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The Importance of international education

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Freeman Butts illustrated the initial stage of what he called America's educational involvement with other nations as the nation's knowledge and understanding about other people and informing them about ourselves through systemic study in schools and colleges. It is here, he argues, where educational and cultural programs belong, serving as one of the most important and effective means of expending international knowledge and awareness.

The integration of international education and global studies into social studies is imperative to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed for responsible participation in a global community. In a social studies classroom, international studies aim at the in-depth study of a specific region of the world to develop knowledge and understanding of another culture. Due to their origin and development, international programs for educators manifest the multifaceted nature of education, serving in many instances as a magnifying glass that enables observers to see success and failures in the development of educational institutions, intercultural communication, educational reform, to name a few.

The role of educators in all areas of international education is critical. Faculty are the key to a successful international education project. They develop curriculum, influence curricular modification, motivate students and evaluate colleagues' work. In the era of technological super-and overconnectivity, teachers still remain an important link that connects elements of international education, global studies, cultural studies, and multicultural education.

Mark Percy's insightful analysis of German education and the role of Social Studies in Germany is a helpful example that demonstrates how international programs foster teachers' sense of global-mindedness and help educators develop a global perspective among students. Vlaardingerbroek, Traikovski, and Hussain compare the teaching of law between Australia and Pakistan, pointing out the difficulties that arise when an educated citizenry is not aware of their laws and rights in law. They advocate for more professional development for educators in this important area.