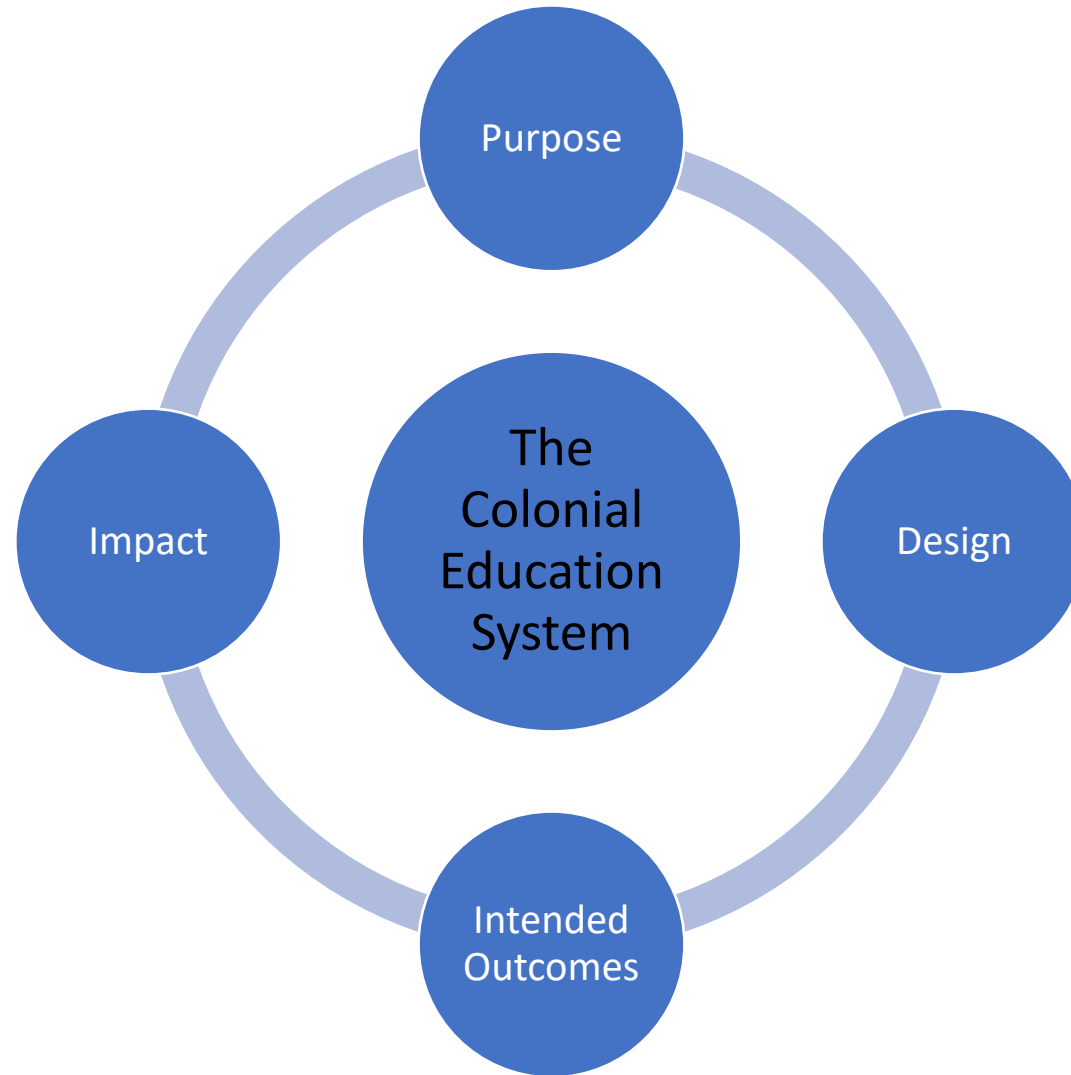# Carving a Post-colonial African Identity: Shedding the Colonial Vestiges of Exclusion and Embracing True Inclusion

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Context

Identity in Metamorphosis

- Yearning for a reaffirmation of their true African identity
  - Culture
  - Traditions
  - Language
- The need to define the world for themselves from their own lenses
  - Scholarship
  - History
- The need to rid their education system of any form of prejudice
  - Race
  - Ethnicity
  - Gender

Kralovec, E. & Chitiyo, M. (2009). Identity in metamorphosis: An anthology of writings from Zimbabwe students. New York: Nova Science Publishers

Identity in Metamorphosis

- The students call for an overhaul of the education system

"They see the current curriculum as devisive, denigrating of their heritage, invasive to their culture, detrimental to their identity, and perpetuating of the of the colonial legacy."

The Pressing Issues

- What is the purpose of education?
- What constitutes knowledge?
- Who constructs knowledge?
- Are present education systems in Africa fit for addressing African challenges?

"Education must begin with the solution of the teacher-student contradiction, by reconciling the poles of the contradiction so that both are simultaneously teachers *and* students."

Paulo Freire

The Pressing Issues

- Ndlovu-Gatsheni: "[Education in Africa] should become a common good by serving Africans instead of taking us from our own histories, our own cultures, and our own languages into somewhere else, a European space." (Paterson & Luescher, 2022)

- Education must be steeped in the African cultural context
  - ✓The lived experience of the African
  - ✓Reaffirmation of traditional African cultural heritage

- Local languages must be valued
  - ✓The basis of learning
  - ✓The languages of inquiry

Decolonizing the Curriculum

- An ongoing project
- We must reject the banking concept of education in its entirety and adopt instead a concept of the African as a conscious being.
- We must abandon the educational goal of deposit-making and replace it with the posing of the problems of human beings in their relations with the world.
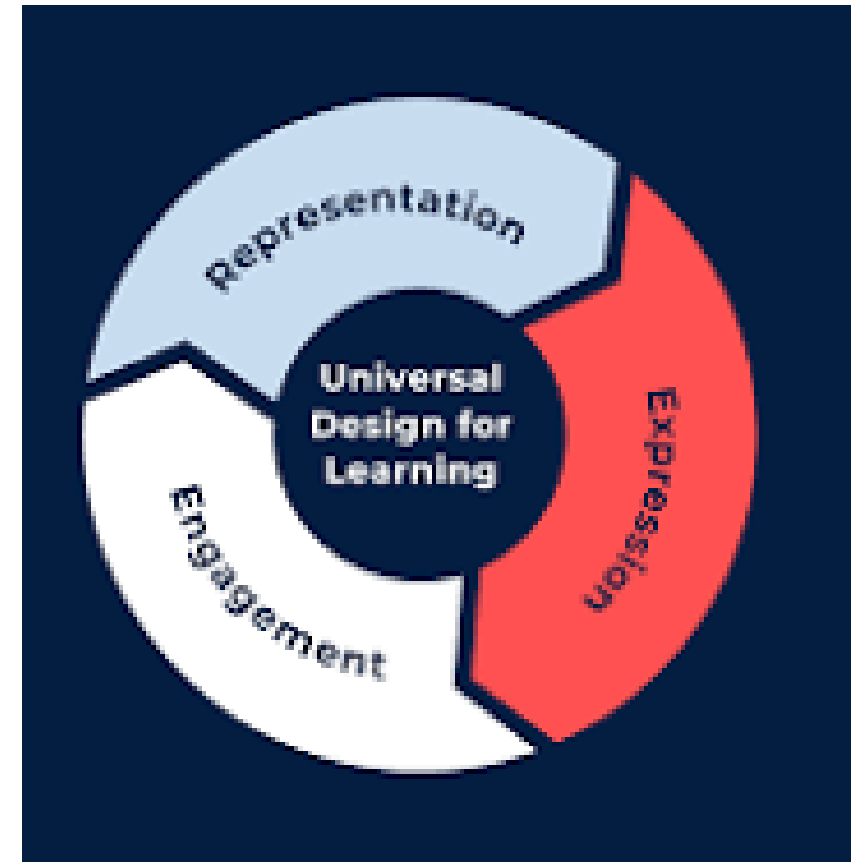
Paulo Freire

Pressing Issues

- What are we archiving?

- Are we storing an inclusive body of knowledge?

Pressing Issues

- Is the archived data stored in a way that is accessible to all including individuals with disabilities?
    - ➢ Universal Design
        - ✓ Multiple means of representation
        - ✓ Multiple means of engagement
        - ✓ Multiple means of expression

True Inclusion

- "[Inclusion] means real learning opportunities for groups who have traditionally been excluded – not only children with disabilities, but speakers of minority languages too." (Unicef, n.d.)

- Inclusive educational systems value the unique contributions students of all backgrounds bring to the classroom and allow diverse groups to grow side by side, to the benefit of all.

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