



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Local history can be defined as 'The study of the past of some significant local unit, developing as a community, in its context and compared with such other units. The teaching of local history can benefit students in many ways .Inclusion of local history in schools as the part of the history curriculum has become increasingly popular in many countries, because local history has been used and supported in many countries as a way of active learning.The teaching of local history in the early days was limited to illustrating important national events in a particular locality or local associations with nationally important people. Despite support for local history as an essential part of the school curriculum since the early years of the twentieth century, its adoption in primary and secondary schools has been slow. The interest in local history has grown over the years and especially in recent decades, debates about the potential threat of globalization to the local culture and identity have prompted a growth of local and regional studies in social science and history. .

KEYWORDS: context and compared , active learning , local history.

INTRODUCTION

Local history is a useful vehicle for building partnerships with the local community in which the school resides and it can help to break down the barriers between school and the world outside. During field visits and project work in local history, pupils will need to get in touch with experts such as museum curators, archivists, archaeologists, members of local historical societies and the like. This emphasizes the fact that history has a wider connotation outside the classroom: it is an on-going business in which real people, professionals, earn a living and the learning process extends beyond the realms of History. Visiting so many places will enhance the fun of learning and study will not be confined to the four corners of classroom. It will encourage the students to make their own links with the outside world and to take control of their own learning. This process of learning will also increase the curiosity of them to know more and will raise the analytical ability of them.

Another important value of local history is in providing links between history and other subjects. Studying history outside the classroom will enable the students to develop cross-curricular skills and interests. Environmental studies, geography, art, social studies and civics and economics all have an historical element, and often local history can play an important part in their teaching. It can play an important role in bridging the gap between these subjects and it will be a big contribution of it.

Although local history is frequently used to illustrate broader historical developments, it has also been recommended for technical and methodological reasons. The general objectives of local history should include not only understanding of the national and local history of a certain period or a certain theme and their interrelationship but also, skills and interests which they intended to develop. Local history studies persuade the students to research, analyze and report their observations. As a result they acquire more

real, as opposed to merely verbal, knowledge, and often lead to the development of more logical thought. Work on local history also entails working in groups and so promotes close relationships amongst the students. It can teach them to analyze the views of others as well as respect for others. This will also help them to understand the value of coordination while working with others. Field trips are a good way of gaining those skills.

When students carry out research in museums, historic buildings and sites and bring back information and ideas they are having valuable experience which will help them in their general development as well as their understanding of History. The adoption of varied approaches and introduction of new and more practical

Techniques will help local history in bringing interest as well as bringing relevance of History. Local history attracts and interests students which help them in actively participating in the process of learning. The use of local maps and other relevant evidences excite the students and involve them in historical studies. While teaching History, teachers should link past, present and future events to encourage the growth of an awareness of change and a sense of development instead of only giving only a vague idea of time. In some areas local remains may help in developing a time sense, which will help the students in correlating the past with the present. Too much school history has no relationship to the world in which students live but when the local community is surveyed as part of school history, the present situation will receive attention of students. Local history study takes the students out from their classrooms in their own district on fieldwork and visits, and brings to their notice the places they know. Local history studies can give opportunities for using inquiry methods such as observation, discovery, collection, evaluation and classification of evidence, deduction from evidence and presentation of conclusions.

Many of the advantages of local history which have been described as educational might also be classified as psychological. There is an additional psychological advantage that studying local history helps the students to know and to understand the environment and the community of which they form an important part. The local history also helps students in their personal development as well as in their sense of identity. Local history can help to satisfy the apparently increasing need felt by people today to identify themselves with groups smaller than the national. History offers roots and identities, especially through family history or local history, which are increasingly important for social cohesion at a time of rapid change.

Apart from all these benefits, learning about local history might have some long-term effects as well. Educationalists agreed that students should be made conscious of their heritage. If students appreciate their local past it may help them in developing a better understanding of the general past and encourage the acquisition of a more meaningful historical vocabulary and an idea of time sequence.

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of local history in the curriculum will help the students in overall development. It will not only help them in enhancing the analytical ability but will also help them in teaching to work in harmonious atmosphere. Local history studies will also help them to understand the changes with time which can also be used as a tool to look forward for better future. By teaching them about the contribution of great people of local area can motivate them to do great job in future as it can increase their self-confidence. The students can be well acquainted with the geographical knowledge of the area and will develop the sense of environmental responsibility, which is the need of the hour. They will also understand the value of preserving their heritage.

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