

ABSTRACT

In the course of the survey, I carried out a scientific study of the role and identity of the Roma intellectuals in Hungary, especially with regard to their participation and ideas in the educational integration and social inclusion of the Roma.

The topicality and significance of the research is given by the fact that no nationally comprehensive, complex study has been conducted on this topic before.

In my doctoral dissertation, I attempt to apply cultural anthropological and educational approaches together in a comprehensive study of Roma intellectuals. In my approach, the concept of social integration has a special significance.

During the analysis of the investigated problem I rely on the theory of interpretive anthropology. The trend associated with the name of Clifford Geertz says that culture exists through interpretation, but these interpretations are not produced by the researcher but by the “natives” of that culture. In the present study, Roma intellectuals create interpretations of Roma intellectual roles and regard their own intellectual roles.

My dissertation is applied social science research, I examined the relationship between the self-image and the field of action of Roma intellectuals. The main question focused on what factors determine perceptions of the role of the intellectual and the actual field of action. The primary goal of the survey was not to examine the narrow Roma political elite that formed opinions. The applied social science approach justified a broader interpretation of the concept of the Roma intelligentsia, which limits the study population by obtaining a higher education degree. The research shows that Roma graduates do not always hold actual intellectual roles, however, if my research had focused only on the narrow Roma elite intelligentsia, the internal division, different role perceptions, divisions and fault lines of Roma graduates would not have been visible.

Results of the research: 1. It paints a comprehensive picture of the internal structure of Roma / Gypsy intellectuals, their perceptions of their roles, their ideas about Roma culture, their role in the social and educational integration of Roma, the components of their ethnic identity and its development process. 2. The acquired scientific knowledge can be used to formulate social policy decisions and policies. 3. The research results can contribute to the development of the self-image of Roma intellectuals.