Dire Dawa University
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Department of Psychology

Inclusiveness

Dire Dawa University

Chapter 5
Inclusion for Peace, Democracy and Development

5.1. Definition of peace, democracy and development from the perspective of Inclusiveness

- Peace can be defined in several ways.
- However, for the purpose of the study this course peace is defined as creating mutual understanding, positive relationship between individuals and groups.
- These groups may include culturally, linguistically, economically and biologically heterogeneous clusters.
- These groups are living side by side in a harmony with reciprocated respect or create societal friendship with all the diversities without conflict.
- This means developed interpersonal peace through deep respect for other persons, justice, tolerance and cooperation.

- Human being is interconnected and should be free from negative force, fear, hatred, anger, tension, violence, stress, anxiety and any kind of destructions.
- Peace makes the mind quiet and calm prevents anxieties, worries, stress and fears, and awakens inner strength and confidence, develop freedom, happiness, love, joy, justice and gratitude.
- Peace can be achieved through formal and informal inclusive education.
- Inclusive education is a foundation for inclusiveness in all aspects of life.
- It is important to realize the role of inclusive education in creating a society which is peaceful, democratic and prosperous

- Hence inclusive education is crucial for:
  - Fostering education that promotes the values, attitudes and behavior inherent in a culture of peace, including conflict prevention and resolution, dialogue, consensus-building and active non-violence;
  - Promoting sustainable economic and social development by targeting the eradication of poverty and social inequalities;
  - Promoting respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at all levels;
  - Promoting gender equality in economic, social and political decision-making;

- Fostering democratic participation and citizenship and supporting processes that promote and sustain democracy;
- Advancing understanding, and respect for cultural diversity, and human solidarity by promoting a dialogue among societies;
- Supporting participatory communication and the free flow and sharing of information and knowledge in the promotion of a culture of peace;
- Promoting international peace and security through action such as the promotion of general and complete disarmament.

- Contrary to the importance of inclusive education, exclusion in education creates undesirable result for a nation against those positive advantages of inclusive education by affecting social justice and equality.

5.2. Sources of Conflict

- There are a number of sources of conflict attributed to **economic, social** and **political reasons.**
- However, it is believed that conflict begins within the Individual.

- As a result, the following characteristics, behaviors and attitude of individuals may cause conflict at all levels of social strata in the absence of inclusiveness:
  - Selfishness (living only for oneself);
  - Lust;
  - Envy;
  - Exploitation (taking advantage over others);
  - Prejudice (partiality);
  - Self-indulgence;
  - Vengeance (retaliation);
  - Arrogance (self-importance).

- It is obvious that these malpractices/behaviors are the main causes of exclusionary practices in communities that affect the right of others.
- The exclusionary practices may be manifested through discrimination, marginalization and social stigma.
- There is no doubt that peace is the remedy for social injustices and other mal practices that result in conflict between individuals or groups.
- Hence, sustainable peace is vitally important to establish prosperous and stable society.

- The mechanism for the foundation of sustainable peace is attributed to the expansion of formal and informal inclusive education with the aim of creating inclusive society with the following competencies in young and adult populations:
    - Skills of sifting the truth from propaganda or bias that surrounds them in every culture;
    - Respect for the wise use of resources and appreciation for more than just the materialistic aspects of quality of life;
    - Respect for different points of view and the ability to see the world through the eyes of others;
    - Skills to resolve conflict in non-violent ways;
    - The desire and ability to participate in shaping society, in their own community, their nation and the world.

- Building of peace requires the following prerequisites and considerations:
    - Fostering inclusion, ensuring access to justice, strengthening the social fabric and delivering good governance;
    - Reaffirm a commitment to human rights, the foundation for human dignity and just societies;
    - Foster social resilience by strengthening inclusion and addressing inequality;
    - Think locally and act globally;
    - Protect and support civil society in fostering sustainable peace.

- The following mechanisms use to resolve conflicts
    1. Agree on a mutually acceptable time and place to discuss the conflict;
    2. State the problem as you see it and list your concerns
    3. Let the other person have his/her say;
    4. Listen and ask questions;
    5. Stick to one conflict at a time (to the issue at hand);
    6. Seek common ground;
    7. Seek for win-win approaches.

5.3. The Democratic Principles for inclusive practices

- Democracy is the philosophy that promotes inclusion and good governance to the best interest of people.
- It means the rule of the people, by the people, for the people; and where “people” is to mean all human being, regardless of the diversities.
- It brings democratic values to education and can include self-determination within a community of equals, as well as such values as justice, respect and trust of diversities
- Schools are the ideal place to promote democracy.
- One of the most important tasks of schools should be helping students to realize the values of democracy.

- The democratic values promote:
  - Enhance protected rights;
  - Independent quality life for all;
  - Freedom;
  - Pursuit of happiness;
  - Justice;
  - Truthfulness,
  - Respect;
  - Tolerance for diversity and partisanship.

- The most important function of democratic education is to make the democracy natural attitude and way of thinking of man by developing the thought of democracy in human mind.
- Inclusive education instills the values of cooperation, fairness and justice into the hearts of our students.

- Inclusive education when practiced well is very important because:
  - All children are able to be part of their community and develop a sense of belonging and become better prepared for life in the community today as children and tomorrow as adults;
  - It provides better opportunities for learning. In the absence of democracy, exclusion is prone to be exercised, today in the school and tomorrow in the society;
  - Democracy is one of the principles of inclusiveness in the process of building inclusive society that begun in schools.

5.4. Respecting diverse needs, culture, values, demands

Inclusive education is practiced based on the following principles of democracy:

- Diversity enriches and strengthens all communities;
- All persons with disabilities different in their needs, potentials, learning and working styles;
- Their achievements according to their potentials are equally valued, respected and celebrated by society;
- All learners are capable to fulfill their potential by taking into account individual requirements and needs.

•Likewise, inclusive development is necessary for sustainable economic, social and political progress of a country.

- Development should be all inclusive and participatory that promotes equal benefit for all citizens from the heritage of prosperity earned by the society.
- These diversities include:
    - Race;
    - Ethnicity;
    - Age;
    - Ability;
    - Language;
    - Nationality;
    - Socioeconomic status;
    - Gender;
    - Culture;
    - Religion;
    - Disability;
    - Political thought; and
    - Sexual orientation.

- All these diversities in all areas of life including work place and education should be respected and accepted by all members of the society with an intention to sustaining peace, development and democracy.
- Valuing diversities recognizes differences between people and acknowledges that these differences are a valued asset.
- Multicultural education is an important component of valuing diversity.
- It respects diversity while teaching all children and youth to become effective and participating members of a democratic society.

- It is important to value diversity because; people build a stronger sense of identity and wellbeing, and have better education and career outcomes when their diverse strengths, abilities, interests and perspectives are understood and supported.
- It helps dispel negative stereotypes and personal biases about different groups.
- Culture is our way of living, it refers to the shared language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, and material objects that are passed down from one generation to the next.
- Cultural diversity in the world is diverse and a blessing gift for development; but become sources of conflict.

- In order to achieve unity in diversity in diverse culture valuing the following issues is highly important:
  - **Recognition** of the abundant diversity of cultures;
  - **Respect** for the differences;
  - **Acknowledging** the validity of different cultural expressions and contributions;
  - **Accepting** what other cultures offer;
  - **Encouraging** the contribution of diverse groups;
  - **Empowering** people to strengthen themselves and others to achieve their maximum potential by being critical of their own biases; and
  - **Celebrating** rather than just tolerating the differences in order to bring about unity through diversity.

- Among several elements of diversities, race and ethnicity are the most known ones by influencing the attitude and human relationship.
- Race (black and white) refers to biological features, whereas ethnicity (Germans and Spaniards) is social construct.
- Ethiopia is consisting of people of different ethnic origin.
- Despite the popular belief that Ethiopia is just one big country of a single ethnic group, there are over 83 different ethnic groups speaking more than 83 different languages and 200 dialects.

Activities

1.What is the correlation between peace and democracy?
2.What are the prerequisites need to be available for the building of democratic culture?
3.What are the benefits of democratic and peaceful system to PWDs?