

SECTION 1

THEORY AND HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AS A RESEARCH AREA: TRENDS AND TENDENCIES

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Given the current transformation processes in Ukraine and the situation of unclear direction of national education, it is necessary to review existing paradigms and choose optimal guidelines that will focus educational process not only on development of students' professional knowledge and skills, but also on the formation of ideological orientations and value patterns of the man of the future. A research area, which analyzes reasons of pedagogical activity and education, its goals and ideals, methods of designing and creating new educational institutions and systems, is the philosophy of education.

The current period is a period of a new type of culture which has absorbed the experience and achievements of all previous cultures. The peculiarity of the defined period is searches for the optimum, mostly humanitarian education model.

The general trend of philosophy of education on the eve of the XXI century are: 1) awareness of the crisis of education and ped-

agogical thinking as an expression of spiritual crisis of our time; 2) difficulties in determining the ideals and aims of education that meets the new requirements of scientific and technical civilization and the forming information society; 3) convergence of different areas in the philosophy of education (e.g., pedagogical anthropology and dialogical philosophy of education between critical-rationalist and critical-emancipation direction); 4) search for new philosophical concepts, able to serve as a justification of education and educational theory and practice (focus on phenomenology, turn to Foucauldian discourse analysis etc.).

Representatives of modern philosophical systems believe that the question of what education should be can not remain without attention of philosophers, because since the origin of man on Earth, there are ever relevant problems: how to teach offspring to survive in a cruel world; how to explain what is going on around; what is a human and how he/she has to live to survive.