

Cultural Literacy: Children Development with Technology

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PPT

English 201

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Education is an important factor in the growth and development of an individual today. However, the current form of education did not exist from the first instance. Cultural literacy has been the most basic and primary form of education and it is the one that gave rise to the current form of education. Unlike the current formal education, cultural literacy is not taught in class but it is gained through one's own experience. In his book "Cultural Literacy," Professor Hirsch mentions the benefits of cultural literacy over the new formal education that each society of the world has embraced and made it a norm. The views held by Professor Hirsch elicited a lot of opinions from different quarters and this paper seeks to cut into the topic and understand why cultural literacy is important.

Scholars

lit. review will discuss ...

Cultural literacy through the lens of language, teaching, technology

language

Professor Hirsch seemed to have a better and wider grasp of education, understanding the needs of the cultural form of literacy as well as the formal education. Mathooko (2009) notes that in Kenya, the country has done well to provide free and compulsory education in primary schools, however, the country is quickly losing its culture as a result. For most students and pupils there is no chance of getting to know the cultural language. Kenya is a country with over forty tribes, each speaking a different language; however, they are all connected by a single national language; Kiswahili. English and Kiswahili are taught languages in school yet all the other languages are ignored. Using the languages to teach early learners and would increase their ability to understand their cultures as well as doing away with the issues of cultural alienation (Mothooko,155).

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Language promotes culture. Culture promotes identity and fosters acceptance and inclusion of an individual to a society. For a long time now, English has been termed as the world language considering the huge number of people who can speak and/or understand it. However, there is no need to do away with all the other languages that person has a chance to learn. In different countries, the demographics are changing, and young learners have a chance to learn both English and any other language, dual-language. To be able to show a good sense of vocabulary, a learner should first understand the first language and then have the ability to turn it around. Young learners have an advantage because they can easily grasp pronunciations of both languages easily and integrate them well (Roessingh 128). It is important to activate the background knowledge and experimental learning through though back and forth transitioning of language (Roessingh 129).

Math: Science

While the importance of learning the cultural language cannot be diminished, the literacy levels in terms of mathematics, science and technology cannot be outdone. Naturally, young children have a knack to gain the experience and knowledge they can. Children possess an impressive knowledge of math and science and there is a need to nurture it (Clements & Sarama 76). Children have the base of the knowledge in math and science and only need the knowledge they could get from experience. ~~They have the interest and the willingness.~~ Allowing the early knowledge of the children in math to grow can lead to important growth as mathematics is not only useful in life but it a fundamental component of thinking (Clements & Sarama 78).


Right now, society has changed, and the technological advancements have revolutionized the styles of living. The children are now thrown into new and different cultural illiteracies that affect their lives. With the internet technology, the world is now referred to as a global village setting the precedence for the importance of global literacy. Global literacy refers to the ability to "identify, understand, interpret, create, compute, and communicate using visual, audible, and

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digital materials across disciplines and in any context" (Dwyer 131). For a person to be globally literate, he or she must need to have the skills, knowledge and dispositions to work in the so-called global village. From a tender age, the children must, therefore, be allowed a chance to experience the necessities to gaining the knowledge and skills they require.

To integrate the global village, the digital media plays a central role. With the new technology and digital media, there are different experiences that the children and students nowadays face. The digital media brings with it opportunities as well as risks to the young people. The media presents new digital frontiers that mostly lack rules and regulations thus harbouring tremendous promises and significant perils (Carrie et al. 220). They are described as "digital faith" and "moral panics." The moralities and ethics risks heighten the importance of cultural literacy. In as much as the children need to learn the use of this digital media, having ample cultural literacy allows them to understand their position in society. Cultural literacy goes a long way to help outdo the negativities caused by the digital media and maintain the morals and ethics of the children.

As the children and students grow into young men and women, the pertinence of cultural literacy does not end in the primary of the elementary stage. The adolescent literacy in post-primary schools is as important as in primary schools. The dynamics of teaching literacy in post-primary schools change as the boundaries of literacy definitions in social change. The concern that the post-primary teacher has a role in the adolescent literacy has only come to light despite the knowledge that the primary teachers have the role. There is a need to reform the teacher education of the post-primary teachers (Murphy et al. 333). However, there are difficulties in reforming teacher education that includes the need to engage the wide range of teacher educators to formulate the appropriate literacy curriculum for all the student teachers in all the disciplines.



The importance of cultural education should not be ignored if the children and the society at large have to maintain its identity and what the cultures stand for. Cultural literacy shapes the behaviour, character, and the morality of the society. While formal education teaches a lot of things, it does not teach the essential life skills that one requires. According to Professor Hirsch, the importance of cultural literacy supersedes formal education. However, with careful engagement and proper inclusion, cultural literacy can be integrated into formal education to form a more concrete form of education that produces students who are all-round. Issues like language, technology, math and science can be inculcated to reach the standards of literacy wished for.

Works Cited

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① Organize by theme
② Citations
③ Transitions

TS, IS Ch. 8 "connecting the parts"