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## Trends and Challenges of Multiculturalism in the Present Context

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### ABSTRACT

India, the democratic nation receives an array of cultures from ancient to present. At present, widely diverse racial, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds on college campuses benefit the nation as a whole. The modern and cutting-edge teaching approach known as multicultural education aims to promote equality for all pupils despite their diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. By integrating information, creating knowledge, and using an equity pedagogy, multicultural literacy integrates the concept of diversity into education and guarantees that students develop cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. Multicultural Education provides equity and equality and its goal is to take the lead in discussion and discussions regarding subjects like social, economic, and educational equity. Our languages, values, and beliefs may all be respected. One must use caution when interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds to avoid intruding on their delicate territory. The feeling of togetherness we can see in a multicultural background classroom. Children who grow up and study in a multicultural setting have a better awareness of the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of others.. At present in Kerala, schools receive multicultural education system. Now pluralism is a part of our culture. Students of other states studying in the present context

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are sharing and respecting their culture, language, rituals, festivals, food, attire etc. their personal and social values like tolerance, patience, mutual respect and every aspect are respectable. This study is qualitative in nature. Questionnaire and interview are used for collecting data relevant for the study. The researcher conducted the study in Sree Krishna High School, Mattathur, Thrissur. 50 samples from the secondary level students were selected.

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## **Introduction**

Diversity in terms of color, nationality, language, religion, class, gender, and other factors is known as multiculturalism. People from diverse cultures are seen as having equal rights. Its goal is to establish a shared political culture in which everyone may take part. Because people from different states have begun to work and settle down with their families, Kerala has currently become a multicultural society. Our classrooms now share a multicultural environment because their kids started attending different schools.

The philosophies of freedom, justice, equality, equity, and human dignity in society form the foundation of multicultural education. In addition to fostering the creation of culturally sensitive and responsive curricula, multicultural education seeks to guarantee an awareness of one's distinct cultural and ethnic history. The vast array of cultures, nationalities, and backgrounds that students contribute to school and society is highlighted and celebrated via multicultural education.

## **Culture and Multiculture**

The term "culture" is broad and encompasses individuals of various racial, ethnic, national, linguistic, religious, class, and gender identities who share similar ideals and behavioral patterns. The multicultural policies help to create and nurture relationships between ethnic minorities and the state. Multiculturalism fosters a healthy self-concept by educating people about the contributions, histories, and cultures of various groups. It gives organizations structural equality.

## **Need And Significance of The Study**



In the educational system, multicultural education is a relatively new trend. Students that grow up in a multicultural environment also acquire problem-solving abilities, creativity, patience, cooperation, respect, and mutual regard. This encourages students to value themselves. Speaking a language is crucial in this capable world since it increases one's chances of succeeding, boosts one's self-esteem to handle life's obstacles, and fosters cross-cultural understanding and a foundation of information about many ethnic groups.

Teachers must be able to satisfy the needs, attitudes, and understanding of their students as well as apply learning aids appropriately and employ teaching tactics that inspire students of different backgrounds. A multicultural background fosters teamwork, respect, and social harmony. Schools are the primary means of delivering education, which is a tri-polar process. Following graduation, students enter the workforce in pursuit of employment, where they must contend with a heterogeneous culture. Therefore, multicultural education is necessary to meet students' aspirations in the current environment.

### **Review of Literature**

The goal of the educational reform movement known as multicultural education is to give all students, regardless of their color, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, equal chances. An equitable atmosphere must be established, and efforts should be made to find a balance of opinions and convey them as fairly as possible (Banks, 2016). Additionally, there are a number of objectives that multicultural education strives to achieve, ranging from helping people better understand their own cultures to assisting people from a variety of backgrounds in actively participating in local, national, international, and cultural communities (Banks, 2016). Understanding the differences among people and the existence of different cultural or ethnic groups in society, such as those based on gender, age, sex, ethnicity, and socioeconomic standing, is known as cultural diversity. The task of teachers become more challenging due to cultural variety. All instructors, no matter where they teach, must be able to work with a variety of kids and be culturally sensitive practitioners. By identifying and challenging discourses of injustice both inside and outside of the classroom, a culturally responsive educator fosters social justice and respects and comprehends the beliefs, knowledge, practices, and expectations of their students (Santoro et al., 2015). It is necessary to train culturally sensitive educators who can interact with students from different backgrounds and teach them how to interact with a variety of groups in the classroom.

### **Dimensions of multicultural education**



- Integration of content
- Construction of knowledge
- Reduction of discrimination
- Pedagogy for equity
- enhancing the social structure and culture of schools
- Social and civic responsibility
- Assessment

### **Approaches**

- The approach of contributions
- The additive method
- The method of transformation
- The method of social action

### **Objectives**

1. To know about the trends of multiculturalism in the present context
2. To know about the challenges of multiculturalism in the present context
3. To analyze the trends and challenges of multiculturalism in the present context

### **Research Questions**

1. What makes multicultural education, in your opinion, a relatively new educational trend?
2. What issues and difficulties do the system face in advancing multicultural education?

### **Statement of the Problem**

According to the survey, the “TRENDS AND CHALLENGES OF MULTICULTURALISM IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT” at the secondary level students from Sree Krishna high school in Thrissur.

### **Methodology**



The present study is carried out to know the importance and influence of the modern trend of multicultural education and its challenges in the present context. The researcher conducted a qualitative research method on a sample of 50 secondary students from Sree Krishna high school Mattathur from Thrissur. A Questionnaire and an informal interview with some questions regarding about multicultural background. The collected data was then interpreted using percentage analysis.

### Questions and Analysis

1. The majority of pupils are interested in learning English. What's that?
  - English is a global language
  - Friendly language
  - High job opportunities.
2. Do you enjoy your institution's multicultural celebrations?
  - Yes
  - No
3. Which languages do you like to learn the topics
  - English
  - Regional language
4. Do you believe that learning English would improve academic achievement?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
5. Do you think that the institution you attend is a multicultural one?
  - Other district students
  - Other state students
  - Respecting diversity



6. What are the difficulties do you face in learning English

- Grammar
- Spelling
- Teaching problem

7. Do you get comfort in multicultural classroom?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

8. Which language do you enjoy learning the most?

- English
- Hindi
- Malayalam.

9. In a multicultural classroom, do you respect all of the extracurricular activities?

- Yes
- No
- Always.

10. How can we get better at using the English language?

- Reading books
- Watching English Films
- Communicating in class room



## Major Findings

- Multicultural education is liked by the majority of students.
- Students believe that intercultural education is a really good strategy.
- Students think that studying English is crucial to landing a good job and that multicultural education plays a significant part in this.
- The younger generation prefers multicultural education because it fosters a sense of brotherhood among all people.

## Informal Discussion Questions

1. What does multiculturalism actually mean?
2. How does multiculturalism influence academic performance of students, is there a good impact of multiculturalism on our society?
3. What issues and difficulties do the school face in advancing multicultural education?

In this informal discussion teacher educators sincerely expressed their views, tensions challenges facing the future. They shared that young generation concentrating their studies but not bother about human values. In the present context children turn agreed into materialistic and deteriorating the values. In this competent world multicultural education highlights personal, social, and moral values.

## Challenges

### Curriculum design

Curriculum design creating a curriculum that integrates diverse cultures, perspectives and experiences may be difficult and time-consuming.

### Resistance

Multicultural education may encounter resistance from certain parents and pupils either because they are unfamiliar with it or they are concerned that it will dilute the traditional curriculum



## **Resources**

Offering training, materials, and resources for a multicultural education program can need a lot of resources.

## **Student engagement**

Sometimes students can't adjust on the learning environment

## **Student perception**

Students may feel like they don't belong in the classroom which can lead to decreased participation and feelings of inadequacy

## **Suggestions.**

- The pedagogy of equity
- cooperative methodology
- Collaborative education
- Heuristic methodology
- Creative approaches
- Professional correspondence
- Steer clear of gender prejudice.

## **Conclusion**

In the present context, especially in Kerala the ordinary classroom changes into Multicultural students respect their culture, food, language. behavior attitudes, it will make a miracle in classroom and society. Multicultural education develops multi-talented personalities. Education is the strongest weapon for the development of society. The nation expects the best citizens from multicultural classroom, social harmony and social respect are the symbols of multicultural classroom. The government should be evolved constructive educational policies to achieve multiculturalism which needs essentially to unite the nation.



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