Ubuntu

Ubuntu is translated as “humanism of human beings collectively” (Merriam et al. 2007, p. 235).

In traditional African education, living was learning. Students learned with deliberate intentions provided by their teachers. Teachers included family members, especially mothers (as the poem demonstrates—right), neighbors, and peers. The teachers were tasked with the responsibility to educate children in the clan’s accepted values, beliefs, and norms, which were enforced by the elders, in an effort to assure survival (Assante, 2005 as cited in Bangura, 2005). It is with this holistic approach to learning that we begin our discussion of African education.

Discussion Questions:
1. “Western education has made many Africans selfish” and the family has been transformed by placing emphasis on the nuclear family instead of the community (Assante, as cited in Bangura, 2005, p. 24). How would you respond to this idea? What would selfishness look like for Africans based on what you know from the chapter and from the information in the prezi?
2. How do you think western adult learners would benefit from an understanding of ubuntu?
3. If you were planning a learning event what aspects of African education would you implement?

(Please respond to questions in the appropriate thread.)
Resources


Photos

