



Equality and Diversity in an Inclusive Society

Welcome to the module



Objectives

By the end of today's session, we will have:

- defined certain key concepts intrinsically linked with the module title;
- visited key vocabulary associated with the themes to be introduced during the module;
- begun to explore our own values and attitudes with regard to inclusion and promoting an inclusive society



Key vocabulary- suggestions?



Examples of Key Vocabulary

Values, attitudes, fairness, tolerance, rights, prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination, anti-discrimination, ethnicity, racism, anti-racism, sexism, homophobia, justice/injustice, equality/inequality, identity, diversity, inclusion, exclusion, ageism, ableism/disablism, misogyny, multiculturalism, etc.



What we will cover.....

- Overview of content
- Key vocabulary
- The nature of an inclusive society
- Implications of living in a diverse society.
- Prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping
- Oppressive language
- Racism
- Disability and disablism
- Ageism



Continued

- How fair is Britain?
- Equality Act 2010
- Global poverty
- UK poverty
- Poverty in Wales
- Identity



INCLUSION

- The module moves away from inclusive education and looks at inclusion from a macro-perspective; the big picture.
- We need to re-adjust our concept and definition of inclusion.
- Umbrella term under which inclusive education is a strand.
- Topics are concerned with the social aspect; the nature of an inclusive society, social inclusion.



One definition

'Inclusion is a process of identifying, understanding and breaking down barriers to participation and belonging.'

(National Early Childhood Forum, June 2003)



Inclusive > Exclusive

- Inherent in the term 'inclusive' is the possibility of being excluded.
- In which ways could society be excluding individuals, therefore? Consider this question in groups.
- How does this relate to the reading you were asked to complete ahead of the session today? What are the key themes emerging?
- Social inclusion

Barriers

- If this is true, we need to explore these barriers, identify and understand them in order to help break them down.
- Everyone has a right to be included and participate fully in society and feel that they belong.
- We need to understand the concepts and issues which certain individuals perceive as exclusive or actually do exclude them from participating fully in society. Our perceptions are very real.

Society

- How would you define society?
- Write a definition, then refine it with a partner until you are both satisfied.

Some definitions of society:

- A group of people who occupy a particular territory and speak a common language and share a common culture.
- A group of human beings, broadly described as being separate from other groups by mutual interest, beliefs and common cultural bonds.



More....

- A long-standing group of people sharing cultural aspects such as language, dress, norms of behaviour and artistic forms.
- A society is a grouping of individuals which is characterised by common interests and may have distinctive culture and institutions. Members of a society may be from different ethnic groups...



- Do these definitions satisfy us? How do they resonate with your own?



Big concept

- Definition of society
- Local? National? Global? Specific? General?
- Different communities of people make up different societies.
- It's possible to belong to one or lots of different communities at the same time. We have multiple identities. We can belong to different societies.

SOCIETY is a big concept.
We will consider this further at another time.



What about this.....?

- Margaret Thatcher famously declared in the 70s that there is no such thing as 'society'. There are only individuals and families.
- She is not alone. Some theorists believe that the most remarkable and insidious feature of the present-day edition of social ills is that they arise mostly from the absence of society, rather than from its pressures.

(From: Bauman, Z. (2008) The Absence of Society)



Let's move on: Inclusive society

- What does this term mean to you? Write down some thoughts. Share with a partner.
- Think of some ideas and words which would be true of an inclusive society.



Social inclusion: some information - from Serbia!

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3kQFZeuQmw>



A society for all

- An inclusive society is 'a society for all' (The World Summit for Social Development, 1995).
- Inclusive societies are stable, safe, just and tolerant.
- They respect diversity, equality of opportunity and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons.
