2011 E-forum of UNESCO IBE

Addressing Socio-Cultural Diversity through the Curriculum

21 November - 9 December 2011

Expected Outcomes:
Participants of the E-forum are to become aware of and learn about other educational contexts, issues and discuss different approaches and strategies addressing socio-cultural diversity through curriculum around the world.

A curriculum that addresses diversity meets the diverse needs of ALL learners. Socio-cultural diversity in this context includes ethnicity, race, religion, values and beliefs, nationality, cultural background, age, gender, class, physical ability, different learning conditions and styles, sexual orientation, and other dimensions that make up the identity of the individual student and impact his or her learning experience.

Overarching Questions:
- What are current issues in regards to socio-cultural diversity in the curriculum within your context?
- How should the curriculum be implemented considering these issues?
- How should the learning process and outcomes be assessed while taking into account diversity?

Week 1 - What diversity aspects should be included in the curriculum?
1. Which issues concerning socio-cultural diversity are included in your current curriculum and which are not?
2. Are there any diversity issues that have been historically neglected or disregarded? Why?
3. What diversity issues and perspectives should be included in your curriculum to address local, national, regional and global challenges?

Week 2 - How could teachers develop a curriculum that addresses socio-cultural diversity?
1. How should the curriculum be sensitive to your specific context, where it is implemented? What are some potential obstacles and solutions? (Specific examples and personal experience preferred)
2. How should the consideration for socio-cultural diversity influence teaching methods and styles to meet the diverse needs of learners?
3. How should teachers be trained, supported and empowered to include socio-cultural diversity issues in the curriculum? What should the role of teachers be in the development of a more comprehensive curriculum in your context?

Week 3 - How should student’s learning be assessed in light of their diverse needs?
1. What are the potential learning outcomes of a curriculum that addresses socio-cultural diversity? What kinds of knowledge, skills and core competencies should be assessed?
2. What kinds of assessment tools could be used? What should be the criteria used for assessment?
3. How can assessment support the learning process and improve the well-being of all students?