

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION: STRENGTHENING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN SCHOOLS

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Abstract

Multicultural education is an educational approach that is considered essential in preparing students to live and work in a plural society. This effort aims to develop intercultural communication and understanding among students at school. Through multicultural education, schools strive to promote awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of cultural diversity and to instil values of tolerance and mutual respect. Educational practices such as curriculum integration, culturally responsive teaching, the use of technology, and community involvement, are all aimed at providing a supportive learning environment and educating students to be world citizens who speak and empathize. Multicultural education not only changes the perspective of the individual, but also contributes to the development of a more harmonious society. Through the implementation of these strategies, multicultural education promises better understanding and cross-cultural cooperation among students, which is a valuable asset in this ever-developing and increasingly interconnected world.

Keywords: Education, Multicultural, Communication, Intercultural, School.

Introduction

Education plays a key role in shaping individuals who can contribute in a multicultural environment. The role of educators and educational institutions is becoming increasingly complex and critical, not only in providing basic knowledge but also in developing students' intercultural competences. (Banks, J. A., & Banks, 2019). Multicultural education aims to instill these skills, giving students the opportunity to learn about cultural differences and diversity in a way that respects and celebrates each culture, so that deep understanding is born, not just tolerance. (Liu et al., 2020).

In practice, a multicultural approach not only encompasses the integration of diverse learning materials but also creates an inclusive and conducive school environment for intercultural dialogue. Schools that practice this approach are encouraged to innovate in curricula and teaching methodologies, by opening up space for discussion on cultural identity, discrimination, equality, and human rights. (Voevoda, E. V. 2020). Multicultural education is about preparing students not only to be able to compete in the global economy, but also to be responsible world citizens who value the principles of diversity and equality of rights (Rachmadtullah et al., 2020).

Thus, multicultural education acts not only as a transfer of knowledge but also as a field for the development of understanding and intercultural communication.