

DEVELOPING CULTURAL AWARENESS: INTERNALISATION OF EDUCATION STUDENTS THROUGHT INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

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Academic internships provide a tremendous chance for intellectual and emotional development that is critical to a student's professional path, regardless of employment. It allows you to develop attributes like adaptability, sensitivity, and openness to different perspectives.

The internship may also serve as a powerful catalyst for cultivating a feeling of possibility, improving creative abilities, and exercising judgment. Furthermore, during an academic internship, students might learn a lot about themselves. Clarifying beliefs and comprehending reaction patterns, cultural profiles, ways of thinking, and communication styles are all opportunities to improve self-knowledge and self-awareness.

Currently, institutions give education majors the chance to do their student teaching abroad as part of their teacher preparation programs. International teacher education programs have evolved as a means of broadening the perspective of a new generation of educators and preparing them to deal with the reality of shifting demographics and increased intercultural interdependence in their classrooms.

Cross-national encounters do, however, provide certain hurdles, such as cultural adaptability, language barriers, and connection development. They must become active learners in embracing the changes in their new teaching and learning environment in order to succeed despite the turbulence of all these problems.

Culture impacts people's perceptions of the world and may be regarded of as a means of preserving societies and meeting a variety of human needs. A culture is defined by common belief systems, practices, and traditions, to name a few.

De Villar and Jiang (2012) also noted that student teachers benefit from overseas experience in terms of learning how to teach independently, developing their own teaching methods, and developing a practical sense of creativity and respect for instructional materials.

Furthermore, Wu (2015) noted that when students participated in various social events, they have to deal with a variety of communication styles. The gift-giving relationship, for example, is radically different. In the United States, they are not the same as they are in their original country. It is normal to unwrap a gift in Western society. to express gratitude right away. People in Eastern cultures, on the other hand, are not accustomed to opening doors in front of other people's presents.

Despite the difficulties they faced, their student teaching abroad experience had a positive impact on their teaching career and professional practice, including increased cultural awareness and the ability to differentiate instruction for diverse learners, personal confidence and classroom management skills, the ability to provide holistic instruction, the ability to self-reflect on professional practice and implement change; and increased job opportunities.

References:

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