

From the book
PINK AND BLUE WORLD Gender Stereotypes and Their Consequences
Cviková, Jana – Juráňová, Jana, eds.
Aspekt and Citizen and Democracy 2003
1st edition
292 pages
English translation by Eva Riečanská

Editorial: Before We Start

Inequality between men and women is one of the fundamental inequalities in the present day world. The book *Pink and Blue World* invites you to explore and name some ways and forms of construction, maintenance and reproduction of this inequality.

As teachers, in the course of your study you gain professional competence in teaching certain subjects, you learn their didactics and acquire pedagogical knowledge and skills. However, there are certain spheres and issues that pedagogical study does not cover, and where our experience does not equip us with all needed knowledge - one such spheres is gender relations in society. As adults we have much deep knowledge both of our professional specialization and of everyday life than our students, but in many respects we are in the same boat – we are parts of the same society and culture, and we are influenced by its values and ideas.

Tradition is not only an important value, but also an inseparable part of life. Despite this fact, it is necessary to ask what are the foundations of traditional roles of women and men, what kind of social relations they establish and whether they respect the dignity and rights of *each* individual. Our society has been moving towards greater equality, acceptance of otherness and towards openness. The school can and should participate in this development. Subversion of established gender stereotypes perpetuating gender inequality is a life-long work for all of us. The papers published in this collection map the theme of gender stereotypes and its consequences and are followed by a part on teaching methods containing practical classroom activities. Expert papers on basic concepts and issues of gender theory are complemented by rich “visual evidence”, newspaper clippings, quotes and excerpts from literature as well as by ideas for various classroom activities. We do believe that in this book you will find inspiration for yourself and for your work with children and youth, and that all participant will find it to be an exciting game of discovery.