

LEARNING WITH COLORS: WORKING ON A LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY SCHOOL

by:

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"No child left behind" remains the visionary motto of the Department of Education in promoting inclusivity in every school nationwide. After successfully equalizing gender roles and removing the barriers between men and women, public educational institutions are now working to promote inclusivity. It extends the learners belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community. This thought-provoking writing will dig deeper into understanding how inclusive education works, the challenges students face in the said community, and the strategies to implement a brighter, more equitable future.

Inclusive education is not just as simple as it sounds. It is more than just letting someone study in a classroom where most learners possess similar characteristics and preferences. It is not just tolerating what students see from their co-learners and eventually ignoring them. Inclusive education suggests that students, teachers, and school administrators should work together to promote acceptance and open their arms to other learners possessing different qualities, such as those belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community. This type of education prepares the learners to embrace diversity (Inclusive Education Canada, 2020). Not because it is their choice but because it is what is necessary. An environment that embraces everyone and lets everyone's voices be heard and respected or assumed fully is the foundation of a fair and just society.

Students under the prism of colors have faced immeasurable problems, especially at school ever since. They are usually treated as the laughingstock and the source of mockery because of their orientation preferences. They are bullied, discriminated against, and deprived of representation in schools on a smaller or larger scale. Most of them do

not fight back. Instead, they depend on themselves and fight their battles in silence, contributing to the increasing concern about mental health issues and decreasing academic performance at school (Academy in the Woods, 2023). In an inclusive environment, the educational sector campaigns are for learning that creates a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students to be authentic without being judged or discriminated by anyone. Additionally, their creativity and intellectual capacity are addressed, and they are allowed to shine in the broader avenue by letting them participate in different school events and competitions.

Promoting an institution that gives importance and acceptance to LGBTQIA + learners should start with an all-out campaign against physical or cyberbullying. If possible, the inclusion of significant personalities in the curriculum, such as those who have incredible contributions to science and history and belong to the same community, should be implemented further to acknowledge this talented individual's contribution to the community. A support system for learners under the said umbrella should also be established (Russell, et al., 2021). Simple celebrations and commemoration of talents during Pride month can be put into consideration also. In the bigger picture, inclusive education only wants a straightforward task for all people in the institution to do: treat everyone fairly without bias and prejudice.

The call for inclusivity has been echoed ever since and remains boisterous especially in institutions where there is maltreatment of people who seem different from the rest of the crowd. Supporting their differences will not cost anything but will surely pay big through a community that promotes equality and acceptance amidst color disparities. Education aims to develop professionalism, starting with a mind that embraces everyone despite differences.

References:

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