

ARTICLE REVIEWED

Learning and instruction in social, cultural environments: Promising research agendas

Rovegno, I. (2008). Learning and instruction in social, cultural environments: Promising research agendas. *Quest*, 60(1), 84-104.

THE PROBLEM:

We need to address inequitable opportunities to learn and participate in physical activity to improve the quality of physical education for those who are marginalized.



Research Summary:

Scholars in classroom research have spoken at length about the achievement gap in schools. In physical education, we face a participation gap. There are inequitable opportunities for students to learn and participate in physical activities, in and outside of school. Physical education is the one place where students from marginalized populations can be educated and have the opportunity to take part in physical activity.

Conclusion:

More research must be done on how undergraduates/future professionals are prepared to work in culturally diverse environments. We need candidates who are anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-heterosexist, anti-ablest, and anti-fat biased who can prepare students for learning in PE. This is a challenging concept but it is “ripe with possibility.”

Key Take-Away:

We need to make further strides in providing equitable opportunities for participation across socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, abilities and genders. We must consider designing a variety of curricular programs that are aimed at different age groups, cultural settings, subject matter, and curricular goals which promote inclusive social and cultural environments.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Ennis, C. D., Solmon, M. A., Satina, B., Loftus, S. J., Mensch, J., & McCauley, M. T. (1999). Creating a sense of family in urban schools using the “Sport for Peace” curriculum. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 70(3), 273-285.
- Ladson-Billings, G. 1994. *The Dreamkeepers: Successful teaching for African-American students*. San Francisco: Jossey-bass.
- Flory, S. B., Tischler, A., & Sanders, S. (Eds.). (2014). *Sociocultural Issues in Physical Education: Case Studies for Teachers*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.



SHAPE America – Society of Health and Physical Educators is the nation’s largest membership organization of health and physical education professionals. The organization sets the standard for health and physical education in the U.S., and its National Standards for K–12 Physical Education serve as the foundation for well-designed physical education programs across the country. SHAPE America is committed to 50 Million Strong, our ongoing initiative to put all children on the path to health and physical literacy through effective health and physical education programs.

