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Pluralism And Education In India

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ABSTRACT

The use of power divides society into two big parts – powerful and powerless, but this is not believed under the pluralistic theory of power. According to this theory, all the power in society is not concentrated in the hands of any one class or department, rather it is distributed among many groups. These groups cannot be placed in the categories of dominant and subordinate groups, rather they all exercise their own kind of power in their respective areas. Pluralism is used in different fields and in different forms. Generally, it represents a diversity of ideas. In today's democratic and dynamic societies, due to the growth of groups with different cultural characteristics and their participation and contribution being recognized by the state, most of the societies are developing into societies with mixed culture. The differences existing in the contemporary scenario of Indian society can be clearly seen. There is diversity in the society itself, that is why diversity exists in interests also. The pluralistic paradigm emerged late compared to other theoretical models of analysis and its appeal has been increasing with the passage of time.

Keyword- Power, Pluralism, Democratic, Dynamic Societies, Mixed Culture.

Introduction

Citizens have different values, attitudes, opinions and somehow these differences must live together. Pluralism signals a theorized preference for multiplicity over unicity and for diversity over uniformity. The three parts of a school are students, teachers, and community. If the vision of these three unites, what revolutionary change will emerge? This presents the pluralistic concept even more clearly in the contemporary scenario. Schools based on pluralistic concept are those schools which give light of hope and expectation even in the present situation with various types of challenges.

The history of democratic education begins with the emergence and development of the democratic political system. Democratic states themselves made provisions for education for all in their constitutions. The pluralistic concept presents the democratic concept more clearly in the field of education and ensures the rights of all.

Education in the Indian context is a fundamental right that must be always maintained, even in the most difficult circumstances. This is not just an ideological statement. Where education is maintained even during conflict, it can provide an important mechanism to protect children from abuse. Education is an essential tool for human development and poverty alleviation.

According to the pluralistic theory, the power to implement orders in society is not concentrated in one place but remains scattered among many groups. This group claims to fulfill various needs of human life. Secularism in India is the result of its pluralistic diversities, and it has been going on in the Indian environment for many years and is still going on. The various communities existing in society are the product of human nature and are not imaginary and artificial but have their own personality, will and consciousness.

According to this principle, no matter how many groups the community is divided into from the social point of view, from the political point of view all people are citizens of the same community; They are governed by the same law and public policy. Therefore, a pluralistic political system is a system under which favorable conditions are created for coexistence of diverse types of social practices, religious and moral beliefs, and all citizens enjoy equal political rights. They participate in the political process together under the umbrella of common political institutions. When different groups of students are present in school classrooms, a variety of teaching methods and strategies should be created keeping in mind their mental abilities. In the classroom, teachers try to ensure that every child understands the concept properly.

According to the Indian Constitution, the right to education is a constitutional right. No school can deny education to any student based on his religion, sex, caste, place of birth or language. Pluralistic theory presents opposite concepts to monistic theory. Access to quality education for all children is essential to realize the vision of the framers of the Indian Constitution to establish a society based on equality and just human life.

According to John Dewey, school is a miniature form of society. When there is diversity in society itself then how can we imagine a school in which uniform teaching methodology and curriculum is implemented. Pluralists reject the notion that only one group should have sovereignty in the field of education. At present, Indian society encompasses many diversities within itself.

Pluralism is implemented by schools through various activities, workshops, courses, and small groups. Pluralistic education is an educational concept that aims to develop a 'pluralistic outlook' in students. Teachers are expected to teach their students to participate positively in a pluralistic society. Pluralism is used in different fields and in different forms.

In general, pluralism represents diversity of opinions. In today's democratic and dynamic societies, due to the growth of groups with different cultural characteristics and their participation and contribution being recognized by the state, most of the societies are developing as societies with mixed culture.

No matter how prosperous a school is, a class is made up of students and the students themselves are never fully prosperous. A society in which different human races, religious and social groups maintain, participate, and develop their respective traditions and special interests and work together towards the interdependence necessary for the unity of the country.

The history of democratic education begins with the emergence and development of the democratic political system. Democratic states themselves made provisions for education for all in their constitutions. The pluralistic concept presents the democratic concept more clearly in the field of education and ensures the rights of all. Access to quality education for all children is essential to realize the vision of the framers of the Indian Constitution to establish a society based on equality and just human life. The values of society, positive attitude towards education among the people and the policies of the government have resulted in a significant increase in the enrollment of students in schools. It also demands several changes in school classrooms, including the use of a variety of teaching methods, setting the pace of learning according to students' abilities, and implementing diversity in the curriculum on a large scale.

The basic idea of pluralistic education is that every student should be treated equally and should be given adequate opportunities to realize his inherent true potential. It also includes the use of teaching methods within the school that pay holistic attention to the needs of each student regardless of his or her race, class, specific culture, and gender. Teacher training is the most essential part of a pluralistic education policy and its most worrying aspect. To implement this policy at the school level, it is very important for teachers to have a positive attitude towards it. It is a huge task to develop the necessary skills and confidence in teachers to address diverse challenges within classrooms and create conducive learning environments for children with special needs. For this, teachers require adequate support of resources like training, support of experts etc. Pluralistic education is based on the belief that "if a child is not learning the way we teach, we must teach the way he learns".

It is a widely accepted fact that a child achieves more when he feels secure from within, valued, loved and when he has confidence and pride in himself. Only then will we be able to move forward on the path of achieving the objective of education. Pluralistic system is a powerful medium to achieve this objective of education.

Here are some key aspects of how pluralism intersects with education:

1. **Diverse Curriculum:** A diverse curriculum encompasses a range of perspectives, experiences, and knowledge from various cultural, historical, and social contexts. Pluralistic education encourages the inclusion of diverse perspectives, histories, and cultures in the curriculum. This may involve incorporating materials from various ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds to provide students with a well-rounded understanding of the world. A diverse curriculum includes materials, readings, and resources that represent a variety of viewpoints, identities, and cultural backgrounds. This may involve incorporating literature, art, historical accounts, and scientific discoveries from diverse communities and regions.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Pluralism fosters critical thinking skills by encouraging students to analyze different viewpoints and engage in respectful dialogue with peers who hold different opinions. This helps students develop empathy, open-mindedness, and the ability to communicate effectively across differences. Critical thinking begins with asking meaningful questions and seeking deeper understanding. It involves curiosity and a willingness to challenge assumptions, explore complexities, and examine underlying assumptions.
3. **Inclusive Pedagogy:** Inclusive pedagogy is essential for creating learning environments that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. Pluralistic education promotes teaching practices that recognize and accommodate diverse learning styles, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. Teachers strive to create inclusive classrooms where all students feel valued and respected. Inclusive pedagogy begins with creating a classroom environment that is welcoming, respectful, and supportive of all students. Inclusive pedagogy embraces the principles of Universal Design for Learning, which advocates for designing instruction that is accessible and engaging for all learners. UDL involves providing multiple means of representation, action and expression, and engagement to accommodate diverse learners' needs and preferences.

Inclusive pedagogy promotes collaborative learning experiences that allow students to work together, share ideas, and learn from one another. Collaborative learning fosters a sense of community, promotes social skills, and provides opportunities for peer support and learning.

4. **Multicultural Education:** Pluralism often overlaps with multicultural education, which emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and celebrating cultural diversity within educational settings. Multicultural education aims to promote equity and social justice by challenging stereotypes and promoting cultural understanding. Multicultural education promotes global awareness and intercultural competence by exposing students to diverse cultures, languages, and worldviews. It encourages students to appreciate the interconnectedness of the global community and develop empathy and respect for people from different cultural backgrounds.
5. **Global Citizenship:** Pluralistic education prepares students to be responsible global citizens who can navigate an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. It emphasizes the importance of respecting cultural differences, promoting human rights, and working towards social justice on a global scale. Global citizenship and pluralistic education share a common goal of promoting diversity, inclusivity, and understanding in a rapidly changing and interconnected world. By embracing these principles and practices, individuals can become informed, empathetic, and active participants in creating a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future for all.

Overall, pluralism in education is essential for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusivity within schools and society at large. By embracing pluralistic principles, educational institutions can create learning environments that empower students to thrive in a diverse and rapidly changing world.

Conclusion

Pluralism in education refers to the recognition and acceptance of diverse beliefs, cultures, gender, perspectives, and values within educational settings. Pluralism is an interpretation of social, cultural, political, and philosophical diversity. pluralism prevails in a society, no group dominates. Rather as each group pursues its own interests, other groups that are pursuing theirs, balances it. To attain their goals, groups must negotiate with one another and make compromises. It encompasses the idea that there isn't a single dominant ideology, but rather a multitude of perspectives that should be acknowledged and respected. Pluralistic education aims to create inclusive teaching-learning environments that celebrate diversity and promote understanding among students from different backgrounds. To ensure that the rights of all students are implemented in school, the education system should shift from the monistic principle of the Single Indian System to the pluralistic principle. Pluralism and education are two sides of a coin in the contemporary scenario of Indian society. In the present times, the right to education is a fundamental right of a person, the pluralistic path works to provide practical aspects to this student's child.

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