Multi-ethnic society makes hard the relationship between teachers and parents (Lansford, Deater-Deckard, Bornstein 2007, Fassin 2010). The phenomenon of emigration makes people meet but there are many differences (with regard to mentality, customs, habits etc.) as well as the common humanity. It could be the opportunity for creating a new civilization, but it is necessary to recognize the basic elements of human identity starting from the recognition of “human rights” as expression of deep humanity (Fedozzi 2004, Hunt 2007).

The role of school is strategic because compulsory education makes every child and every parent in relationship with the school and – through schools – with the society (Actis 2007). From this point of view, the idea of Person is the basic element for recognizing the deep identity of mankind common to every woman and every man (Peroli 2007).

What's the meaning of this concept? In which way the concept of Person, even if it comes out from the Western tradition, could aim at becoming a common concept? The idea of Person helps social integration because it means – at the same time – individuality and relationship. Particularly it means that the human being is an end in him/herself. In fact this is the meaning according to Thomas Aquinas and Kant: human persons are always ends rather than means.

Teacher training can usefully get guidelines if the concept of Person increases in value. In fact it means that the human being needs to be in relation with the others and – at the same time – to be recognized as “intrinsically end”. If we connect this attitude with a new approach to Western cultural identity as intrinsically related to “difference” (cfr. the Greek idea of koinè, the Alexandrian cosmopolitanism, the Roman humanitas, the Christian universality, the Modern acknowledge of human rights and the Contemporary idea of Global village), we can train the teachers to appreciate all children as “intrinsically ends” offering – together with their parents – a new cultural contribution which is consistent with the presence of “difference” in the European history. All these perspectives are represented from the concept of Person. It's a chance for citizenship too (Naval, Montserrat, 2007).

Keywords:
Culture, Difference, Parents, Person, Relationship, Teachers, West
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