Indigenizing Education: An Exploration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Sierra Leonean Practices

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Abstract

{ "background": "Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) play a significant role in various educational contexts around the world. In Sierra Leone, there is an increasing recognition of the need to integrate indigenous practices into mainstream education to better reflect local realities and promote inclusive learning environments.", "purposeandobjectives": "This comparative study aims to explore how Indigenous Knowledge Systems are integrated into education practice in Sierra Leonean settings, with a particular focus on identifying key challenges and success factors. The objectives include understanding the role of traditional teachers and community elders in educational delivery, assessing the incorporation of IKS in curricula, and evaluating student engagement and outcomes.", "methodology": "The study employs a mixed-methods approach involving both qualitative interviews with educators and practitioners from diverse regions of Sierra Leone and quantitative analysis of existing national education data. Data collection is complemented by document reviews to provide comprehensive insights into the integration of IKS in educational practices.", "findings": "A notable finding suggests that while there are increasing efforts towards incorporating indigenous knowledge systems, significant disparities exist across different regions regarding the depth and breadth of such integration. For instance, urban schools often have more resources available for integrating indigenous content compared to rural areas where access may be limited.", "conclusion": "The study concludes that while Sierra Leonean education is moving in the right direction towards indigenizing practices, there are substantial gaps requiring further attention and support from policymakers and educational stakeholders. The findings highlight a need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable access to indigenous knowledge systems across all regions of the country.", "recommendations": "To achieve broader adoption and effectiveness of IKS integration, recommendations include enhancing teacher training programmes to emphasise the importance of local knowledge, increasing funding for curriculum development that incorporates indigenous content, and fostering stronger partnerships between schools and local communities.", "keywords": "Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), Education in Sierra Leone, Integration Challenges, Teacher Training,

Curriculum Development", "contributionstatement": "This study contributes uniquely to the literature by providing empirical evidence on the implementation of IKS integration at

Keywords: *African Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Ethnography, Methodological Pluralism, Cultural Pedagogy, Community-Based Education, Decolonial Theory*

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