Review for the volume Social competences and personality by Viorel Robu, published at Lumen Publishing House, 2011

Ana CARAS


The online version of this article can be found at:

http://revistaromaneasca.ro

Published by:
Lumen Publishing House

On behalf of:
Lumen Research Center in Social and Humanistic Sciences
Review for the volume *Social competences and personality* by Viorel Robu, published at Lumen Publishing House, 2011

Ana CARAS

Abstract

The volume *Social competences and personality* by Viorel Robu presents in a descriptive manner the concept of social competence, but also in an exploratory manner the applicability of social skills obtained in a study whose subjects investigated are represented by Psychology specialization students. The author supports the scientific approach initiated by exposing a theoretical and practical part, actually elaborating a gradual information process. The reviewed volume makes a transition from introductory aspects of social skills to methodological elements and furthermore to the applied study, and finishes with the theoretical implications that the author’s approach may have at social-human level. From methodological point of view, the volume presents three models through which the author tried to explain and describe the organization of personality from psychometric approach - factorial models proposed by H. J. Eysenck and R. B. Cattell, called the Big Five model. The Big Five model was developed in the applied undertaken study whose results are presented in the third chapter of this reviewed paper.

Keywords

Review, Social competences and personality, Viorel Robu, social competences, personality

---

1 Ana CARAS - Research assistant at Lumen Research Center in Humanistic and Social Sciences, Iasi, Romania. Ph.D. Candidate at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Politics Sciences, within "Al. Ioan Cuza" University from Iasi, Romania. E-mail: ana.caras.15@gmail.com
Introduction

The present paper is a review for the volume *Social competences and personality* by Viorel Robu. The volume is issued in the context of a changing society, an environment that requires deepening of the concept of *long life learning*, process whose target is actually represented by continuous personal and professional development. The volume approaches the importance of interrelation of imperative determined factors for the progress of postmodern society, the requirement that every young person is ready, so that they can intervene promptly in solving various issues raised by socio-economic and cultural reality and reach social performance, terms used by Caluschi, (2001).

The purpose of this review is the synthesis and presentation of the volume for the public interested in the investigated domain. Social skills development has become a decisive factor in personal development, and implicitly in professional development of individuals.

Presentation of the reviewed text

In his work *Social competences and personality*, Viorel Robu presents in a descriptive manner the concept of social competence, imposed in social psychology by the English psychologist M. Argyle, the topic becoming a key issue in personal and professional development of individuals.

The author emphasizes the importance of awareness of the need for acquisition of social skills, aspect that is expressed through a set of skills, the ability to adopt different roles, depending on the specific of social situations, to influence other individuals, to set easily and adequately interpersonal relationships, to communicate effectively in various interpersonal contexts, to use power, leadership and authority in a appropriate manner, as Marcus states (1997), or defined by M. Argyle (1998) as a pattern behavior that offers to society individuals able to produce certain desired effects on other individuals. Social competence is represented by Argyle (1998) through a descriptive and explanatory model, differentiated into seven components: assertiveness, gratifying and support, nonverbal communication, verbal
communication, empathy and cooperation, knowledge and problem solving, and self-presentation.

I think the work of the author Viorel Robu is an important source of information, of real help in developing further research in applied psychology. The volume approaches the importance of interrelation of imperative determined factors for the progress of postmodern society, the requirement that every young person is ready, so that they can intervene promptly in solving various issues raised by socio-economic and cultural reality and reach social performance, terms used by Caluschi (2001).

The structure of the work *Social competences and personality* elaborated into four chapters, with both theoretical and practical character, allows the possibility of delimitation of the nature of information that the reader acquires. The first part presents the theoretical aspects with introductory role in the studied domain; it facilitates the understanding of meanings of concepts such as social competence and personality as well as the importance they have in the context of further development of the human individual. During the second chapter, the most important trends in the interpretation of the individual human personality - the central concept in the behavioral sciences – are highlighted from a historical perspective.

A substantial area of the chapter was assigned by the author to the contribution that representatives of humanities school had: G. W. Allport, A. Maslow and C. Rogers. Also, the volume presents three models through which the author tried to explain and describe the organization of personality from psychometric approach - factorial models proposed by H. J. Eysenck and R. B. Cattell, called the Big Five model. The Big Five model was developed in the applied undertaken study whose results are presented in the third chapter of the reviewed paper.

In the continuation of the work’s structure, within the third chapter of applied nature, the author distinguishes and retains for his empirical investigation a series of dimensions relevant in terms of description of personality organization, with the explanation of how they contribute to success in social life and in a particular professional area. The correlational nature of the research

conducted on a group of students in Psychology specialization, highlights the ability of the author Viorel Robu to design and carry out a scientific approach in applied psychology as well as the ability to present and critically analyze empirical data. Viorel Robu aims to highlight how empirical relations, which he found in his study, can be exploited by practitioners (trainers, counselors, educational psychologists, specialists in human resources) in social skills training programs.

In the last part of the paper, the author presents theoretical and practical implications of the research that he has performed and the value of research results is analyzed in relation to the theoretical and intervention domain. Furthermore, the usefulness of integrative psycho-diagnosis of social skills of a person is underlined.

Conclusions

The paper elaborated by PhD Viorel Robu is of true utility to researchers, teachers, practitioners in the field of psychological or social work services, trainers, managers from departments of human resources and public relations, students and all professionals interested in transforming the potential that the human individual possesses into performance.

References