

Critical Pedagogy in the 21st Century: A Documentary Review of its Foundations and Applications in Educational Transformation

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to analyze the foundations and applications of critical pedagogy in the 21st century, evaluating its relevance and adaptation to contemporary challenges such as neoliberal capitalism, globalization, and digitalization. It seeks to understand how critical pedagogy influences educational and social transformation through a review of key texts and empirical studies. A bibliographic documentary methodology was employed, conducting an exhaustive review of relevant academic sources, including foundational texts of critical pedagogy, recent studies, and empirical cases. The analysis focused on identifying the key principles of critical pedagogy and their application in urban and virtual educational contexts. The findings revealed that critical pedagogy upholds fundamental principles such as dialogue, consciousness-raising, resistance to power, and social justice, which have been adapted to address contemporary issues such as climate change and gender equity. In urban classrooms, culturally relevant pedagogical practices are evident that empower marginalized communities. Furthermore, in virtual environments, the scope of critical dialogue expands, although challenges related to unequal access to technology persist. It is concluded that critical pedagogy remains a powerful tool for educational transformation, fostering active and critical citizenship. Despite obstacles, such as institutional resistance and digital exclusion, its impact on education reinforces its importance as an emancipatory approach, promoting equity and social justice in diverse educational contexts.

Keywords: Pedagogy, Criticism, 21st Century, Documentary, Foundations, Educational Transformation

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