

How parents contributed to influence students' attitudes in a Portuguese school classroom**Lopes da Silva, João.** Agrupamento de Escolas Baixa-Chiado, Portugal

This research intended to explore to what extent Education through Art, could be used as a tool for minority inclusion at school. The specific goals were to investigate to what extent analysing artistic images and objects from different cultures could serve to change students' perception of cultural differences, promoting respect towards different ethnic/cultural groups, and to what extent it could contribute to the inclusion of minority peers into a majority group. Minority students' parents (which were immigrants) were invited to participate in the experimental class sessions. Some parents brought several objects like African wooden artistic ones, Chinese traditional suit and traditional bride suit from India, among others. Parents told the class about their own culture and experience in their birth countries. All the students became very sensitive to these human experiences and after several sessions a change of attitude was detected in them.

It seems that the presence of the immigrant parents in the experimental class had a strong influence in student's change of attitude regarding respect towards different ethnic/cultural groups and contributed to the inclusion of minority students into the class.