**Reading reflection - Topic 1**

Absolutely, there are a number of aspects of the neoliberal approach to teaching science that may have a negative impact in the long term:

Reducing Funding for Basic Research: A neoliberal approach focused on cost-effectiveness may result in reduced funding for basic research, which may not always be immediately profitable. In the long term, this can reduce the potential for discovery and innovation.

Reduced emphasis on public needs: When priority is given to economic gain, there may be an avoidance of addressing issues that do not have a clear commercial interest. This can lead to neglect of important social and environmental issues that require attention in the long term.

Threats to scientific independence and critical thinking: The commercialization of science, part of the neoliberal approach, can jeopardize the scientific independence and freedom of researchers. This can limit critical thinking and free inquiry, which are the basis of scientific progress in the long term.

Rising Costs of Education: Neoliberal reforms in education are often associated with increasing costs of education. This can create a barrier to access to higher education for many people, limiting the diversity of knowledge and ideas in the long term.

Liberation from obligations to society: The neoliberal approach often emphasizes individual success and competition, while obligations to society may become secondary. This can lead to a loss of social responsibility and deterioration of social conditions in the long term.

Overall, maintaining a balance between economic interests and social values in science teaching is essential to ensure sustainable and productive scientific and educational development in the long term.

Commercialization in science education can negatively impact various aspects of the educational system and the scientific research process. Here are some reasons why many criticize commercialization in this area:

Focus on profit at the expense of quality: When educational institutions face pressure to maximize profits, it can lead to cuts in educational spending, fewer faculty and researchers, and a decline in the overall quality of teaching and research.

Commercialization of Curricula: In the context of commercialization, curricula may be designed less for academic relevance and more for market demand. This can lead to a loss of breadth of knowledge and a narrower educational experience.

Threats to Academic Freedom: Commercial interests can put pressure on scientists and teachers to suppress their academic freedom. Research and teaching may be influenced by commercial interests, which can lead to research bias and critical thinking being undermined.

Access to Education: When education becomes commercialized, the cost of education can rise dramatically, creating a barrier to access for many students. This results in worsening social mobility and opportunities for those who cannot afford the high costs of education.

Reduced innovation: When commercial interests are given priority, it can lead to a reduction in research that is not immediately commercially profitable. This can slow down scientific discovery and innovation.

In general, commercialization in science education can create an imbalance between commercial interests and the public goals of education and research. A balanced approach, paying attention to both economic and social aspects, is an important condition for maintaining a quality educational and scientific system.

I am deeply concerned about the neoliberal turn in higher education. Modern trends in the education system, oriented towards market principles and profitability, create serious challenges for students, teachers and the entire educational environment.

One of the main aspects of this approach is the fascination with the commercialization of education. Educational institutions are now often viewed as businesses and students as customers. This leads to a de-emphasis on the quality of education in favor of the desire to maximize profits. As a result, there is growing pressure on students, leading to the commercialization of educational programs and loss of academic freedom.

The neoliberal approach also undermines the idea of education as a public good. Education should be accessible and evenly distributed, rather than becoming a privilege for those who can afford high tuition costs. The rising costs of education create barriers for many talented students who cannot afford the costs.

It is important to return the focus to the social value of education, to student support and academic freedom. The transformation of higher education must move towards creating an inclusive, innovative and socially responsible environment that contributes to the development of society as a whole, rather than being limited by the pursuit of economic gain.