foundations, and the current situation in Poland, including statistics on the number of students being educated in this system. The second chapter focuses on the characteristics of adolescents, where I explore the issues of development during adolescence, identity formation, and emotional functioning. In the following chapter, I analyze the concept of everyday life and different approaches to learning and knowledge acquisition. I also address motivation and curiosity as factors influencing the learning process, and socialization as a process of identity formation in young people.

The methodological section is presented in the fourth chapter, where I explain the choice of qualitative research strategy, research problems, and the methods used.

In the empirical part, which covers chapters five and six, I present the research findings on the everyday experiences of homeschooled adolescents, as well as their relationships with peers and their environment. Chapter seven includes recommendations on coping with homeschooling and practical guidance for both parents and adolescents interested in this form of education.

The dissertation concludes with findings, a bibliography, a list of tables and figures, and appendices, including the consent form for conducting the research.

Keywords: homeschooling, home education, alternative education, everyday life of adolescents, socialization of adolescents