

## INTERSUBJECTIVITY: WHAT MADE US HUMAN

*by:*

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The social relationship has been the foundation of teacher-student interaction. This has been supported by our recent experience with the pandemic. The past years have been one of the most challenging phases not only in the field of education but also the life at large. Despite these challenges faced in the pandemic, there were more lessons learned such as intersubjectivity. Intersubjectivity is the sharing of experiential content with others such as feelings, thoughts, and meaning-making (Zlatev et al., 2008). The importance of this philosophical concept has been realized by educators in the resumption of face-to-face instructions.

Intersubjectivity is the philosophical concept of interaction between the self and the other. Moreover, this can be defined as the mutual recognition of each other as persons. The first thing to consider for attaining the sense of intersubjectivity is our recognition of ourselves as persons. This recognition of our personhood is important among others because this sets the connection as well as boundaries of our relationship with other people. Recognition of our personhood requires the inclusion of our physical body and all other characteristics that make us special from another being, that is, self-awareness, self-determination, externality, and dignity. These are the specific characteristics that make our personhood, recognizing the totality of humanity and not just a physical entity.

Self-awareness can be defined as our deeper awareness or rationality. This self-awareness can be depicted by having the inner world within us, the one we call the self. Moreover, self-determination can be defined as our ability to make choices based on our

own preferences. Self-determination can be acquired using our free will. If we attain self-determination by utilizing, there can only be one product, consequences. These consequences are products of our choices, and the goodness and badness of these consequences can only be assessed by our morality, a collective interpretation of right and wrong.

The next characteristic is an externality. This externality can be defined by how we reach out and interact with others and the world. This is what makes us humans, that is, to live with others. Externality proves that man is a social being. Finally, the most important characteristic is dignity. Dignity is characterized by self-worth which every human being is privileged to have.

As we swim along the new pages, the past experienced by the whole field of education globally is a painful reminder that tells us that the social interaction we take for granted is one of the most precious perks of being a human person. Intersubjectivity reminds us that there are others besides the self, who have the same privileges and rights as we have. We are diverse in various ways; we are different subjects from one another. However, this diversity ironically makes us seek the inner similarities that we have with each other. Intersubjectivity is what makes us human.

#### *References:*

Zlatev, J., Racine, T. P., Sinha, C., & Itkonen, E. (2008). What makes us human. The shared mind: Perspectives on intersubjectivity, 12(1), 1-14.