

## **Feminist Pedagogy**

This open educational resource (OER) proposes an analysis of the key principles and approaches of feminist pedagogy. The aim is to promote critical thinking about gender and other social identities in educational contexts.

# 1. Feminist Pedagogy as a Critical Approach

Feminist pedagogy is a critical educational approach that focuses on the intersection of gender and other social identities. It aims to empower students and teachers, challenge traditional power relations, and value lived experiences as a legitimate form of knowledge. It builds on critical pedagogy but expands it to include feminist theory and intersectionality.

# 2. Foundational Concepts of Feminist Pedagogy



The psychological model seeks nurturing, non-adversarial teacher-student relationships.



The **emancipatory model** actively engages with differences in social identities, treating the classroom as a space of productive conflict rather than mere safety.



The **positional model** emphasizes knowledge as socially constructed and challenges patriarchal epistemologies by incorporating diverse perspectives.

## 3. Key Principles of Feminist Pedagogy

#### **Reconfiguring power**

(from teachercentered authority to shared, participatory power among teachers and students)

Valuing personal experience

(as a crucial form of knowledge that challenges traditional objective rationality)

Building and empowering communities (that recognize diverse voices and lived experiences)

**Intersectionality** 

(to understand the influence of different social identities)

### 4. Reflection and Discussion

- 1. What are the greatest challenges in implementing the principles of feminist pedagogy in large, hierarchical educational institutions?
- 2. How can students' lived experiences be integrated into the curriculum and recognized as a valid source of knowledge?
- 3. How can feminist pedagogy help overcome gender inequalities in education?
- 4. What role do digital technologies play in the development of feminist pedagogy, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic?

## 5. References

**Crenshaw, K** (2017). <u>On Intersectionality: Essential Writings</u>. New York: The New Press. **Nguyen, L.** (2024). <u>Feminist Pedagogies Inform Inclusive STEM Teaching</u>. Northern Illinois University (online), 30. 05. 2024.

**Tisdell, E.** (1998). <u>Poststructural Feminist Pedagogies: The Possibilities and Limitations of Feminist Emancipatory Adult Learning Theory and Practice</u>. Adult Education Quarterly, Volume 48, pp 139-156.

Target audiences: 🬆 University teachers, 🧵 University students

#### **GEDIS** project context

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This resource is part of the European project GEDIS (Gender Diversity in Information Science), which promotes open educational tools to tackle gender inequalities in higher education, with an emphasis on disciplines related to Information and Library Science.

GEDIS - Gender Diversity in Information Science: Challenges in Higher Education. https://ub.edu/gedis





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