


Chapter 1


Multicultural Diversity in Perspective Views on Pluralism

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ABSTRACT

In this chapter, the authors analyse the multiculturalism as the inclusion of cultural, raced, and ethnic difference, especially within dominant political structures and differentiate between moderate and strong multiculturalism. As globalisation increases the frequency of intercultural contact, appreciation of multicultural diversity is inevitable. The chapter presents pluralism as the theoretical lens through which to analyse multicultural diversity, and discusses its history, conceptualisation, and use cases. The chapter makes clear that multiculturalism enlarges the possibilities of creativity, unity, and economic development, but simultaneously appears as an integration counterpart and as a matter of identity politics. Pluralism is the ability to live together without pressure to integrate into the dominant group and culture, in the effort to maintain social and economic differences. The analysis also goes ahead and shows that both multiculturalism and pluralism are called to create more

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-8196-0.ch001

diverse societies that embrace difference within citizens.

INTRODUCTION

Multiculturalism literally viewed as cultures, races, and ethnicities, particularly those of minority groups, deserve special acknowledgment of their differences within a dominant political culture (Encyclopaedia Britannica). Many liberal thinkers contend that moderate multiculturalism is preferable to strong multiculturalism since it provides stronger protections for individuals and marginalised groups within minorities, including women (Modood, 2009). This chapter's goal is to give a broader understanding of multicultural diversity from the standpoint of pluralism. In world's growing interconnectedness, multicultural diversity is becoming an unavoidable feature of contemporary cultures. Through the lens of pluralism, this chapter seeks to put forth the conceptual ideas of multicultural diversity by looking at its historical background, theoretical underpinnings, real-world applications, and potential future directions (Mishra, S., & Kumar, 2014). In an increasingly interconnected world, the interaction between different cultures has become a defining feature of modern society. The concepts of intercultural, intracultural, multiculturalism, diverse culture, and pluralism, and their relevance in understanding the dynamics of global and local communities is briefed in the introduction section. These terms capture the complexity of human experience, and all point to the various ways in which we interact with cultural difference, with the presence of difference within ourselves, and with shared existence. They act as the fundamental frameworks for establishing building societies that recognize, embrace and facilitate the accommodation of cultures of other diverse societies. However, it is engaged in a critical discussion of multiculturalism and pluralism uncovering the importance of equality for all individuals. This chapter seeks to give a critique of multiculturalism and pluralism with a view of highlighting their roles of nurturing comprehensive and equal society.

Intercultural can be defined as the barter, sharing and interchange of different and distinct cultures. It gives focus to the talk and interaction in collaborative situations when individuals from different tasks collaborate with each other, creating spaces of mutual influence and learning. In the process of globalization, intercultural communication occurs more frequently, and thus we witness great cooperative opportunities and many cultural conflicts, integration and cultural misunderstanding (Kramsch, 2002). Intracultural, on the other hand, refers to the variations and differences that exist in one culture as against another culture within the same society. It acknowledges that even within seemingly homogeneous groups, there are sub-cultures, varying traditions, and internal diversities that shape the broader cultural identity. Understanding intracultural variations is the key to avoiding monolithic

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