

Summary

Life cycles in the context of social pedagogy

The time of social, cultural, economic and political transformation began in Poland many years ago. These transformations are reflected in the dynamics of challenges and changes in activity that an individual has to face in various life domains. Some of the consequences of such changes trigger social unrest and they are mainly identified as threats to life or factors threatening conditions appropriate for living. They also have an afflictive impact on the quality of life, contributing rather frequently to a crisis in the purpose of one's life or even a feeling that one's life is pointless. When faced with various disenchantments and with a lack of stability in everyday life coupled up with insecurity about the future, both the individual and society are presented with further challenges. This is where social pedagogy steps in to help deal with such challenges. It is a subdiscipline of humanities that focuses on the social environment as a factor contributing to the upbringing process, socialisation and support within all stages of an individual's life, i.e. childhood, youth, adulthood and old age. This book puts the emphasis on this particular aspect, i.e. how important each of these stages of life is for theoretical deliberations, research inspirations and, finally, the (very much required) practical applications of social pedagogy.

Translated by Rob Pagett