

CHARACTER EDUCATION AS A FORM OF RESISTANCE TO SOCIAL PRESSURES

PhD. Victoria Ferescu

Prof. Dr. Ion Croitoru

"1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia, **România**

ABSTRACT

Contemporary society, marked by axiological instability, cultural conformity and growing social pressures, needs a repositioning on the moral values axis, in which character education is an essential factor of moral and personal resilience of the young people of generations Z and Alpha, born in the era of digital technology, high-speed internet, artificial intelligence, digital assistants and augmented reality. The article analyzes the formative role of character in young people's ability to resist the destructive influences of the social environment - from peer pressure to the moral relativism promoted in the digital space. Starting from a personalist perspective and integrating Christian values with a patristic foundation - in particular from the thought of the Three Hierarchs - the work emphasizes character not only as a set of moral traits, but also as an expression of a conscience enlightened by truth and love. By highlighting the character traits that support resilience - uprightness, discernment, perseverance and moral courage - an educational model can be constructed that not only informs but also forms consciences capable of resisting the temptations of conformity, ideological manipulation and value instability. These traits become inner anchors that enable young people to remain faithful to truth and goodness, even in contexts of intense social pressure, cultivating a genuine and responsible inner freedom. In the applied part, we propose pedagogical strategies to develop these traits, through moral reflection exercises, an empathic educational climate and living formative models. Thus, without character formation, education remains vulnerable to social pressures, and human beings end up lacking inner roots.

Keywords: character education, moral resilience, social pressures, Christian personalism, The Holy Three Hierarchs, conscience, moral pedagogy.

INTRODUCTION

Although we are witnessing spectacular technological progress, which ensures the ease of physical work and the facilities that should have freed us from worries, however, living conditions have become harsh in the 21st century, which means that contemporary man feels a constant and often unbearable pressure. The pace of professional life, but also of personal life, is accelerated so much that time always seems insufficient. Direct communication is replaced, more and more often, by standardized messages, sent at a cold speed, and responses that are delayed, even by a day, become a sign of inefficiency.

However, it is not only in the professional sphere that people are called to excel, but also in the personal sphere, because the true fulfillment of the human being is achieved