

Abstract

The starting point of the study is the frequently stated change in technically developed societies in general and in gainful employment in particular. The postulate of overall social change is described as modernisation, which is characterised by a realignment of labour and education policy, pluralisation, prevailing the intensification of precarity, decisively by a progressive democratisation of different spheres of life as well as by the significant increase in part-time gainful employment since the beginning of the 21st century.

Following on from publications in the labour, social and socio-scientific sciences, which identify and criticise the serious socio-economic disadvantages of long-term part-time employment for the working age as well as and in particular for the retirement age, a theoretically interdisciplinary examination of the Federal German law, the associated financial incentives, the influence of European policy and the existing institutions, implicitly their application to gainful employment, it is revealed what systemic structural conditions are necessary and possible in the Federal Republic of Germany to compensate for the negative socio-economic effects of part-time gainful employment.

In the empirical part of the study, the institutionalised employee representation, the trade union, is subjected to an internet-based online survey in order to identify its influence and the power of trade unions to shape part-time employment and to qualify it for intended structural changes to the system. Consequently, the question (1) that guides the study, namely which system-structural instruments enable socio-economically sustainable gainful employment in part-time work, is answered by complementing the empirically and theoretically analysed state of the German structures and by pointing out the system-structural possibilities for change derived from this that give part-time gainful employment the characteristic of socio-economic sustainability. This fulfils the desideratum of eliciting fundamental premises, extends them with decisive modifications and transfers them to the discourse of the social and socio-scientific disciplines. Educational science consequences are drawn from the answers to the research question (1) about the system-structural conditions for socio-economically sustainable part-time employment. Consequently, the research question (2) about the educational consequences that result from the answer to research question (1) is answered with an approach to the modernisation of school socialisation that includes the conceptualisation of a curricular advancement of school education and its institutionalised influence on gainful employment.

Using pedagogically contemporary instructions for school development and pedagogical counselling, fields of action of educational science are consolidated, expanded and opened up, and system-immanent changes are generated that accompany the identified, system-structural modifications and, in combination, strengthen the position of school education against the background of societal modernisation.