

# Exploring Human Rights, Social Inclusivity, and Gender Dynamics in Higher Education

(CECIIS)

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**Abstract.** Higher education as an institution plays a crucial role in shaping the perspective and attitudes of future leaders regarding human rights, gender issues, and social inclusivity. This study aims to explore how these critical areas are addressed within university settings and their impact on students' understanding and attitudes.

The primary focus of this research is to identify the extent to which human rights, cultural differences, and gender issues are integrated into the higher education curriculum, to assess the effectiveness of current educational approaches, and to explore students' perceptions and experiences regarding to those topics. A mixed-methods approach was established to achieve these objectives, combining quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Given the predominantly homogenous demographic context of Croatia, the sample consisted of students from different regions and fields of study, aiming to reflect a variety of academic backgrounds and personal experiences rather than ethnic or racial diversity. Statistical analysis was used to interpret the survey data, while thematic analysis was applied to the survey responses to identify common themes and insights.

The findings suggest that while some progress had been made, there are still significant gaps in how these topics are addressed within the academic environment. The research results suggest that students generally do not hold discriminatory views regarding race, ethnicity, or culture: however, opinions on gender equality still vary, with women receiving less recognition for the same tasks and a prevailing belief that women should not pursue education or careers.

This research underscores the need for a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to education that fully embrace and promotes these topics.

**Keywords.** Human Rights, Cultural Diversity, Gender Dynamics, Higher Education

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to: FOI: Prof. dr. sc. Violeta Vidaček-Hainš, Student Union FOI, University of Cincinnati, Indiana State University, DePaul University, and to all the students/participants without whom this would not be possible.

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