

SUMMARIES

M. COLASANTO, *The vocational training system: potentialities and limits.*

This paper considers the vocational training as a fundamental channel to transmit abilities, know how and attitudes enabling individuals — either working or non working — to face the challenge of labour market and technological change. The value of human resources and of vocational training has to be founded in the local labour dynamics, in the economic development of each area. In fact, the vocational training is closely linked with labour policy, technological innovations and organisations. The author emphasizes the community dimension of the productive system.

S. CORTELLAZZI, *The public of vocational training: between choices and loss of meaning.*

The author analyzes changes in the vocational training system and their relationships with the global social system moving from a change in the public. During the last years, the target of the vocational training system varied a lot and today presents a remarkable complexity. Therefore, the vocational training system has gradually lost its image of education for labourers of low and medium level. Today it is not longer possible to define its borders with respect to other parts of the educational system such as high schools, universities or specific labour policies. Due to these reasons the author, stating Augé, defines the vocational training system as a «non place».

I. PICCOLI, *Labour organization and vocational training.*

The author examines how the labour organization has changed either in the industrial and in the service sectors. Accordingly, he points out how — especially during the last years — the concept of professional skills has been dramatically transformed. In the past, this was connected to a job or to the knowledge of a specific machinery. Today, professional abilities are principally linked to the working situation in which every worker is required to be a decision maker, to be available to know new things, to be cooperative with colleagues and so on. As far as the vocational training system is concerned, this involves a radical change in its contents and goals, because the largest part of professional abilities can now be obtained only in the workplace.

M. NIERO, *Life quality: measuring actors' subjectivity and physiology.*

Despite a widespread use of the term life quality in the current mass media vocabulary, its scientific status is rather poor in the Italian scientific debate. This concept has been too frequently, employed unsystematically even in the scientific literature. After having analyzed some metatheoretical aspects of the debate, the author reviews various empirical solutions given to this notion aiming at pointing out the theoretical implications useful to emphasize the implicit actors' physiology. To do this, the research fields in which this term has been more widely employed — such as international surveys and sociology of health — will be considered.



Z.K. PALIOS - E. VASSILAKI, *School examinations and social control.*

This paper does not deal with the problem of social control in the Greek society. An analysis of the existing or alternative practices and means that regulate and secure the cohesion and continuity of societies or social formations lies outside the limits of this work. This paper is concerned with the problems produced by the evaluation systems, with a special emphasis for the examinations in higher education, as events that may contribute to social control through the psychological stress they generate on those who go through some kind of evaluation. The authors argue that an educational procedure may favour social control in a society which, having traditionally overvalued educational credentials, is unable to overcome stress and anxiety.