

Education as a Driver for Social Cohesion and Unity



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Five Guiding Principles for Future Education

Passion
Curiosity
Critical Thinking
Imagination
Grit

(Peter Diamandis, 2018)

The Role of Education

- Key for human development
- Major driver for the reduction of poverty
- Major influence on sustainable economic growth
- Vital for Social Cohesion
- Develops participative and critical citizens

Jensen's Framework of Social Cohesion

Belonging

(Shared values and identity)

- A sense of connection to and/or pride in the community or nation
- A sense of trust in others in one's community

Inclusion

(Equal opportunities for access)

- Equal access to resources in the community, including education, employment and healthcare
- Opportunities for individuals to maximise their rights (social, political, cultural and economic)

Participation

(Engagement in structures and systems)

- Political/civic participation e.g. voting
- Community/social participation including volunteering

Recognition

(Respect and tolerance)

- Mutual respect and tolerance
- The extent to which community members feel they are accepted or rejected by others in the community

Legitimacy

(Pluralism)

- Formal institutional level factors e.g. policies and public confidence in institutions such as the political system, government etc.

Education and Jensen's Framework

Belonging

(Shared values and identity)

- Embed collaborative learning
- Involve learners in making meaning

Inclusion

(Equal opportunities for access)

- Meet the needs of all learners through effective differentiation practices
- Localise curriculum content
- All schools offer the same standard of learning

Participation

(Engagement in structures and systems)

- Partnerships (NGOs/Business/Gov Organisations)
- Community/social participation including volunteering
- Networking and cross-school collaboration

Recognition

(Respect and tolerance)

- Mutual respect and tolerance
- SEN provision
- Multi-cultural/religious and ethnic education

Legitimacy

(Pluralism)

- Restore trust of the community in the level of education through effective monitoring of teacher performance

Social Cohesion in Practice



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