

**Multicultural societies : The school as a social system.****Geeta Shinde**

Department of Education & Extension, University of Pune.

Abstract

Every thing in education relates to culture to its acquisition its transmission and its invention. Culture is in us and all around us , Just as in the air we breathe .It is personal, familial, communal, institutional, societal, and global in its scope and distribution. so in this article focus on nature of multicultural. Cultural education meaning of culture, dimensions of multicultural education and how the school playing a vital role in multicultural empowerment.

Keyword : *Multicultural Education, multicultural societies ,social system.*

Introduction:**Nature of multicultural Education:**

"Multicultural education is a process of comprehensive school reform and basic education for all students. It challenges and rejects racism and other forms of discrimination in schools and society and accepts and affirms the pluralism (ethnic, racial, linguistic, religious, economic, and gender, among others) that students, their communities, and teachers represent. Multicultural education permeates the curriculum and instructional strategies used in schools, as well as the interactions among teachers, students, and parents, and the very way that schools conceptualize the nature of teaching and learning. Because it uses critical pedagogy as its underlying philosophy and focuses on knowledge, reflection, and action (praxis) as the basis for social change, multicultural education promotes the democratic Principles of Social Justice.

The seven basic characteristics of multicultural education in this definition are:

Multicultural education is *antiracist education*.

Multicultural education is *basic education*.

Multicultural education is *important for all students*.

Multicultural education is *pervasive*.

Multicultural education is *education for social justice*.

Multicultural education is a *process*.

Multicultural education is *critical pedagogy*." (pp. 307-8)

Nieto, S. (1996). Affirming diversity: The sociopolitical context of multicultural education(2nded.).NewYork:Longman.

Multicultural education is at least three things an **idea or concept, on educational reform movement, and a process**. Multicultural education in corporate the idea that all students regardless of their gender and social class and their ethnic, racial, or cultural characteristics. should have an equal opportunity to learn in school. Another important idea in multicultural education is that some students, because of these characteristics, have a better chance to learn in schools as they are currently structural than to students who belong to other groups or who have different cultural characteristics.

Some institutional characteristics of schools systematically done some groups of students equal educational opportunities for ex. In the yearly grades, girls and boys achieve equal educational opportunities in all subjects. multicultural education is also reform movement that is trying to change the schools and other educational institutions so that students from all social – class, gender, racial , language and cultural groups will have an equal opportunity to learn. Multicultural education involves changes in the total school or educational environment means it is not limited to curricula changes (Banke&Bank2004)

The Dimension of Multicultural Education :

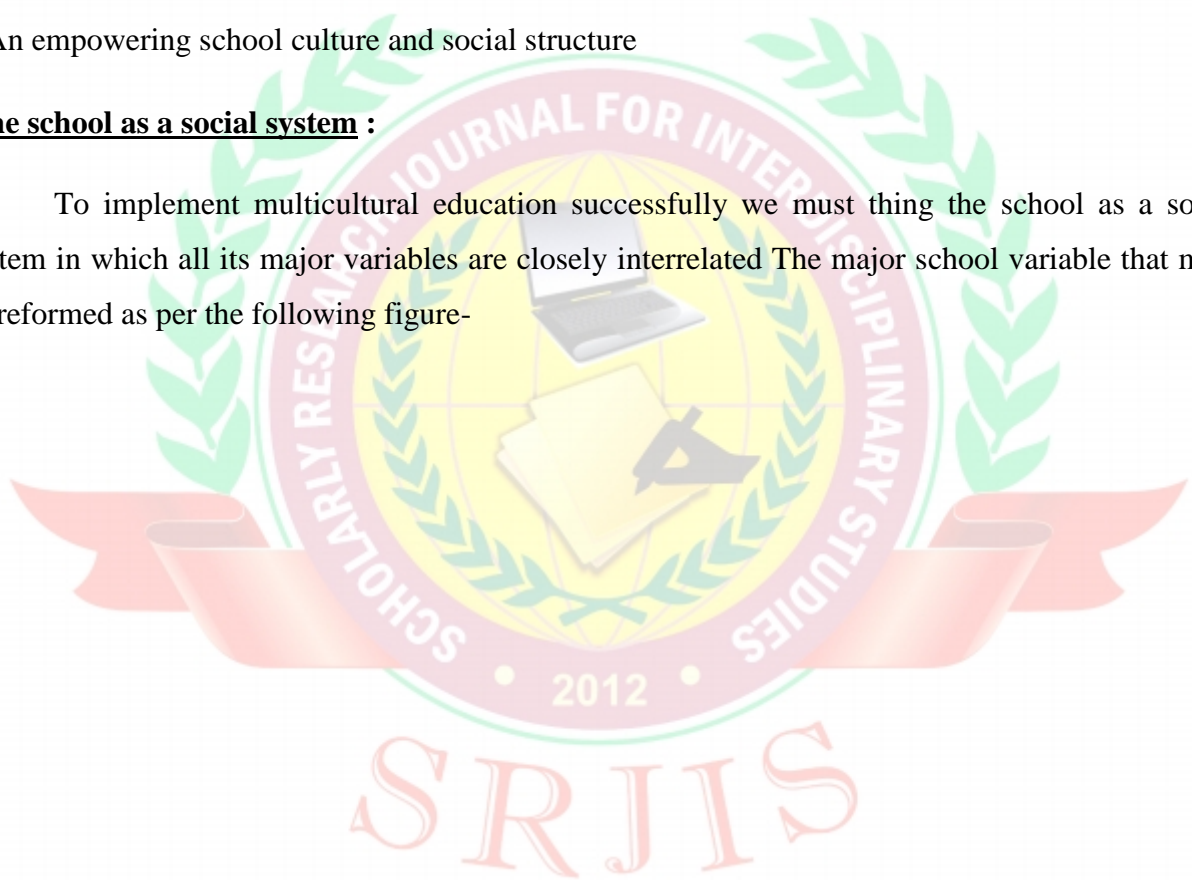
When generally teachers think of multicultural education, they think only or primarily of Content related to ethnic, racial and cultural groups. Conceptualizing multicultural education exclusively as content related to various ethnic and cultural groups is problematic for several reasons. Teacher who con not easily see how their content is related to cultural issues will easily dismiss multicultural education with the argument that it is not relevant to their disciplines multicultural education is a broad concept with several different and important dimension (Bank2004b)

Practicing educators are the dimensions as a guide to school reform when trying to implement multicultural education the dimensions are

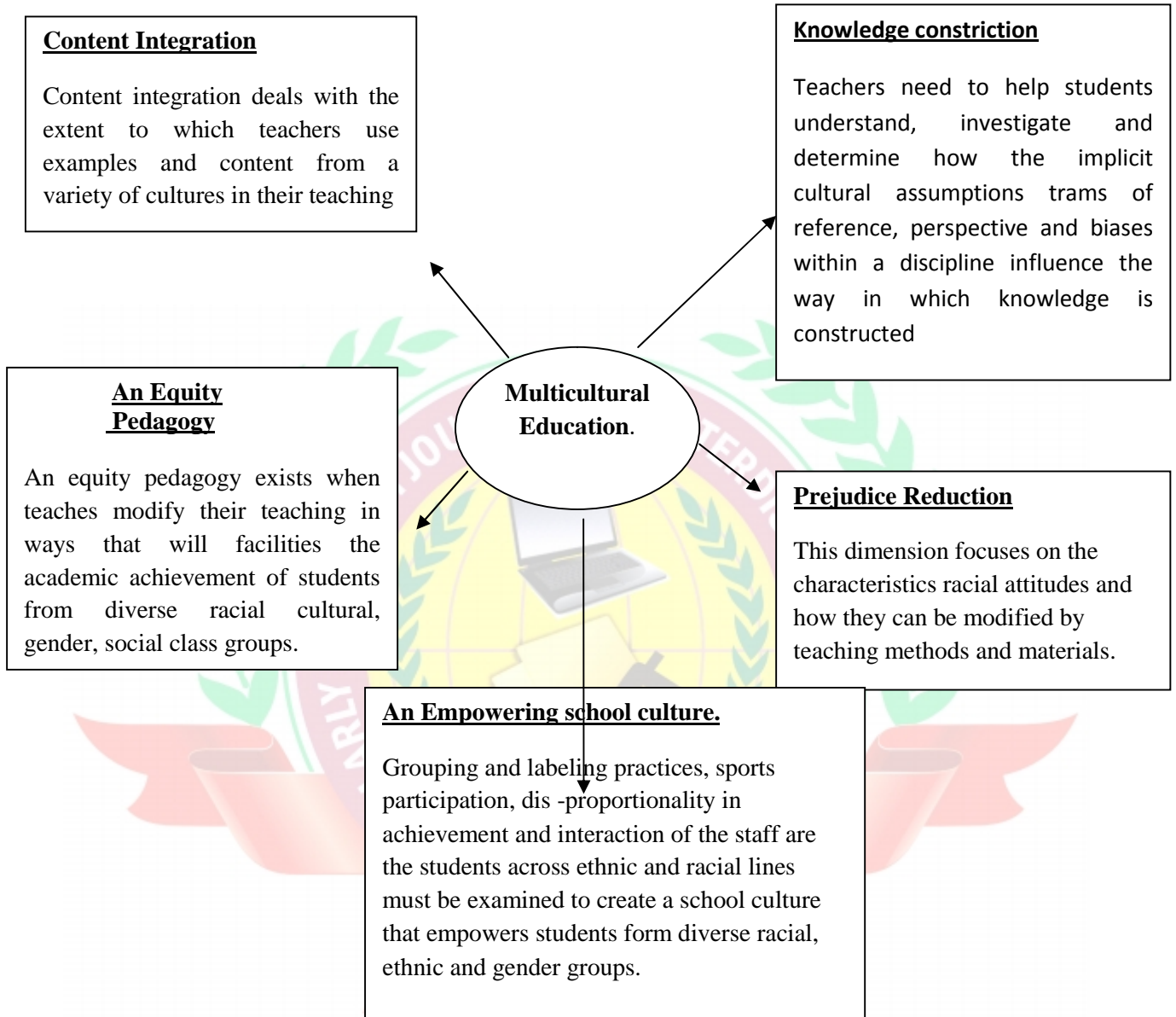
- 1) Content integration
- 2) The knowledge construction process
- 3) Prejudice reduction
- 4) An equality pedagogy
- 5) An empowering school culture and social structure

The school as a social system :

To implement multicultural education successfully we must think the school as a social system in which all its major variables are closely interrelated. The major school variable that must be reformed as per the following figure-



The Dimension and multicultural Education :



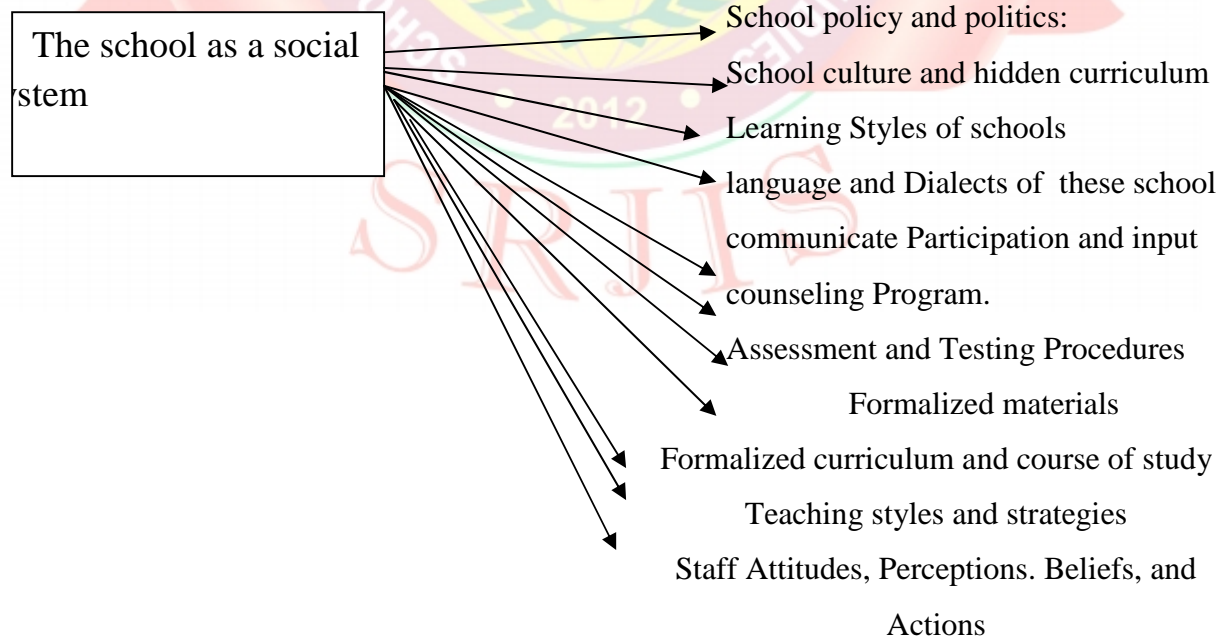
Reforming any are of the variable in figure such as the formalized curriculum or curricular material. In necessary but teachers who have negative attitudes towards different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups such teachers are rarely likely to use multicultural materials or are likely to use them detrimentally the helping teachers and other members and the school to gain knowledge about diverse groups and democratic attitude and values its essential when implementing multicultural program.

Way of implement multicultural education in school :

To implement multicultural education in school we must reform or focus on these aspects:

- 1) Power relationship
- 2) verbal interaction between teachers and students
- 3) culture of the schools
- 4) curriculum and extracurricular activities
- 5) Attitude towards minority language
- 6) testing programmer
- 7) Grouping Practices
- 8) The institutional norms, social structures
- 9) cause – belief statements, values goals of the school must be transformed and reconstructed.

Major attention should be focused on the school and hidden curriculum and its implicit norms and values .A school has both manifest and hidden curriculum. the manifest curriculum consists of such factors as guides, textbooks, bulletin boards, and lesson plans. These aspects of the school environment are important and must be reformed to create a school culture that promotes positive attitude towards diverse cultural groups and help students from these groups experience academic success (Jackson1992)



In short total environment of schools consisting a number of major identifiable variables and factors such as a school culture, school policy and politics and the formalized curriculum and course of study.

Any of these factors may be the focus of initial school reform but changes must taken place in each of them to create and sustain an effective multicultural school environment

Summary:

Multicultural education is an idea starting that all students, regardless of the groups to which they belong, such as those related to gender ethnicity, race, culture, language social class religion should experience educational equality in the schools. Multicultural education views the school-as a social system that consists of highly interrelated parts and variables.

Therefore in order to transform the school to bring about educational equality, all the major components of the school must be substantially changed .A focus any variable in the school, such as the formalized curriculum, will not implement multicultural education

Multicultural education is a continuing process because the idealized goals it tries to actualize-such as educational equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination can never be fully achieved in human society,

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