**The path of decolonising the Kaplan International Pathways curriculum – reflections and lessons learned**

Sadia Ashraf FHEA, University of Nottingham International College

Contact: sadia.ashraf@kaplan.com

**Introduction**

**SDGs covered: SDG 4** (quality education) and **10** (reduced inequalities).

Miller (2021) - **decolonisation** of curricula is chopping some branches off the tree and **rearranging** it - **restructuring**.

*Image description:* Image of a plant

**Context**

Kaplan International Pathways (KIP) - pathways for international students to UK universities through academic programmes focusing on English language, academic skills and subject knowledge.

**Practice (ongoing)**

2020: KIP initiated Higher Ground (HG) project – focus on racial justice across the network. Then moved to broader EDI in curriculum project - three focus areas: Decolonising and Racial Justice; SEND; Gender and Sexual Orientation.

ChangeLab approach taken to the EDI process (Virkkunen and Newnham, 2013).

**Progress**

HG group for **ethnic minority staff** established at college level.

**Colonised** elements of the curriculum evident:

* focus on **accents** (rather than pronunciation) in speaking marking criteria;
* **Eurocentrism** in module content;
* lack of student training on **multicultural settings**;
* lack of staff training on dealing with **racism** at college-level.

*Image description*: Image with an aerial view of a group of people of different skin tones holding hands in a circle

**Lessons learned**

To be sustainable, decolonisation processes should work alongside but **outside of EDI initiatives** (Bell, 2021).

**Diversity ≠ decolonisation** (Ventour, 2021). **Discussions of race may become hidden** under the EDI umbrella and could lead to failure to decolonise the curriculum overall (Bell, 2021).

*Image description:* Image of a woman wearing hijab

**Concluding reflection**

EDI ≠ decolonisation.

When analysing the inclusivity of the curriculum, reflect: are you asking students to 'bend to your [potentially colonised] viewpoint' or are you 'bending to their viewpoint'? (Miller, 2021).

*Image description:* Image of mirror

**References**

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