

ECE 210-110 (W)

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### Multicultural education/curriculum

Multicultural education refers to any form of education or teaching that incorporates the histories, texts, values, beliefs, and perspectives of people from different cultural backgrounds. At the classroom level, for example, teachers may modify or incorporate lessons to reflect the cultural diversity of the students in a particular class. In many cases, "culture" is defined in the broadest possible sense, encompassing race, ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, class, gender, sexual orientation, and "exceptionality"—a term applied to students with specialized needs or disabilities. (The Glossary of Education Reform, 2013).

According to the father of multicultural curriculum, James A. Banks, the multicultural curriculum is a big issue (Banks, 1993), now more than ever more and more bilingual students are enrolling in early ages school. Schools are becoming more diverse. More educators are introducing multicultural curriculum programs to help children understand as well as appreciate the differences among them. The different terms to understand are in terms of race, religion, and other personal characteristics. This is a serious problem. It impacts your learning and understanding skills. It is not just a problem for children, but it is also a problem for the parents /guardians who are unable to communicate with their child's teachers.

Children are being affected by this because children in non-English speaking families or children with different cultural backgrounds may find it difficult to understand and communicate

information or directions being given. Children can also become antisocial and very distant. Some children may even experience bullying because of the language barrier or because other kids don't understand that specific culture. Students with multicultural education are often better equipped to work in a diverse classroom.

Families can be affected because they would have a hard time reading different communications that may come home from the child's school. Families may not want to be involved in the child's education because they can't communicate or even understand what's going on. Many parents and their children have a difficult time with school and the education system due to a language barrier and a lack of knowledge on how education itself works. The Journal of Language Studies states, "Although the focus of the current study was on children and adolescents, a review of the literature with a focus on adults, to large extent, provided theoretical inputs previous studies in language attitudes. There has been a growing awareness of the importance of adult attitudes toward languages since adult language attitudes shaped their interactions with those who have different language backgrounds. These language attitude experiences were even believed to have long-term consequences in respect, decision-making in planning and implementing language and educational policies"(Lee, 2018).

Communities are affected by this issue because there are many language barriers as communication can be a problem. Multicultural Curriculum has made a significant and positive impact on society by bringing equality, justice to the community. If we apply a multicultural curriculum to academics, we can accomplish much more with children who have a hard time socializing. If we ignore this issue, it may lead to social exclusion. Many multicultural families experience racism and stereotypes just on their appearance alone.

The areas affected by this issue are schools, classrooms, and the student body including parents and teachers. The groups who are diverse cultures are the main people that struggle to adjust to other cultures as they face stereotypes, racism, impatience even.

Intervention is needed at an early age for 5-year-olds and up, as they are introduced to many things and their learning abilities start to function even more. Children learn and practice what they are taught to them, so both children and families, and even teachers need to come together and help make their learning environment feel safe and understood. (Nieto, 1992).

We cannot wait until they are 10, 20 years old. It is best if they start early, the earlier the better. Coming from personal experience I have felt that I was a slow learner and ashamed of it because teachers I use to have sometimes did not have patience with me and I do not want a child to ever feel that way. If you wait until your children are in middle school or high school, they may experience speech difficulties, learning and listening difficulties. They may feel overwhelmed and stressed and may feel like they are behind in comprehending a lesson. This jeopardizes their confidence and they become quiet, not even asking a question in fear of sounding ridiculous. (Nieto, 1992).

The way I will fix these issues is that I will interview many families that have been struggling with these issues. I will interview teachers and ask questions as to how they handle situations and what are their lesson plans when they come across multicultural students. I will research further on how we can improve students learning capabilities without having to exclude them. If we listen to teachers and others, we can always find a solution and improve what needs to be done.

A change I'm advocating for is to implement multicultural education/curriculum into schools. I want the school to be more transparent in all communications to families.

My target audience is teachers, program directors, principals, The New York City Department of Education, the Chancellor, and other administrators who develop and decide what the curriculum should be in various schools and programs Every single one of these individuals can help change a child's life. The multicultural curriculum applies to everyone involved because we are all here to do what's best for the children.

### Research Source Summaries

*Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education* by Sonia Nieto was written in 1992. Ms. Nieto is a theorist who focused on multicultural theory, socialism, and cultural pedagogy. a pioneer in bilingual education. Her article is very informative and supports the idea that a multicultural curriculum is important in a child's social and educational life. I chose this article to summarize because It contains the goals we need to reach to succeed, what tactics need to be reached, and achievements that can be accomplished.

*Effects Multicultural Parents have on their Children* by Marta Talamo, Janai Gibson, Daniela Goncalves, Danielle Baquerizo, Hannah Bollinger, 2015 talks about how difficult it is for parents to stay engaged with their children's education because of the language barrier. Parents find it hard to be involved with the child's education because they don't understand. This issue makes the child feel less important because they don't have the support they need from their families.

The Glossary of Education Reform, written in 2013, gives a very detailed description of what multicultural education is. This article also shows how families are affected because of the language barrier. Teachers are affected because it would be difficult trying to communicate with families efficiently. It also shows some solutions that can be implemented so communication between families and teachers is effective.

#### Small Advocacy Action

I will demonstrate the problem with accurate facts and by sharing students, teachers, and or parents /guardian's real-life stories. I will interview many families that have been struggling with these issues. I will interview teachers and ask questions as to how they handle the situation and what are their lesson plans when they come across multicultural students. I will do more research on how we can improve students learning capabilities without having to exclude them.

#### Large Advocacy Action

I will work alongside teachers, program directors, principals, the NYCDOE Chancellor, and other administrators to implement our intervention with change by looking for groups who support multicultural curriculums such as bilingual services. I will involve parents/guardians and inform them about their child's academic levels in the best way possible. I will introduce many theorists who have ideas on how to apply the multicultural curriculum in our life and the lives of our children to make both their academic and social life better.

Children, families, and parents are my stakeholders. Families such as parents/ guardians also have the power to help their children look and dig deeper into how they can find appropriate help for their child if they feel they are struggling in a certain area in school. Community-based

learning can help create special programs to help children and parents because they focused on how to inform parents/ guardians on how to help their children at home.

### Commentary

I chose this topic because I feel that we need multicultural curriculum/education in schools now more than ever. There are a lot of different cultural backgrounds in the school system and so few resources for them to succeed. This subject is meaningful because to me children need to know about the different cultural around the world. I feel children will be more successful the more they know. This topic will help implement multicultural curriculum/education in my center. I will introduce different cultures and languages to my center. My center will be equipped to welcome all types of families.

EPIC Message

Dear Chancellor Porter,

E-My name is Sherry Davis, currently studying to be a professional in Early Childhood Education. I'm here before you to address the issue that I and many others feel that multicultural Curriculum needs to be implemented in the educational system. There is a major language barrier between families and educators. Chancellor Porter, I feel you have the power to make these changes, so children and families from all diverse backgrounds can feel included.

P-Our educational system needed to include Multicultural Curriculum. Schools and our Communities are becoming more diverse. This issue not only affects children but the families and teachers. Families are less involved in their child's education because they can't understand the language. Or the teacher can not communicate important things about the child's developmental domains. In turn, it will affect the child's education in the future.

I-I'm advocating for is to implement multicultural education/curriculum into schools. I want the school to be more transparent in all communications to families. I would like to see more bilingual teachers and staff members in the educational system.

C-With this being said, this issue should be addressed now and not later so the children will have a successful future. I'm here before you and your staff to take the necessary approaches to mandate a Multicultural Curriculum in the school system. Thank you.

How may I follow up with you on this?

Sincerely,

Sherry Davis

### Works Cited

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