

Globethics.net Declaration of Inclusive Education

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Globethics.net Introduction

Globethics.net is a platform which provides education resources and teaching on ethics. Globethics.net has as one of its key values as "Inclusion" "engaged in overcoming exclusion of the marginalized", "for inclusive, participatory societies", therefor Globethics.net has the value of inclusivity in its DNA.

Synopsis

We would highlight the following three important aspects of inclusivity in more detail in this declaration:

- 1) Globethics.net is a global platform for ethics. Inclusivity is beyond linguistic and cultural barriers. Globethics.net, by giving access to ethics on an online platform, contributes to overcome what hampers access to knowledge
- 2) Globethics.net is an Internet-based platform: To become technologically literate is crucial. Rising awareness of new information barriers as much as of the new possibilities of the cyber space to dismantle barriers represent daily commitment of Globethics.net (e. g. who knows how to use Zotero?)¹.
- 3) By focusing on applied ethics, on virtue ethics and the virtue of generosity, a deeper motivational driver of inclusive ethics can be discovered.

Declaration

- Aware of the tendency spread across borders, cultures and religions to allocate children to specialized schools, where they might feel more comfortable, not having to run for pedagogic objectives of "normal" primary school. Globethics.net is concerned by the tendency to exclude children with specialized educational needs.
- Reminding that special and inclusive education both come from three historical and sociological factors: 1) the will of civil society to give equal rights to all in terms of education (handicapped persons should also have the right for education), 2) the evolution of the role of the parents more closely involved at school, 3) the progress and humanisation of psychiatry²,
- Trusting the value of speech therapy, psycho-physiological care, psychiatric, and anthropologic perspectives on these sciences:

Globethics.net draws attention:

- To affective risks involved in dividing spatially children from one another, on the ground of societal conformity, and emphasises the need for *specialized care* instead, notably from non-teaching staff at school, whereby the child who would remain at school with his peers, would be given better attention, but without dividing unnecessarily the familiar space of the school.
- Globethics.net underlines the importance of inclusiveness, instead of exclusion, segregation, or even integration; inclusion stands for committing oneself to adopting proactive measures that eliminate the barriers that do not permit the learning and the full participation of the students. In-

¹ Zotero is a good example of how using the Zotero toolbar to insert citations into a text makes redaction work easier.

² Éric Plaisance, « Débats, échanges autour de l'éducation inclusive dans le monde », *La nouvelle revue de l'adaptation et de la scolarisation* 2013/2 (N° 62), p. 183-186. Rosario López Gavira & Anabel Morriña (2015) "Hidden voices in higher education: inclusive policies and practices in social science and law classrooms", *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 19:4, 365-378

clusion should transform the teacher and the englobing institution of education to adapt to individual needs of those who benefit inclusion, using as much as possible inter-and intra-cultural means, means within one cultural group, but without giving too much weight to uniformity and social homogeneity, but moving normatively from a top-down cultural hegemonic understanding to a horizontal needs-based support, empowering also cross-cultural perspectives³.

- Globethics.net acknowledges that compulsory education, without which it is unlikely that one would access higher education, is more important.
- Globethics.net draws the attention to international surveys showing that the university system remains “among the least inclusive environments in terms of access and long-term success⁴”, therefor and because university is the place where teachers are being formed, strong focus on higher education is needed to tackle the problems of exclusion and segregation in education.
- By focusing on competency and in particular competency in IT and internet based technology, language development and on social recognition in higher education, Globethics.net aims at resisting against a snob view of University research, knowledge and information seen by some as a club of white, male and well-established happy few (often self-coined as “elite”⁵). Elites or snobs can be characterized as mistakenly giving no value to reason based ethics, ending with a cynical descriptive reduction of reality⁶. Any decent educational institution should publicly denounce snobbism in education, if education would want to remain inclusive.
- Globethics.net recommends descriptive efforts by anthropologists, linguists and philosophers to show the highly attractive nature of inclusive education, because denouncing snobbism is always less efficient than showing indisputable advantages of inclusiveness⁷.
- Globethics.net affirms the values of good education as generous and inclusive education and recognises its long history and traditions that should be rediscovered, as virtue ethics focused on the central virtue of generosity as the paradigm of inclusive education.
- Globethics.net takes for granted that those for special needs in education should be recognized cultural and linguistic rights as any other. It is not less important to focus on inclusion, when language is not shared in the same way by all the members of a group. Intergenerational dialogue is part of a process of inclusion. Cultural rights are the main entry point to the rest of the human

³ See figure in the annex at the end of this document.

⁴ Cf. Gavira, p. 366, detailed bibliography upon demand.

⁵ The trend is to use the word elite, see last UNRISD Conference at the UN in Geneva: "Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization", Nov. 2018.

⁶ Dullness is another more pejorative term for snobbism, or as N. de Malbranche would say: “soft minds” “esprits mous”. “But the soft minds have only a counterfeit delicacy and niceness. They are neither lively nor piercing: they cannot see the effects of even the most gross and palpable causes. In short, they are unable to comprehend or penetrate anything; but are wonderfully nice as to modes and fashions. An ungentle word, a rustic accent, or a little grimace, shall provoke them infinitely more than a confused mass of lame and inconcluding reasons. They cannot discover the defect of an argument, but can critically discern a false step or an incompleted [disordered] gesture. In a word, they have a perfect understanding of sensible things, as having made continual use of their senses; but have no true knowledge of things depending on reason, because they have scarce ever employed their own.” Nicolas Malbranche, (1675), *Search after Truth*, Book II, Ch. IX 1, translated by T. Taylor 1700, London. <https://archive.org/details/fathermalebranch00male/page/n3>

⁷ In order to understand the difficulty and urgency of cultural and linguistic inclusion, one can compare it to interreligious dialogue or political and philosophical theories of distributive justice. Contrary to religious matters or principles of justice, not to speak in one language is not the kind of choice a person can make, as we would put a veil of ignorance on some preferences to compare one religious dogma with one other, or when we put under brackets cultural roots and definitions of the good, to take a unifying contractual rule of political social order. On the contrary speaking at least in one language is the very condition of human communication.

rights system, that is an indivisible system, and provides unity to the whole list of the SDG objectives, not only to SDG4 concerned by education.

- Globethics.net highlights the simple truth that linguistic practice is exclusion, because language is formed by a given history and culture. Therefore normative and applied ethics should be promoted, in order to give better conditions for inclusive share of esteem across cultures and boundaries. Ethics is a powerful tool to dismantle barriers that are being naturally formed in daily language interactions.
- Globethics.net works for promoting high educational standards whereby to learn and master a second language, to be information science literate and to have some command on applied ethics are nowadays essential prerequisites for adapting learning institutions to inclusive education.

Annex

<i>Exclusion</i> Separation of those who have a capacity for education, or linguistic capacity, from those who don't have	<i>Segregation</i> Separation and concentration on the base of capacity and qualities	<i>Integration</i> Incorporation of those previously separated but next to each other	<i>Inclusion</i> To insert all parties together, the structure adapts to the needs of the parts
			

Figure: Source: Robert Aehnelt (2013): *Historische Schritte auf dem Weg zur Inklusion auf gesellschaftlicher Ebene*

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