

child's ZPD, engaging issues and debates that are not confronted directly through participation in society or even through the normal curriculum of schools.

Through considering these different conceptions, scientists brought a critical perspective to their discussion of play and came to recognize the need for not just engagement but reflection. Such an understanding of play, founded on Vygotsky and supported by the work of Winnicott, Schön and others, scientists call «critical engagement».

И. Н. Демина

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN OUR WORLD

The theme of my work is the realization of the principle of equality of sexes in the Russian legislation. Today this theme is rather actual as Russia goes on a way of construction of law state which is based on the constitutional principles, one of which is the principle of equality.

In my work such questions as the history of the development of social - legal idea on the given principle, the concept of the principle of equality are mentioned. During my work the analysis of normative legal documents was made. Actually that given principle is fixed in the legislation but as my work shows it is realized and practiced differently.

Studying foreign literature, it is possible to draw a conclusion that in practice people are exposed to discrimination. Especially it concerns the feminine gender. Traditionally women practically had no equal rights in comparison with men. But the history shows, that owing to such movements as "feminism" and «suffrage movement» women have achieved equality. The women's issue takes the roots since early times. The theme of an equality of sexes interested different minds and different centuries.

Here is a good example of women struggle for their right as seen in American movies.

I shall begin with a discussion of Julia d'Acci's fascinating analysis of the production of the popular 1980s American police series *Cagney and Lacey*, which dealt with the work and private lives of two female New York cops (d'Acci, 1987). Originally, *Cagney and Lacey* was meant to be a feature film. Its creators - were inspired by a book about the portrayal of women in Hollywood films from the early days until the present (Haskell, 1987). Never, it seemed had a pair of female buddies like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid featured in a mainstream movie. Avedon, Corday and Rosenzweig came up with an idea for a film, to be called 'Freeze'. Rosenzweig saw an opportunity to produce a professionally innovative film, since female buddies had never before been seen.

However, not one motion picture studio wanted to put the script into production because the characters were seen as not feminine, soft or sexy enough. Some six years later, in 1980, Rosenzweig tried again with a rewritten script, but this time he went to the television networks. CBS decided to take it as a made-for-TV movie, but demanded that *Cagney and Lacey* be played by 'two sexy young actresses'.

Throughout its existence *Cagney and Lacey* was subject to conflict and negotiations between writers, actors, producer, network executives and audiences which had obvious effects on the ultimate representations of gender.

The second example is connected with media, especially about female communicators.

Despite the uneven distribution of knowledge about female communicators, existing research suggests some general tendencies which seem to apply world wide. To begin with, the media industries are dominated by men, and in the western world they are dominated by white men in particular. A UNESCO report comparing results from Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, India and Nigeria concludes that 'in every case women are very much a minority presence in the "man's world" of the media' (Unesco, 1987). Some authors have argued that the informal recruitment procedures of media industries based on personal contacts and ('old boys') networks, tends to exclude women as potential applicants, but the situation is being changed.