

Topic : Leadership and achievement through culturally responsive, critical, social justice pedagogies

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Date : 07 / 10/ 15

Venue: Skycity Convention Centre

The main focus during the presentation was on; Maori and Pasifika achievement, integration of culture with learning, helping students to develop self-confidence and ways of creating a better learning environment for Maori and Pasifika.

Another component of the presentation was on a research done by a group of Maori and Pasifika. The issues discussed in the research was on critical pedagogy of the whanau, role of research and teaching as inquiry, whanau concept of curriculum. The discussion was on how to involve whanau in teaching and learning. It will not only help to develop that connection with the wider community but also act as an added support.

The presenter mentioned that the curriculum requires students to stay within the boundaries. The demand is to learn a certain skill based on the instructions given by the teacher who is driven by a curriculum. The action research and teaching as inquiry should promote a pedagogy that works towards maintaining Maori and Pasifika cultural identity.

Pedagogical strategies that would be more effective shall allow students to stay within the same group, having a cooperative and independent environment, activities can be done in flexible times and it could be differentiated by using multi-levelled activities. This will surely allow for better student engagement and development of better relationship between the teacher and student.

The whanau concept of pedagogy includes the concept of discipline which requires teachers to act like uncles and aunties, learning is a shared responsibility and there could be other agencies (health, training etc) that can be involved to provide needed support. The three goals of the critical pedagogy are to empower cultural identity, increase academic achievement and the actions for social change. It made me think about my practices in the classroom and how I can differentiate the learning goals for Maori and Pasifika learners. The objectives and expectations could be slightly different based on their individual skills.

Therefore, this session helped me to change my perception about how we can engage with Maori and Pasifika learners. There are a lot of factors that can affect the pedagogies that are used to in the classroom to engage Maori and Pasifika learners.