



ВЫХАВАННЕ (Vyhavanne)

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What is it?

The Belarusian concept *Выхаванне*, written as *vyhavanne* in Latin script and glossed as "upbringing" or "education," describes the formation of a worldview, an inner and individual spiritual world, and personal qualities of a child or an adult, supplemented by a system of values for the larger social group. *Выхаванне* has the literal meaning of "learning hidden inside" and has an analogy in the Latin *educere*: to identify something potentially hidden, to draw out or develop. Similar terms exist in Polish (*wychowanie*), Ukrainian (*виховання*), and other Eastern European languages. *Выхаванне* describes socialization through the formation of social ideals and values, but including the assumption of individuality, thus respecting every person.

Who uses the concept?

Academics have not yet used the term. In a theoretical and practical sense, it has been used in education, science, culture, mass media, and religion. *Выхаванне* is a major tool for the formation of historical memory, patriotism, cultural behavior, and dialogical thinking. In Belarus and some other countries of Eastern Europe, *Выхаванне* works as a result of an active package of measures and ways of spreading necessary popular knowledge about social phenomena. *Выхаванне* is used to relieve colonial and Soviet sociocultural stereotypes, supporting instead ideas of cultural diversity. In a negative sense, *Выхаванне* may be used to encourage non-critical thinking.

Fit with intercultural dialogue?

Выхаванне promotes human, social, and national solidarity, democratic values, the development of cultural identity, intercultural dialogue and tolerance. Despite encouraging global thinking, intercultural understanding, cultural competence and cultural pluralism, communication of different social groups, parties, and subcultures in the framework of the society, it may also encourage conservatism, provincialism, and ideological limitation. To avoid this, *Выхаванне* should focus on critical and open thinking, involving people in world cultures. *Выхаванне* uses intercultural dialogue as a fundamental basis for nation building and democratic transformation.

What work remains?

Выхаванне must find the balance between preservation of cultural originality and open intercultural dialogue at different levels: individual, local, regional, national, international, global. As far as *Выхаванне* has ambivalent (both positive and negative) possibilities, it's important to choose constructive goals.

Resources

Kuzio, T. (1998). *The politics of multiculturalism, the perils of multiculturalism: A theoretical and area studies approach to the former USSR*. Available: http://www.taraskuzio.net/Nation%20and%20State%20Building_files/1998_kuzio.pdf

Marples, D. R. (1999). National awakening and national consciousness in Belarus. *Nationalities Papers* 27(4), 565-578.