

Role of Inclusive Education in Multiculturalism and Global Citizenship

Aparna Yerramilli*

Abstract

We live in a world which has many cultures and diversities, a world where 6500 languages are spoken. The SDG-4 aims at and addresses the aspects of ensuring inclusive and equitable education with quality standards to promote lifelong learning opportunities for everyone. Inclusion means that every child has innate strengths explore learning and growth opportunities. A classroom should be crammed with optimism where an error isn't to be feared but viewed as a learning experience. Multiculturalism is a phenomenon where different diversities of cultures, races, and ethnicities, with specific reference to minority groups and their differences are acknowledged. This paper aims at understanding the link between inclusive education and multiculturalism which lies in a classroom with students from several different countries and who speak different languages embracing each other's culture. Similar to Multiculturalism, Global citizenship enhances and encourages personal respect and respect for others, in a multicultural and global arena. It enforces individuals to reflect and introspect deeply and critically about equitability and sustainability. The paper also gives brief information about the important role that inclusive education plays in global citizenship. The evolving of inclusion in multiculturalism and global citizenship from the past to present and the deeds that will happen in the future also form the core of the paper.

Keywords: Global Citizenship, Culture, Ethnicities, Sustainable Development Goals, Inclusion, Multiculturalism

INTRODUCTION

Aristotle, the Greek Philosopher said that "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom. India is a diverse country.[1] Exploring the world is a way to celebrate diversity. We're people with unique traditions and cultures. Humans communicate with each other employing a glowing array of languages, each differing from posterior in numerous ways.[2] In 2013, German experimenter Erkan Goren had released a study that measured the quantum of artistic diversity in 180 countries worldwide [3].

The world's most cultured country is the African nation of Chad [4]. Education is a process of continuous learning and enhancing one's knowledge in varied ways, seeing, touching, feeling, sensing, hearing and acting and also consists of socialisation within a particular social group. What one learns or preaches is what reflects their conduct towards well-being. Hence, inclusive education plays an important part in literacy and embracing different societies where people get to partake and change ideas. A central purpose of this paper is to highlight the significance of inclusive education in multiculturalism and global citizenship

*Author for Correspondence

Aparna Yerramilli
E-mail: apamapammi@gvpce.ac.in

Faculty from the Department of Management Studies, from
GVP College of Engineering (A), Visakhapatnam, Andhra
Pradesh, India

Received Date: December 24, 2022
Accepted Date: February 08, 2023
Published Date: March 30, 2023

Citation: Aparna Yerramilli, Role of Inclusive Education in
Multiculturalism and Global Citizenship, NOLEGEIN Journal of
Global Marketing, 2022; 5(2): 26–32p.

LITERATURE REVIEW

To analyse the existing situation and identify the constraints of the problem, a literature survey is

carried out for the provision of an overview of the current knowledge related to the problem to demonstrate and develop an implementation plan to overcome the existing drawbacks. Many countries are using positive, appreciable, and innovative methods and approaches to make a transition towards Inclusive learning. Countries such as Spain, Portugal have already adopted this system and are meeting its needs successfully. Despite the 14 years of the Millennium Development Goal, the methods used and the quality of schooling patterns have not been up to the mark of students reflecting their literacy and numeracy levels [5].

UNESCO stated that although many moves and actions have been taken to include an inclusive education system, many factors such as lack of sufficiently trained teachers, buildings with poor infrastructure, stereotyping, alienation of minorities even after implementation of suitable laws, etc., are acting as barriers. On the other hand, many countries are including different approaches in making students understand and make the most out of the educational facilities offered. The state of Odisha in the Indian Subcontinent included 21 tribal languages for teaching in its classrooms. An African country—Kenya changed its curriculum following the nomadic calendar [6].

An article on Inclusive education in India by JD Singh stated that the Indian Government has been continuously working in providing quality educational benefits to children in every corner of the country. Policies such as Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), The Kothari Commission, and many other programs made a special focus on integrating children with disabilities with the normal schooling patterns. The Government's official estimations say that 26 million (2.1%) people in the country are disabled out of which 75% are from rural areas.

The journey of achieving inclusive education in India is a long and arduous one with many challenges as well as opportunities to be explored. In a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-religious country like ours, with sharp socio economic and caste related stratifications, inclusion needs work on supporting the diverse groups of students [7].

The Evaluation from the Past to Present

Ancient History

When we think of India, The first thing that hits our mind is that India is a vast country with a variety of cultures, diversities, different educational systems and many more. When we take a look at the ancient education in India, students (who were called as shishyas) went to gurukulams for learning various things from the gurus (teachers). The gurus and the shishyas used to reside at the same place which kept the bond between them very strong and equality was maintained among themselves. The shishyas treated their guru as their god. Most of the classes were taught in a disciplined and a well-mannered way.

During the ancient period of Vedic, practical things were given more importance when compared to theories. The education was in such a manner that students were able to inculcate, identify and nurture individual skills [8].

The Rig-Veda, Samaveda, Ayurveda and Atharvaveda teach and focus only on one thing, i.e. 'you will be an educator when you put your thought and what you have learnt to be put into action. During their teaching, gurus include Mahabharata, Ramayana and Bhagwadgeetha in their teaching to make the shishyas understand the way of living, do(s) and don't(s), how to deal with problems.

The ancient Indian education invented the number 'zero', identified many scholars, doctors and it is this very educational system proved that earth is round in shape. There is a slogan in Sanskrit that goes by – 'अनन्दानं परं दानं विद्यादानं अतः परम् ।

अन्नेन
क्षितिकृतं यो विज्जी
विचक्षितो ॥ '

This slogan describes how providing food to someone when they are need is charitable, but making people educated is the supreme form of charity.

This beautiful and great education system which contributed in various aspects gradually vanished in India after 1835 and was replaced by the modern education system which has more uniform manner [9]. Many people still believe that ancient Indian education system is the best form of education than that of the present ones. The modern systems focus more on marks, grades, theories than in practical works. Indian education system believed that the key of education is to maintain equality, explore things and put them into practice. The modern education fails to do this in most aspects. Education institutes play a very crucial role in removing barriers of caste, religion and various other discriminations between students but are failing to do so. These stereotypical beliefs are being hammered into the brains of students as well as their parents. Many people are aware of the fact that India is a large country with a wide range of cultures, religions etc. This vastness is making things more complicated than the usual. The modern educational institutes should remove the barriers and provide educational facilities without any disparities.

Multiculturalism and global citizenship advances social justice provides rigorous academically content leading to inclusive education. Here are some of the words said by some speakers which created an impact.

Alicia Halbach-gave a TED talk on the topic "Is multiculturalism the future". She shared a story saying that when she was in college, the students were different from each other. They were from different cultures, countries. Their names and language also sounded strange to her. She often felt excluded. But over time, she adapted and learned a few words in their languages and as she got to know them better she realized that they are not as different as she thinks. Their cultures, routines, dressing style, language were not just different but unique in their way, like the same way she is. In the end, no matter how we look or what we speak, wear, or do we are all the same and unique in our ways [10].

METHODOLOGY

This research paper explains the effects of inclusive education in multiculturalism and global citizenship providing insights taken directly from how people feel about the concept. Learning about different cultures from the past inspired us to know more about the evaluation and the reasons behind the changes happening around the globe in various aspects. We have conducted a small game show which is a quiz on different cultures and open-mindedness in broadening communities leading to the strengthening of global citizenship. The participants showed great enthusiasm as we started. The energy maintained was consistent and positive throughout the game. The participants also showed great self-esteem and interest in team play where they got united with coordination. In the end, each of them learned how much knowledge about cultures they lack about their peers and realized the amount of abundant exploration that is still there to be done out of interest. Further, when they started discussing different stories based on each other's unique ethnicities turned the aura into an interesting and positive one. This experiment helped us in a better understanding of people's mindsets in this diverse world.

In this technology-driven world, meaningful data is more valuable than gold. To obtain proper information, we conducted a survey and gathered data to have a clear understanding of people's perception towards multiculturalism and global citizenship. They have provided views on how equal diversifying and coping up with different kinds of people will help in building internal growth.

RESULTS

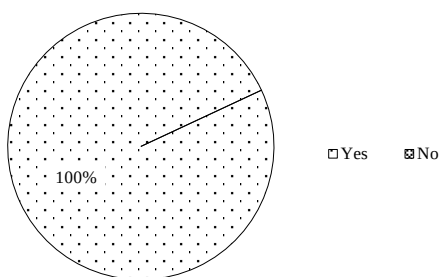
Primary Research

(Figure 1) Most people think that inclusive education plays an important role in multiculturalism and global citizenship. An appreciable amount of people believed that it is important to respect each person's culture, where one mentioned that each person is unique in their way and everyone have special cultures

and norms passed down from their ancestors. They agree on the fact that although many people disrespect each other's culture, culture is an aspect on which generations of customs and wellbeing are constructed.

Figure 1. (Multiculturalism and global citizenship).

did you think Inclusive Education plays an important role in Multiculturalism?



Did your school offer opportunities to learn about different diversities?

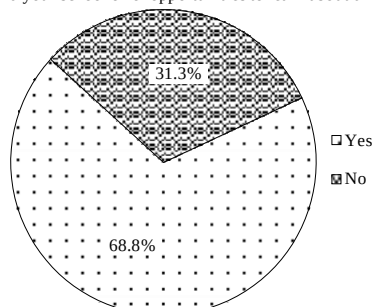


Figure 2. (school opportunities).

(Figure 2) The core of education starts from laying foundations at the school level. Young children set foot, expecting to learn something and be challenged in every aspect and they should be given platforms to build their strengths and also respect other people's interests and their veracities. A majority of 66.8% assured that their schools offered opportunities to learn about different diversities whereas 31.3% did not get to experience the same.

(Figure 3) A pep talk or a discussion highlighting the positive and negative points brings out an understanding in differentiating between right and wrong. A large number of people i.e. 87.5% discuss multifarious diversity-related issues with their families and their peers and 12.5% of them do not bring up such topics.

(Figure 4) Inclusive education is about finding your inner strengths and portraying them beautifully in their original form harnessing each person's innovation and potentials. An unfortunate, 50% of the people faced criticism or felt insecure because of being who they are and have encountered culture-based discriminations in the society wherein most of them hesitated to mention examples of such inequalities. The other 50% have never felt a feeling of such sort.

Did you discuss diversity related issues with your friends or families?

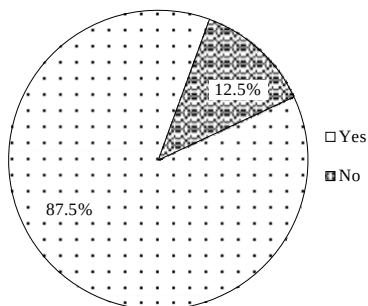


Figure 3. (diversity issues).

Did you ever face criticism or felt insecure because of being who you are?

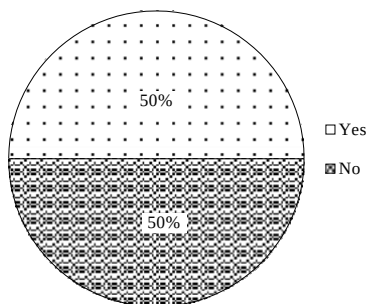


Figure 4. (criticism).

(Figure 5) A multitudinous amount of 92.9% agreed that their present education curriculum and course offerings reflect the lives, perceptions, and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds (Figure 6). All of the respondents mentioned that they show interest in exploring different cultures where they share and exchange knowledge about each other's uniqueness.

Does your curriculum and course offerings reflect the lives, perceptions, and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds?

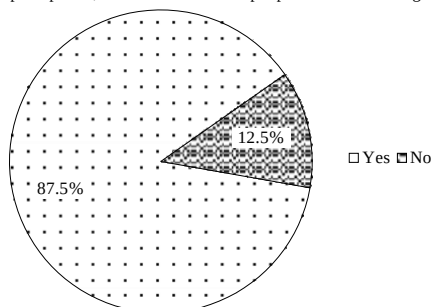


Figure 5. (about diverse backgrounds)

Do you show interest in exploring about different cultures?

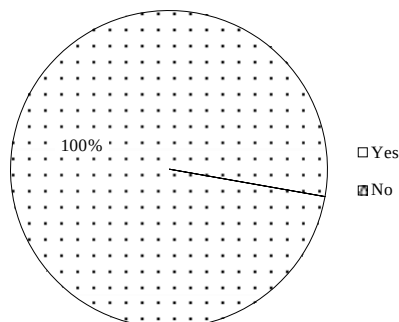


Figure 6. (interest in different cultures).

When asked about how people think that our country should change in terms of Culture discrimination and in involving inclusive education, the respondents jotted some important facts based on the changes. To summarise, some believe that all people need to be included in the same set of classrooms but when it comes to physically disabled, it might raise issues on various aspects. Some say that in our country, a citizen of every caste, creed, race, and community should be treated equally. The misconceptions and false mindsets of many people regarding caste and culture have to be removed from their thoughts.

DISCUSSIONS

There are efforts internationally to incorporate children of all types within the educational mainstream under one roof. There are some children with unique potential like for example gifted children. They have uniqueness in them and sometimes they face certain barriers to learning and participation in the classroom. This is majorly due to inadaptable environment in their class rooms or school environs. As such, children with special needs have to be put into main stream class rooms. We need to create an environment where children get to represent themselves in the way they are strong and comfortable. With the help of inclusive education students can make the barriers between different cultures and communities negligible which also improves one's social skills and enhances or broadens their way of thinking in believing that "we all live under the same sky" and have a unique of our own.

Few measures that can be taken to improve inclusive education based on multiculturalism and global citizenship are-

- Right to Education must be implemented all across the country. The concept of inclusive education must be made comprehensive so as to addresses the various needs of all the learners.
- Inclusive education should be flexible, in terms of curriculum, teaching methods and methodologies of reaching out to different kinds of learners.
- All festivals must be given equal importance and need to be celebrated so thought everyone can share the knowledge of ethnicities and cultures.
- Students must be given the chance to identify their strengths and develop in the same and opportunities must be given based on talents and potentials.
- Empowering students as leaders and teachers, incorporating global stories into curriculums.
- Going on field trips and taking time to reflect on the world around you, volunteering for social causes.
- Teaching culture through art and music and including lessons on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Connecting with people and participating in international programs. Socializing and maintaining an open mind to know about different cultures. A head start would be by knowing your peers.

- By encouraging each person's uniqueness paves the way in developing their hobbies and passions.
- Travelling, reading books is a major way through which children learn about different cultures and people and the diversities.
- Schools have become learning hubs for children to learn about global information.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION-

Young children start their fascinating journey of life in a small boat and enter into an ocean of knowledge. They will be driven with a map of success shown by their family, teachers, and their interests by the time their small boats turn into ships where they will be the captain and learn about their strengths and uniqueness. They must be thought that this is a journey of wellbeing where each ship is different from the other but yet unique in its way. Children must be shown the right path by being their moral compasses. Irrespective of the deep-rooted inequalities like caste, religion, color, gender, dressing style, language, culture, ethnicity, etc., discrimination should be shown in any aspect and should be treated based on skill, potential, talents, and strengths. The world is an amazing place with beautiful people who are unique in their way representing themselves globally and making their entire community, country, and themselves proud. This can be possible with inclusive education where a person can start gaining knowledge with an open mind because they get to meet people with different backgrounds and uniqueness. These differences are what make you special and each person should start embracing those and show interest in exploring different aspects of the world because the human mind is limitless and each of us are inevitable without any boundaries to knowledge, imagination, creativity, and whatnot.

Reference

1. Multiculturalism | Definition, Impact, Challenges, & Facts | Britannica. In: Encyclopædia Britannica [Internet]. 2023 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/multiculturalism>
2. What is Global Citizenship Education? — IDEAS. IDEAS [Internet]. IDEAS. 2014 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://www.ideas-forum.org.uk/what-is-global-citizenship-education>
3. Erkan Gören [Internet]. ResearchGate. ResearchGate; 2022 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/Erkan-Goeren-2029133793>
4. klaus. Chad-Tchad-Country Profile-Nations Online Project [Internet]. Nationsonline.org. 2015 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/chad.htm>
5. World of Inclusion-[Internet]. Worldofinclusion.com. 2014 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <http://worldofinclusion.com/>
6. UNESCO report on inclusion in education shows 40% of poorest countries did not provide specific support to disadvantaged learners during COVID-19 crisis [Internet]. Unesco.org. 2020 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-report-inclusion-education-shows-40-poorest-countries-did-not-provide-specific-support>
7. Inclusive Education in India-Concept, Need and Challenges [Internet]. Available from: <https://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/presentations-and-webinars/India%20inclusion%20article.pdf>
8. Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8 [Internet]. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press; 2015 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/19401/chapter/12>
9. Wikipedia Contributors. English Education Act 1835 [Internet]. Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation; 2023 [cited 2023 Mar 10]. Available from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Education_Act_1835
10. TEDx Talks. Is Multiculturalism the Future? | Alicia Halbach | TEDxYouth@TBSWarsaw [Internet]. YouTube. 2019 [cited 2023 Mar 10].