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Cross-Cultural Connections: Using Jamaican Proverbs for Teaching Finance to Jamaican-Speaking Students

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Abstract

This paper proposes the use of Jamaican proverbs for teaching finance to Jamaican-speaking students. Jamaican proverbs facilitate teaching by appealing to Jamaican students' cultural background, by presenting ideas in a concise and memorable way, and by creating a friendlier classroom atmosphere. Jamaican proverbs also assist English-speaking instructors to overcome language barriers and to develop a close relationship with students. The use of Jamaican proverbs benefits non-Jamaican speaking students by promoting cultural and language diversity in the finance classroom as well. A short description of each financial concept is accompanied with Jamaican proverbs and its translation, and an equivalent English proverb. Teaching strategies for incorporating Jamaican proverbs in the classroom are suggested as well.

Keywords: English proverbs; financial education; international students; multicultural competency; multilingualism