

Summary

A society's economic situation affects its educational and welfare decisions and the strategies of particular families and educational institutions. On account of economic changes, the status and standard of living of both individuals and their families sometimes changes completely from one day to the next. One of the challenges within the area of education which the family faces nowadays is shaping moral attitudes and preparing children for life in which the financial and economic situation changes from one day, or even one hour, to the next. As a result of the economic crisis that many European countries face, the phenomenon of euro-orphanhood emerges. It often changes children's lives and the lives of their families as well. Children's development and education in the era of the economic crisis invites unceasing reflection on the part of the parents as well as the teachers, and people responsible for educational programmes. Ewa Jagiełło and Mária Vargová in their article *Economy as a crucial component of elementary education curriculum* examine issues concerning children's economic education. The transformations taking place in the contemporary world, such as globalization, technological progress, innovations, which are much quicker in numerous spheres of life, cause that the everyday budget is becoming difficult to foresee and plan. The authors encourage education within the area of economy and finance. According to them, it is undoubtedly necessary to learn how to save, plan expenses, and show the possibilities of obtaining money.

Anna Błasiak, in the article *Parents' professional activity and the shape of the contemporary family in the era of rapid social and economic transformations*, addresses issues concerning parents' gainful employment in the contemporary family. The author assumes that a professional career constitutes an essential element of the contemporary reality and a significant factor when it comes to interpreting and seeking solutions in numerous spheres of social life, including the economic crisis and family stability. Parents' careers and different attitudes to pursuing a career result in changes in the family structure, in the family social roles, as well as the positions of the particular members of the family. It does pose a challenge since in the contemporary reality, family stability, which should fulfil human needs, is subject to unceasing redefinitions in the new, frequently difficult, reality. Various kinds of analyses may prove useful for various kinds of educational activities supporting contemporary parenthood.

Maria Szymańska covers issues concerning children's moral education and teachers' knowledge within this area in the article *Teacher Knowledge Application in a Child's Moral Development. The Selected Aspects*. The author emphasizes teachers' responsibility and their ability to reflect upon various moral aspects in the process of education. Teachers' awareness and knowledge are primarily supposed to support children in their moral development. It is crucial in the contemporary world to make teachers more and more aware and capable of organizing the educational process to ensure that moral values are clearly distinct in the process of teaching and education. The article focuses first and foremost on early primary school education teachers who should become more and more skilful practitioners within the scope of including moral values in educational space. On the one hand, it is necessary to shape teachers' morality; and on the other, to highlight them in the process of education and to reveal them to the children.

In the conclusion, we offer book reviews which attempt to explore the topics dealt with in this issue of the *Journal of Preschool and Elementary School Education*. The contemporary reality requires redefining the points of reference which seem fixed, something that is 'for sure' and allows for a sense of stability. Both family life and the process of education need reflection and new models of behaviour. The crisis understood as the need to change the fixed behaviour

patterns is connected with the economic crisis on the one hand and the moral crisis on the other. The papers presented in the following issue of the Journal of Preschool and Elementary School Education invite reflection upon the dilemmas created in the changing reality within the area of economic education, parents' gainful employment and more conscious inclusion of moral values in educational processes