

SOCIAL STUDY

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Transformation of the social institution of higher education: development of the scientific category

The article offers results derived from theoretical research on the sociological category “transformation of the social institution of higher education”, which is represented as a shift of the whole higher education system or its components from one state to a different one as a result of chaotic and/or organized internal changes, caused by the excess of the tolerable level of imbalanced and non-linear relations between the system and the environment. This transitional period possesses features of disbalance and violation of cause-and-effect conditionality of all social phenomena, the state in which it becomes impossible to predict any further direction of the system’s development. Organizational transformations, a type of organized internal changes, are used to exemplify transformations of the social institution of higher education. Two types of organizational changes, in accordance with T.G. Cummings and C.G. Worley’s typology, are distinguished. They are: fundamental changes and reorientation. These changes presume radical renovation of the organizational structures and processes; they are serious in-depth conversions in organizations of the social institution of higher education.

Key words: social institution, higher education, social changes, transformation of the social institution of higher education.

April, 15, 2014
