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What means Lifelong Learning in your country?

Around the turn of the century the adult education adapted to the economic and social modernization.

- Schooling of those social groups, which were unsuccessfully educated in their childhood
- Further education of the unemployed
- Further education for better cooperation in the international field
- Individualized learning – distance study, open education for adults
- Education for democracy – training of citizens for serving public life
- Open thinking, mental training – the basics of lifelong learning
- Leisure, health and tourism

The Hungarian educational system was renewed in some aspects in the past ten years. The most significant elements of these changes were summarized by an analysis in the framework of the program “The New Hungary”:

- Demographic changes – less births, longer and more active occupation of adults
- Longer duration of study – differentiation of study habits
- More material efforts for study
- More educational demands, more requests for skilled workers on the labor market
- Constant need for gaining new knowledge
- The necessity for a great innovation potential in economic life
- Geographic and social differences have negative influence on educational opportunities
- The need of a multifunctional educational system
- The society’s exaggerated expectations towards school

The disadvantaged adults

Disadvantaged are those adults who have very little opportunities on the job market.

Disadvantages can be caused by discrimination, low education, handicaps and aging.

In these cases the lack of an essential education is in the foreground. The most disadvantaged are on the one hand those adults who only successfully completed eight grades, have no professional training and therefore hardly any opportunities on the job market, on the other those adults who live with various disabilities.

Differences can also occur in the international context: some forms of education can be accredited inland but not in foreign countries.

In Hungary long-term unemployment means that the person in question is registered as unemployed for a year or longer.

Negatives

Discrimination in society and the job market

Learning disability

Wrong plot and thought patterns

Wrong learning strategies, lack of success

Low self-esteem and lack of confidence

Negative learning experiences and inefficacy at school

Wrong way of living, badly structured time schedules

Preference of physical employment

Pragmatism, only those occupations are acknowledged which offer an immediate effect

Each has different experiences of life on which one can only work individually

Difficulties in communication

Positives

They like to work in groups; individual tasks are only carried out in physical and practical fields

They are easily involved in group activities during learning

Their creativity appears mostly in arts

They show similarities with the majority in new learning areas

Characteristics

Learning is based on sense experience and not on thinking (mental activity-mental experience)

Education based on the units of image and sound works is more successful with adolescents than based on written units (e.g. textbook), for they are used to the widespread audiovisual information gathering (their lifestyle contains watching television for hours).

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