



The Relationship between Democratic and Multicultural Education

DEMOCRATIC AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
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Democratic Education

- When citizens rule in a democracy, they determine, among other things, how future citizens will be educated.
- Democratic Edu: “You cannot be a ruler unless you have first been ruled”
- Democratic Edu: Political socialisation as a societal process by which democratic societies transmit political values, attitudes and mode of behaviour to citizens in a given context.

(Gutmann, 1987)



Democratic Edu

- “Conscious Social Reproduction”: the ways in which citizens are or should be empowered to influence the education that in turn shape the political values, attitudes and mode of behaviour of future citizens.
 - Democratic Edu: (i) effective participation of stakeholders in decision making process; with (ii) equal status; given (iii) sufficed and enlightened understanding of related public matters; and open opportunities to (iv) control the agenda.
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Notes on Democracy and Education

- Environment: constantly influencing what and who are children and what and who they will become; either educative (constructive) or destructive?
- Fundamental objective of education: the development of individual dignity and self-realization within a context of community.
- The growth of individual and society is inextricably related; and democracy is the ideal form of socialization and education for both their maximal development.


(Dewey, 1916)




Multicultural Education

- The idea that all students—regardless of their gender, social class, and ethnic, racial, or cultural characteristics—should have an equal opportunity to learn in school.
- That some students, because of these characteristics, have a better chance to learn in schools as they are currently structured than do students who belong to other groups or who have different socio-cultural characteristics.


▪ (Banks, 2010:3)




Similar Missions

- Democracy is a social contract of the people, by the people and for the people; and
 - Education is instrumental to its creation, survival and vitality.
 - Multicultural Education is a symbol and an evocation of the right of the social contract of democracy.
 - So, the structure and process of education need to be renegotiated to make them more inclusive of the cultures, experiences, perspectives and contributions of all social class, ethnic and/or religious groups in the society.
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Similar Missions

- Democracy espouses both effective participation and contestation of given topics with open-access information for every citizens; so they can transform the betterment of society.
 - Multicultural Education teaches students (i) how to be a critical thinkers and socio-political analysts; (ii) to challenge all presumption of absolute truths, and (iii) to be moral agents and socially conscious activists committed to reconstruct and transform the society model the principles of democracy of diverse people.
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Intersecting Principles (1)

- Education should embody the cultural heritages and experiences of all people who comprise the society;
 - Should respond directly to needs and interests of all segments of the population; and
 - Its policy and operational decisions should reflect the perspectives, presence and influence of diverse ethnic, class, gender, cultural and religious groups.
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Intersecting Principles (2)

- All students have access to public education, that include:
 - Availability of teaching/learning resources/materials;
 - Quality and relevance instructional contents and learning activities for diverse students;
 - Absence of intrusive obstacle from teachers;
 - Equity of education opportunities for people from difference social groups;
 - Multitude of voices and expressions in the teaching/learning processes and knowledge productions.
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Intersecting Principles (3)

- All students in all grade levels, subject areas and school settings should learn about ethnic, class, cultural, racial and religious diversity.
 - Multicultural education is both about and for everyone; not just marginalized and under-privileged groups in terms class, gender, ethnic, culture and religion.
 - The process is supposed to place and make them realize the inherent, inevitable and unescapable differences and diversities within the society; and different and varied experiences amongst them.
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Further Readings:

- Gay, G (1997) The Relationship between Multicultural and Democratic Education. *The Social Studies*, Jan/Feb.
 - Gutmaan, A (1987) *Democratic Education*. New Jersey: Princeton Uni Press.
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