



Mária Potočárová, *Etika v rodinných vzťahoch*.
Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave,
Vydavateľstvo UK, 2018, 228 pp.

Upbringing and education rank among the most important and the most challenging of human activities. They have a profound influence on our social existence and are generally interrelated with the family environment. The author of the presented monograph intends to accompany a reader on his or her journey to a deeper understanding of contemporary family and its place in modern society. She explores family life and relationships in the context of family pedagogy. The approach that she adopted to achieve her goal is reminiscent of the ancient concept of *paideia* and its emphasis on holistic investigation of the interdisciplinary contexts.

The immediate relevance of the monograph is accentuated by the fact that traditional family functions have been continuously eroded by the social changes of our “fluid present,” the fact that is, for instance, manifested through disintegrating interests of individual members within a nuclear family unit. Redefining family, its proper form and conditions for fulfilling its irreplaceable functions in the context of education is a matter of the utmost urgency. The author confronts her research findings with both domestic and foreign sources that are listed at the end of each chapter. It makes it easier for attentive readers to compare the content of individual chapters with similar works published in the field.

The book is well balanced in terms of content and it meets the quantitative criteria of a research monograph. It is written in a comprehensive and clear manner and in a style that appeals to the reader. It consists of six chapters: 1. Family in a whirlwind of change, 2. Human being, human person and relationships from the perspective of philosophy, 3. The phenomenon of love and its conceptualization in family relationships, 4. Human sexuality in the mosaic of

family relationships, 5. Complementarity in a relationship between a man and a woman, 6. Education for partnership, marriage and parenthood. Sex education.

In the first section of the book, the author presents a philosophical-ethical excursion into the very essence and role of education for parenthood as a general introduction for further and more detailed analyses. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of an individual and society, she discusses the anthropological, axiological, and ethical dimensions of education for marriage and parenthood. The carefully chosen content of the individual chapters allows the author to explore relational and familial dimensions of a human being. The author framed her monograph in a coherent structure developing the main concept in a very natural manner. The final chapter emphasizes the educational mode of a person with its specific sexual consequences. The author also touches on the subject of value orientation and considers building the relationship between a man and a woman as an essential part of their human vocation with a great ethical imperative.

An appropriate number of thematically concise subchapters underlines a logical continuity of a variety of explored topics that are neatly summarized at the end of each chapter. The monograph classifies, generalizes, and shares the current knowledge in a close link to higher education in the fields of social and education sciences and humanities.

Professor Potočárová points out that education for marriage and parenthood in the school setting is commonly carried out, in one way or another, as *sex education*. In her monograph, she presents her own purposeful process of education in this area, with a very specific content, well-chosen form and methods, which, however, lacks a broader context for philosophical and ethical reflections. The presented monograph has the ambition to remedy the deficiencies in education for parenthood and sex education. Rather than offering any ready-made solutions, the author's intention was to provide an impulse that prompts forward and creative thinking aimed at personal development. She touches upon the issues of value orientation, morality, freedom and responsibility in education for parenthood.

In terms of its content and structure, the publication is suitable not only for professionals in the field of education sciences, but also for students in teacher training or anybody interested in education for parenthood. The reviewed manuscript is a valuable contribution to the body of knowledge in the field of family ethics and education sciences.

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