

DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING USING INFORMAL METHODS





Critical thinking is a human skill that can be developed throughout life. The development of critical thinking can be influenced by external factors: the education system, non-formal learning, participation in voluntary activities, etc.

However, you can **consciously** cultivate yours critical thinking: by looking for reliable information, evaluating facts. With the help on non-formal education, we can develop not only our own critical thinking, but also support our community in developing its critical thinking skills as well.





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In the second topic, we will tell you how to apply non-formal education methods in your community to develop human rights and critical thinking. Let's dive in!

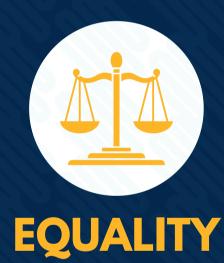


In modern society, when information flows are huge, the ability to critically evaluate information and develop skills to resist negative attitudes needs to be developed.

There are four key factors to consider when developing critical thinking:



With whom I identify myself, whether my identity does not contradict the norms of social justice and whether it does not violate the rights of other people.



Making sure that what I think and say does not contradict the principle of equality. Do I elevate one group of society above others? Do I value people according to certain identities? If yes, I need to address this.



Whether I can distinguish between stereotypical thinking and identify negative prejudices.



Does my identity enable me to treat other members of society fairly and equally? Do I take action to make sure others can enjoy their equal rights as well?



Let's analyse the development of critical thinking by applying non-formal methods through a concrete example: **The establishment of multiculturalism and social justice**. This is a particularly relevant topic today, when even without leaving home you can experience the joy of learning about different cultures.

The <u>National Institute for Social Integration</u> has been using a non-formal method of human rights education for more than 10 years: **the "Human Library"**. This approach is based on the principle of creating a safe environment for members of different communities to get to know different social groups. Through individual conversations, stereotypes are broken and critical thinking is developed.



It is worth mentioning that there is no precise definition of the term human rights education. It is a set of tools to help people of all ages understand, exercise and care about their rights and respect other people's rights.

The **human rights education program** is a range of activities aimed at <u>promoting equality</u> in areas such as intercultural learning, participation and empowerment. No matter what specific methods of human rights education are chosen, the <u>development of a human rights culture remains a key objective</u>.



CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CULTURE CAN DETERMINE THE GOALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION:

strengthening respect for human rights and human freedoms valuing human dignity and develop respect for oneself and others forming habits and behaviours that will help respect one's own and others' rights ensuring gender equality and equal opportunities for men and women in all areas

promoting respect, understanding and appreciation of equality between different peoples, ethnic groups, religions, languages and other minorities and communities

empowering people to be more civically engaged

promoting democracy, development, social justice, community consensus, solidarity and friendship between peoples and nations continuing the work of international organisations aimed at peace-building based on human rights values, international understanding, tolerance and non-violence



Human rights education activities aim to develop feelings of selfconfidence and tolerance, which are key parts of a human rights culture:





