

ABSTRACT

OCCULT SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN MODERN MEDIA AS AN EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE

Electronic media have revolutionarily changed the living conditions of the modern child, who now grows up and develops not only in the environment of the family, school, peer group, but also in the environment of mass media. The development of modern technologies very often leads to a reduction of the educational influence of the family, in favor of the not always positive influence of mass media. Enjoying great popularity among children, books, comic books, movies, computer games quite frequently convey a distorted image of the world, human relations or occult suggestions. The study shows that occult practices in contemporary literature, as well as in mass culture aimed at the younger generation, are not a marginal issue, but rather are at the center of the world presented to them. Many media messages are filled with content harmful to the proper development of children and adolescents. Popular messages show the young viewer a distorted picture of the world, which includes an overrepresentation of occult knowledge, practices and rituals. Many messages use and promote in a playful form elements of magic, witchcraft, Satan worship, esotericism, New Age. The secrets of occult knowledge are presented to children in a very attractive and entertaining form. In this way, popular books, movies or games imperceptibly familiarize children with real occult content. In this situation we are dealing with a cumulative and long-lasting impact, which can cause changes in intellectual, emotional and religious development. Undoubtedly, we can repeat after Italian sociologist Massimo Introvigne that nowadays we are dealing with the „return of magic” on a large scale, because nowadays the young generation learns about magic and the occult not from scientific texts, but through media messages in a “softened” and playful form. An important postulate arising from the dangers of the media is to implement media education among children, parents and teachers. Another postulate is to surround families with greater pastoral care and formation in order to raise awareness on the subject of contemporary spiritual threats.

KEYWORDS

children, media, cultism, education, spiritual threats

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