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My Journey in Becoming Culturally Competent

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INTRODUCTION

Everyone should be culturally competence to interact effectively with the increasing diverse population in our community. Cultural competence is not a binary concept but a continuum (Moule, 2012) that can be assessed through intercultural competence outcomes, based on knowledge, skills, and attitude (Deardorff, 2006).

OUTCOMES OF LOW CULTURAL COMPETENCE

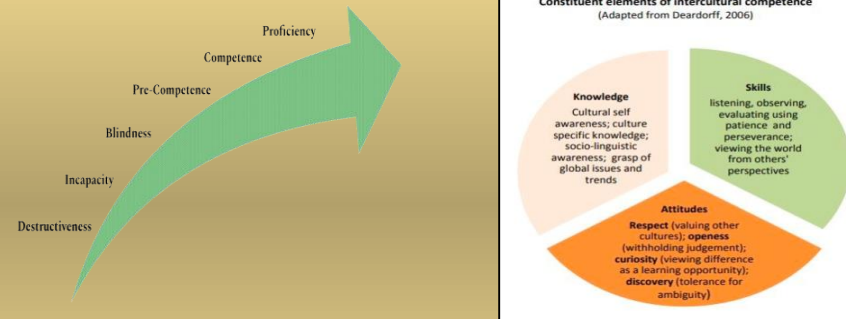
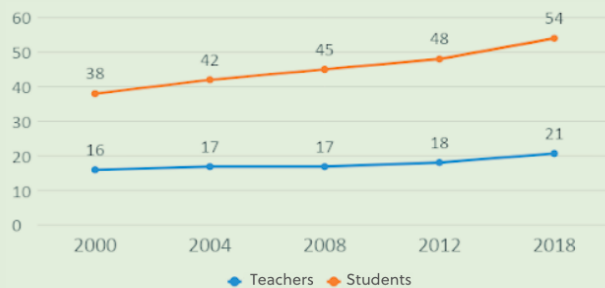
Bias, prejudices, micro aggressions and stereotypes that affect students:

- ❖ Cognitive, behavioral, and emotional reactions that inhibit learning
- ❖ Feelings of exclusion and limited access to knowledge
- ❖ Poor academic performance

SKILLS TO BE CULTURALLY COMPETENT

- ❖ Awareness and acceptance of differences
- ❖ Self-awareness
- ❖ Dynamics of differences
- ❖ Knowledge of the students' culture
- ❖ Adaptation of skills

Percentage of Teachers and of Students
Identifying as Non-White



PHASES OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

MY EVOLVING CULTURAL COMPETENCE

Pre Urban Education

- ❖ Grew up "living in a bubble": Rural town and school district with little diversity
- ❖ Safe, integrated, uplifting school system
- ❖ High self-esteem to be successful
- ❖ Low cultural competence

Urban Education

- ❖ Enhanced knowledge, skills, and attitude.
- ❖ Bias survey, K-12 reflection, course readings, cultural group (Asian American) projects, and service learning experience
- ❖ Familiarity with inequities/marginalization
- ❖ Empathy and desire to contribute to change

CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN SCHOOLS

- ❖ Highly diverse (race/ethnicity, nationality, religion, physical ability, etc.)
- ❖ Low socioeconomic status
- ❖ Lack of resources and qualified teachers
- ❖ Poor infrastructure
- ❖ High attrition and absenteeism
- ❖ Low performance on assessments

	MY HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL IN PROVIDENCE
LOCATION	MASSACHUSETTS	RHODE ISLAND
STAR RATING BY COMMUNITY	★★★★★	★
DEMOGRAPHICS (RATIO OF WHITES TO MINORITY)	8 : 2	1 : 9
PERCENT PROFICIENT IN READING	64%	12%

CONCLUSION

Developing cultural competence is a lifelong process that requires intentionality to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitude to be effective in interacting with others who do not share your cultural identity, beliefs, and values.