



Social Justice Education

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We must challenge the notion that the way we educate is the way it is supposed to be (Locke & Bailey, 2013)

Three Steps for Social Justice Education

- I. Acknowledge student voices
- II. Use student voices and past experiences to develop curriculum

Three Steps cont'd

- III. Encourage and show students how to apply their voices and past experiences toward making significant changes in their communities

Social Justice Education

- It considers the values and politics that pervade education, as well as the technical matters of teaching and learning
- It asks critical questions about how conventional schooling came to be and who benefits from the status quo

Social Justice Education cont'd

- It pays attention to inequalities and seeks alternatives
- It treats cultural and linguistic diversity as an asset to teaching and learning

Core Social Justice Values

- Life
- Freedom/liberty
- Equality and nondiscrimination
- Justice
- Solidarity
- Social responsibility
- Evolution

Values cont'd

- Peace and nonviolence
- Relations between humankind and nature

Six elements of Social justice education

1. **Self-love and Knowledge:** allow students to know who they are and have dignity about their heritage and diversity
2. **Respect for Others:** provides opportunities to be empathic and deconstruct stereotypes
3. **Issues of Social Injustice:** help students learn about the history of oppression based on prejudice
4. **Social Movements and Social Change:** help students to see past and current actions that have led to change

Six Elements cont'd

5. **Awareness Raising:** allows students to develop conscious (critical) awareness of problems that appear normal so they can develop discomfort about them, a passion for wanting to solve them, and ideas about how to solve them. This occurs through a “pedagogy of discomfort” that promotes cognitive dissonance

6. **Social Action:** provides opportunities to apply their awareness and passion to the solution of social problems and to create social change

Three main elements of social justice

1. A critical analysis of social and institutional inequities
2. A commitment to principles action on behalf of self as well as for strangers
3. A willingness to question one's own understanding of social justice, in part through listening to alternative perspectives (Kelly & Brandes, 2001 cited in Locke & Bailey, 2013)

References

- Locke, D.C., & Bailey, D.F. (2103). *Increasing multicultural understanding*. Los Angeles: Sage
- Meyer, S.R., & Sandy, L.R. (December 2014) Democratizing education: Moving from discomfort to action. *The International Journal of Learner Diversity and Identities*, Volume 21, Issue 1