

Chapter-4

The Pivotal Role of Critical Pedagogy in Higher Education: Opportunities, Challenges and Hopes

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Abstract

This chapter examines the role of critical pedagogy in mitigating the effects of globalization and neoliberal reforms within higher education. These reforms often prioritize economic efficiency and accountability, which can hinder essential educational initiatives. However, recognized opportunities, such as the potential for cross-cultural contact and collaboration, can lead to innovative teaching techniques tailored to various educational contexts. Challenges endure, especially in non-Western contexts, owing to cultural, social, and political impediments. Despite these challenges, the importance of local adaptation of critical pedagogy that surpasses Western curricular dominance is crucial. This emphasis on local adaptation empowers the audience, making them feel integral to the transformation processes. The use of film and digital media to enhance intercultural competency and critical thinking is also advocated, promoting a holistic approach that integrates servant leadership and critical pedagogy. The groundbreaking idea lies in the potential of pre-college educational tools to foster dialogues about race in higher education, emphasizing the importance of culturally and locally informed approaches in critical pedagogy. In this sense, the urgency of the situation is paramount, and a framework for educators and politicians to develop strategies is needed urgently to address the challenges of a complex society, balancing opportunities and overcoming obstacles for a prosperous future in higher education.

Keywords: critical pedagogy, globalization, higher education, intercultural competency
