

EMBRACING DIVERSITY: THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IP)

by:

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Inclusive education is an approach to teaching that values diversity and promotes the participation of all students, regardless of their background, culture, or ability. For Indigenous Peoples (IP), inclusive education is particularly important, as it acknowledges and respects their unique cultural heritage and experiences.

According to Ladson-Billings (2015), "culturally relevant teaching is not just about adding some multicultural content to the curriculum but about transforming the way we teach and the way we think about teaching and learning" (p. 162). Inclusive education helps to promote cultural awareness and understanding, breaking down stereotypes and misconceptions about IP. It also provides IP students with a sense of belonging and identity, leading to improved self-esteem and confidence. Furthermore, inclusive education helps to address the historical trauma and marginalization experienced by IP, promoting healing and reconciliation. By incorporating IP perspectives and knowledge into the curriculum, schools can help to promote a sense of belonging and identity among IP students, leading to improved academic outcomes and increased engagement.

As noted by Bishop and Berryman (2020), inclusive education is essential for promoting social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. It is our responsibility as educators to provide IP students with an education that is culturally responsive and supportive. By doing so, we can help to create a more inclusive and equitable education system that values and respects the diversity of all students. In conclusion, inclusive education is crucial for the academic success and well-being of IP students, and it is our duty to ensure that it is implemented in our schools.

References:

Bishop, R., & Berryman, M. (2020). Te Kotahitanga: Towards a bicultural partnership in education. Ladson-Billings, G. (2015). But that's just good teaching! The case for culturally relevant pedagogy.