

## IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM

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According to Walden University (2019), culture is a lot more than a list of holidays or food preferences or the language someone speaks. Culture is the framework around which we build our identity. Every individual has a culture, we have different beliefs, customs and values. It influences how we see and engage with the world. The culture that individuals have was inculcated by the group in which they grew up.

Kampen (2020), defines diversity as everything that makes people different from each other. It includes different factors like ethnicity, race, etc. Through this different factor, everyone can be apprised of how they can encounter others.

In school, it is important to have cultural diversity in the classroom because learners will be aware of the uniqueness of individuals. Considering the different factors of cultural diversity, they will develop social awareness that will help them to respect others' perspectives.

According to the University of Rhode Island, diversity in the classroom is understanding each student brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to our classroom. Diversity is the exploration and incorporation of these differences to enrich learning in our classroom. No students are the same. Every learner has different perspectives and beliefs based on the group they grew up.

Nowadays, teachers must incorporate and manage diversity in the classroom. They also need to ensure that there are no learners left behind and no one will neglect

students' identities because of differences. Their uniqueness must be accepted and must be understood.

Teachers can strive to create a culturally responsive environment for their students that cater to and encourage individual differences. They can also promote and practice equality and fairness among individuals. Teaching culture will help learners to be more knowledgeable about various social and cultural groups and also to be good citizens of their own community.

*References:*

<https://www.waldenu.edu/online-bachelors-programs/bs-in-elementary-education/resource/why-cultural-diversity-and-awareness-in-the-classroom-is-important>

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