

Religion in Education

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The way religion is incorporated into our lives is one thing that is greatly discussed around the world. To bring up a common yet important example, one of the greatest changes that came from the Renaissance was the detachment of church and state in Europe. These days, one of the main parental focal points is education and the future of their kids. It is important to see how past causes of change in the world are still affecting us today and what differences they may bring to our different society.

To start, Christianity is the world's largest religion, with about 2.4 billion followers worldwide. What is interesting is that no Christian Theocracy, a government based around Christianity, anywhere in the world, so unlike some countries with all religious schools, there is no government enforcing Christianity on children. Because of this, families and communities are left to themselves to decide what opportunities are available, and how much impact they have. Christian schools are primarily tied to churches, and the main difference to public schools is that in most subjects and activities, students are learning Christian beliefs.

Hinduism is heavily practiced as well, and also refers to larger groups of people. In recent decades, the amount of average schooling has increased by about 3.4 years. “However, Hindus still have the lowest level of educational attainment of any major religious group in this study,” (Pew Research 2). This is mainly because Hinduism is focused in India, where most rural parts don't have access to education, and there is a larger gender gap. Hinduism is not taught in government-run schools, as it is believed that children learn best from their parents and the people around them.

Buddhism is popular throughout parts of Asia, and it is focused on learning about the path toward enlightenment. This means that many schools focus their curriculums around these ideas, because it is something that many will continue to learn through their life. Many of the basic beliefs are things that most cultures consider important to learn from a young age, such as refraining from stealing and killing, which makes sense to include into young children's lives. Another example is Japan, which instead steers away from literal religion, and instead teaches 'dotoku', which means morals. This is primarily in public schools, and some private ones dive deeper.

Judaism is mainly practiced in Israel, but shows up in certain other areas of the world. Countries such as America don't focus on Judaism, unless during all religious studies, but it is common for there to be schools that are only there to teach about Judaism. On the other hand,

Israel has different school systems with different focuses. There are ones that teach Judaism no matter what, ones that teach the beliefs, but only as knowledge, not to convert, and finally one where the students are assumed to be non-Jew and maybe only speak Arabic.

Islam is a religion that is not as focused in one spot, but instead about 60% of the Muslim population is in Asia while another 20% is in the Middle East and North Africa. This means that there is no country made around this religion, which in turn no government either. The only schools that are Islamic are private schools, not government controlled .

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