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Inclusive Education: A New Challenge

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Abstract

Inclusive Education is the need and demand of present day cohesive and inclusive society. The fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution make provisions for access, equity and equality of all type of opportunities including educational opportunities to all people with various caste, creed, society, gender and individuality. The goal of this paper is to examine the issues related to provisions, barriers and solutions for "inclusive education" in context with the present scenario of barriers for classrooms, students & teachers. It also reviews the research literature related to educational outcomes and educational context which are helpful to solving new challenges of inclusive education. In this paper we have discuss about some new trends and challenges in Teacher Education field for inclusive education.

Keywords: Inclusive-Education, Educational Outcomes & Benefits, Emerging Issues and Recommendations

Introduction

Education plays an important role to develop students as skilled human resources for the country. To educate means to develop and cultivate (Merriam-Webster, 1978). To teach, is defined as to course to know; to show; to guide; to make to know the consequences of (Merriam Webster, 1978). Thus, education includes more than instructions, and teaching involves more than just delivery of information. The entire educational process transforms some values, skills and attitudes in a student which form our society. Inclusion as we know it today has its origin in Special Education. In Indian schools special education is treated as a separate dimension with general education system, but in recent years the appropriateness of separate system of education has been challenged, both from human rights perspective and from the point of view of effectiveness. Special Education practices have been moved into the mainstream through an approach known as integration.

Inclusion and Integration

In special school concept the special education component is a part of the general education system, whereas in integrated approach, it is a part of the general education. In Inclusive Education approach, the special education is an integral part of the general education system. Inclusion is a concept that visualizes the children with disabilities as full time participants as members of their neighbour-hood schools and communities (Knight 1999). Inclusion does not mean dumping. It gives a message, —everyone belongs to school and everyone is welcome to school. Inclusion is the provision of services to students with special needs in their schools with support services and supplementary aids for both students and teachers.

Inclusive Education in India: Present Scenario

Inclusive education as an approach is that seeks to address the learning need of all children with a special focus on those who are vulnerable to marginalization and exclusion. To be inclusive in education means that all students in a school, with or without disabilities become part of the

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