Education in a Changing Technological Environment

Abstract

The main ideas of this article are the following: (1) Education in a knowledge-based society takes place in a technology-based society. Therefore we must give attention to the technological possibilities and changes. (2) On the one hand, the technological “reality” forms the prevailing culture. On the other hand, the cultural patterns of action and using influence this technological “reality”, change it, adapt it to the cultural “environment” (interaction of technology and culture). (3) These actual processes of change include two (ideal) forms: (a) the adjustment of existing cultural resp. social patterns to the new technological possibilities (persistence of the “traditions”); (b) the recombination of existing and the appearance or arising of (complete) new cultural resp. social patterns (surprises, mostly no foreseeable/predictable). (4) Cultural changes are not an automatic resp. direct result of technological possibilities. The use of these possibilities depends on the competencies, the values a. s. o. of the user(s); this is fundamental influenced by the existing culture. – On this basis, in the article at first will shown some trends and problems in the current development of ICTs. Secondly some cultural and social implications of these trends will discussed (examples: “evaluation and selection of a / the technological solution”, “important criteria of IT-security”, “security/safety culture” and “tacit presence”). Some conclusions finish the reflections.

Key words: information-based society, technology-based society, culture of society, interaction of technology and culture, social patterns, IT security