

MUNI  
PED

# HISTORY OF EDUCATION AND INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION

Radek Pospíšil  
[pospisil@ped.muni.cz](mailto:pospisil@ped.muni.cz)

**M U N I  
P E D**

# **The History of Education**

# Prehistory

- Acquiring skills of adults.
- Education versatile through imitation.
- At first uniform - the same for both boys and girls.
- Proof only archaeological excavations

# Oriental Despotism

## Mesopotamia

- Scribes culture
- Schools only for the descendants of members of the highest social classes

## Egypt

- Complete education for priests and ruler
- Knowledge of reading and writing, however extend to in the lower layers
- The aim of education: respect for the truth and order
- Emphasis on learning memorial

# Guidelines at Greek Education

- 1. gymnastic education - physical training objectives, temperance, self-control (in gymnasiums, palestras)
- 2. Music education - education of spirit, culminating in philosophical schools

# Education and training in Sparta

Education and training focused on training fighters and abiding citizens.

The focus was teaching in physical exercises and military training.

Reading and writing minimized.

0-7 years: family

7-12 years: running, wrestling, javelin throw, discus, singing + dancing

12-15 years: tougher Education

15-18: preparation for the fight

18-20: kryptie = in nature - procured themselves the means of life

20-30 years: an active soldier

30 years: a private citizen could get married

Girls - similar training as boys (disk, javelin, running, jumping)

# Education and training in Athens

objective: mental and physical fitness, the harmonious development of the citizen (personality) = kalokagathia  
education related only to men, women need to look after the family.

Great importance to families, but also the development of school education.

0-7 years: education in the family

7-14 years: elementary education

- grammar school and

kitharic (language learning, numeracy)

14-16: wrestling school – palaistra

- exercise in pentathlon

16-18 years: gymnasium

18-20 years: efebia

- preparation for military service.

# Sokrates (470-399 BC)

- opinions are preserved only through the works of Plato and Xenophon.
- opinions developed through dialogue - ethics and virtue.
- was convinced that people make mistakes, mainly because they can not properly use their intellect and that they act according to their beliefs and prejudices, instead of trying to really get to know



# Plato (428-348 BC)

- The first systematic reflection on education.
- The most important work Politeia (the Constitution) & Nomoi (Laws) - build an ideal social system
- The Constitution - the division of citizens:  
Artisans and peasants - led to moderation  
Warriors - Education for bravery  
Rulers - their virtues, wisdom

## Segmentation of education

- 0 - 6/7 years: child citizen of the state and the state cares about education  
- not the family, the child didn't know parents
- the child's own motion - dancing, playing (physical education)
- mental development: reading legends - a means of moral education, but the necessary censorship, only positive examples, clear
- early specialization

## Aristoteles (384-322 BC)

- His ideas about education are concentrated in the file Politics
- General issues of education should serve peaceful purposes
- Education has a pursue notably three things:
  - Nature - body care
  - Habits - shaping applications
  - Reason - the training of the intellect

# Ancient Rome

- practical character
- rhetoric and law
- physical education is also important (consideration to the needs of war)
  
- only family "school", the aim of education in the virtues
- father - teaches practical dexterity and physical education,
- mother - basic education for boys and girls - reading, writing, maths, singing, memorizing Acts of 12 Boards
- father + other older men catered to military education
  
- After the conquest of Greece's first schools.
- Establishment of the school system:
  - - 1) elementary school
  - - 2) grammar schools
  - - 3) rhetorical schools
- From the 1st century AD (emperor Vespasian) becoming teachers paid by the state = depending on the mode.

# Marcus Fabius Quintilianus (35-100 AD)

- the most important Roman educator
- author of 12 books *Institutio Oratorio*
- the first public, state-funded teacher of rhetoric
- the aim of all education moral integrity of man
- supporter of public school education
- recognize the individual characteristics of pupils not to use corporal punishment
- basis of rhetorical education - reading, writing and mother tongue and foreign, grammar, music, geometry and arithmetic, gymnastics

# First Christian School

- Important dates
  - 311 - Edict of Tolerance
  - 313 - Edict of Milan
  - 380 - Christianity the state religion of Rome
- Catechetical school (half of the 2nd century. AD.)
  - Alexandria, Antioch, Edessa
  - Preparing teachers and priests
  - Content religions and doctrines associated with religion

# Convent School

- St. Jerome and St. Augustin (font and seven liberal arts)
- Benedict of Nursia (Monte Cassino School)
- Alcuin of York (School of Aachen)

# Cathedral School

- Schools in the seat of the Bishop
- Served for the education of secular priests (diocesan)
- Contents: seven liberal arts => all disciplines subordinate religion

# Seven Liberal Arts

- Grammar - classical Latin and learning from memory
- Rhetoric - preparing documents
- Dialectics - Logic + doctrine of public speaking  
called Trivium, most of the students ended this trivium
  
- Arithmetic - counting on fingers + table
- Geometry
- Astronomy - calculation religious festivals
- Music - practical training for church  
called Quadrivium



# Knight's Education

- Preparation of the Warrior (11th century)

The education system:

- 0-7 years: young nobleman brought up in the family (obedience, politeness)
- 7-14 years: page-boy - enters into the service of the ruler or knight
- 14-21 years: squire - polite behavior and warfare
- 21 years: knighted
  
- There is Seven Knight Virtues

# Medieval Universities

- University produced a new social layer
- Dividing by universities curriculum:  
4 faculties: artistic (basic, general, prep, trivium and quadrivium), law, medical (professional) and theological
- study was divided into semesters
- professors did not have defined their fields - had to be able to speak about everything (polyhistor)

# Jan Amos Comenius (1592 – 1670)

- not to exclude any child from the education.
- the three goals of education: to identify themselves and the world, conquer himself and rise to God
- emphasis on the importance of discipline, rejects corporal punishment for ignorance
  
- School organization
  - 0-6 years - education at home, educating parents
  - 6 to 12 years - general school (reading, writing, arithmetic, religion, singing, handicrafts)
  - 12 to 18 years - latin School (the seven liberal arts, science, geography, history, mathematics, languages)
  - 18 to 24 years - academy (high school, divinity, law and medicine)

## Other educators

- Vittorino da Feltrere (1378-1446) – father of whole mankind
- Francis Bacon (1533-1592) – criticize scholastic education
- Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) – Jesuit school system
- John Lock (1632-1704) – education of gentleman
- Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) – article Emil or on education
- Johan Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827) – as essential of teaching set word, number and shape
- Johann Friedrich Herbart (1776-1847) – supervision, teaching and moral education
- Lev Nikolajevic Tolstoj (1828-1910) – free school
- Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) – the aim of education is preparation on life

# Education in the period 1770-1848

- 1774 - Allgemeine Schulordnung (General Rules)
- Johann Ignaz von Felbiger – introduce a general obligation school, school trivial, principal and normal
- established institutes for teacher training
- after 1790 disturbances of school, education unimportant
- 1848 revolution - created Ministry of Education, education reform, 8-class high school, graduation exam

## Education in the period 1849 - 1869

- 1869 - Hasner Act
- System of National Education (elementary and secondary schools)
- 6 to 14 years - the obligation of eight years of schooling
- Research and teaching are free.  
The religious education takes care of church  
Languages (Czech and German languages are equal).
- Supervision and control - provincial, district and local school board.

# Teachers

- prescribed tests of teaching competence
- maximum time 30 hours per week
- the highest number of students in class 80
- education at four-year teacher training institutes, the cost paid by the state
- test of adulthood = function not regular teacher
- after a 2-year teacher qualification practice exam and gain regular teacher
- after a 3-year practice exam eligibility for special municipal school as a specialist teacher
- celibacy women teachers - not to marry

# Alternative Education

- the basic idea - reform education
- Rudolf Steiner - Waldorf School
- Maria Montessori - Montessori School
- Helen Parkhurst - Dalton Plan
- Celestin Freinet - Work School
- Peter Petersen - Jena Plan
- Charleton Washburn – Winnet Plan



# Education in the period 1918 - 1938

- 1918 - law on the establishment and opening of general and lower secondary schools (Metelka Act) = developing Czech schools
- 1922 – small education act (obligation of eight years of schooling, reducing the number of pupils in classes to 65, eventually 70, recognition of the equality of male and female teachers)

## Education in the period 1918 - 1938

1923 – a new curriculum for elementary and secondary schools

increase in graduates, increase the number of schools, higher number of university students  
experimental schools - about 50, Krch, Havránek, Štorch

Reform School - Příhoda

1939 – closure of universities, education Germanized

# Education in the period 1945 - now

- 1945 – return to free czech education system
- 1948 - 1989 - socialist school, methodical manuals, inspiration at USSR (Makarenko)
- After 1989 - a return to free school, inspiration in alternative education