

Katarzyna Stankiewicz, Phd. (UKSW)

SCHOOL ADAPTATION OF CHILDREN FROM RETURN MIGRANT FAMILIES. TEACHERS' AND PARENTS' PERSPECTIVES

Return migration is gaining more and more popularity nowadays. Although **Poland** is primarily a country of emigration, the phenomenon of return migration is also gaining importance. Any emigration can lead to a return, either permanently or temporarily. Not only individuals return, but also families with children who have to find themselves in the new reality, starting from the Polish school.

The subject of this project is focused on the school adaptation process of a child from a Polish migrants' family returning to Poland after a longer period living abroad. I take up this subject due to the growing scale of the phenomenon of returns and the lack of sufficient pedagogical research in this area. As it turns out, the adaptation of the returning student can be an important factor for further migration or settlement decisions of the whole family. The success of this adaptation contributes to a better (re)integration of the family after returning to the country, as well as to the integration of the child with the class, school and in general with Polish society. School functioning in the first period after the return determines its further educational path. Despite the possibility of educational support resulting from legal regulations, in practice neither teachers nor parents themselves see the need for such support, while the returning child often needs help similar to foreign students - due to their previous school experience and competences limited by conditions and content of education in the country of emigration. Lack of sufficient research and knowledge in this topic affects the attitudes of the school management and teachers who often do not recognize the importance of the problem.

The aim of the project is to gain the knowledge about the process of school adaptation of a student from the family of return migrants from the perspective of teachers and parents, with particular emphasis on its course and effects as well as conditions and significance - both for the child and the whole family, in the context of the (re)integration process. I am looking for an answer to the question about what characterizes the adaptation process. Further questions concern the conditions of this process, its effects as well as its significance. I am also interested in the potential for cooperation between teachers and parents in supporting the adaptation and integration of the student and the whole family after returning to the country.

Finding answers to these questions will allow to **fill the gap** in the field of interdisciplinary integration research, as well as broaden pedagogical knowledge on the subject of adaptation of the child with this particular type of migration experience. One of the result of the project will be the recommendations regarding support for school adaptation of students returning to a Polish school.

The research will be of **a qualitative nature**, which is justified by the specificity of the subject of the study, especially by the variety of the situation of return migrants. Document analysis and expert interviews will be complemented by free interviews partly targeted with parents and teachers, conducted in three selected large Polish cities with a large percentage of return migrant children learning in schools. Data from interviews will also be used in the development of case studies, presenting the school adaptation of selected students from the families of return migrants and constituting examples of the diversity of the adaptation course as well as its conditions and importance for the student.

Participatory workshops have also been planned, in which persons involved in the research (parents and teachers) will participate, giving opinions on partial research results, correcting observations and conclusions, setting directions of analysis and interpretation, as well as the form and scope of practical recommendations being developed.

Research findings will be presented in national and international conferences as well as articles prepared for publication in prestigious national and international scientific journals.