Mauritius' Efforts to Ensure Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education

Mauritius has implemented several strategies to ensure that its education system is culturally relevant, promotes equitable relations, and addresses the needs of all groups in the population. Here are some key initiatives:

1. Culturally Relevant Curriculum:

- **Integration of Local Culture:** Mauritian culture, history, and traditions are integrated into the curriculum, helping students develop a sense of identity and pride.
- **Multicultural Perspective:** The curriculum is designed to promote understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures, including Indian, African, Chinese, and European influences.

2. Equitable Access and Inclusion:

- **Free Education:** Mauritius provides free education from pre-primary to the tertiary level, ensuring that all children have equal opportunities to access quality education.
- **Inclusive Education:** Policies are in place to support students with special needs, ensuring they have access to appropriate education and support.
- **Gender Equality:** is present in education, including promoting equal participation of girls and boys in all subjects and activities.

3. Addressing Hate Speech and Social Discrimination:

- **Human Rights Education:** Human rights education is integrated into the curriculum to promote respect for diversity, equality, and human dignity.
- **Anti-Bullying Policies:** Schools have strict anti-bullying policies in place to address issues of hate speech and discrimination.

4. Addressing the Needs of All Groups:

- **Regional Variations:** The education system takes into account regional variations in culture, language, and socio-economic conditions to ensure that education is relevant and accessible to all students.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Special programs and support are provided to address the needs of vulnerable groups, such as children from disadvantaged

backgrounds, those with disabilities, and children from minority communities.

5. Challenging Structural Violence and Divisions:

- **Peace Education:** Peace education is integrated into the curriculum
- **Community Engagement:** Schools often collaborate with community organizations to address social issues and promote social cohesion.
- **Civic Education:** Civic education is emphasized to empower students to become active citizens and contribute to a just and equitable society.

By implementing these strategies, Mauritius is working towards creating an education system that is not only culturally relevant which also promotes equitable relations, inclusion, and addresses the needs of all groups in the population. This approach helps to resolve divisions within communities, fostering a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Mauritius' Approach to Integrating Peace Education in School Education

Mauritius has implemented several strategies to ensure that peace education is integrated in a holistic manner at all levels of school education:

1. Curriculum Integration:

- **Cross-Curricular Themes:** Peace education is integrated into various subjects, such as social studies, history, to reinforce its importance.
- **Thematic Units:** Schools often develop thematic units that focus on peace, tolerance, to provide a comprehensive approach to the subject.

2. Educational Materials:

- **Development of Resources:** The Ministry of Education develops and distributes educational materials, such as textbooks, worksheets, and lesson plans that incorporate peace education concepts.
- **Alignment with Curriculum:** These materials are aligned with the national curriculum to ensure consistency and coherence in the delivery of peace education.

3. Curriculum Review and Strengthening:

- **Regular Reviews:** The curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains relevant and effective in promoting peace education.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Feedback from teachers, students, and parents is used to identify areas for improvement and strengthen the curriculum.

The Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) collaborated with Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration of Light (HWPL) based in South Korea in an endeavour to support teachers with the implementation of peace education. The HWPL is an international peace organization that was founded in South Korea for global peace and cessation of war. It is a non-governmental organization with Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC). The collaboration between the HWPL and the MIE is built on the desire to further empower educators in developing knowledge, skills and attitudes to teach Values Education, Human Rights Education, Citizenship Education and to assist teachers in finding ways to integrate Peace Education into the existing curriculum. A need for Peace Education in the education system to create more sustainable and peaceful societies is a necessity. For example, education on conflict resolution, prevention, and peace should enable the learners to develop skills and competencies related to HRE. It is therefore crucial to promote the right to education as a human right.

Through 8 online workshops, the HWPL has equipped the Certificate in Special Education CSE educators to better understand the importance of developing appropriate values and attitudes in the youth so that the latter becomes pro-active citizens who will be able to co-exist within their communities in a harmonious manner, helping to build a better community.