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Ethics, Equity and Inclusive Education: Fostering Strategies

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ABSTRACT:

Since education makes the room for equality and empowerment, every child has the right to get education. Many children with disabilities have become victim to an educational system, which is not able to meet their individuals' needs. Inclusive education is a human right issue. Inclusive education means that all children, regardless of their strength or weaknesses accommodated in a school and become part of the school community. Inclusive education encourages bringing all students together in one classroom and following the same curriculum regardless of their diversities. India is one of the few countries world over where the education of children with special needs does not fall within the purview of human resource development ministry. Inclusive Education (IE) is a new approach towards educating the children with disability and learning difficulties with that of normal ones within the same roof. It brings all students together in one classroom and community, regardless of their strengths or weaknesses in any area, and seeks to maximize the potential of all students. Inclusive schools have to address the needs of all children in every community and the central and state governments have to train their teachers to manage inclusive classrooms.

Key words: Inclusive Education, Children with special needs, Disabilities, Inclusion

Introduction

In 1945, the League of Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the field of education, Article 26 of the Declaration proclaims the right of every citizen to an appropriate education regardless of gender, race, colour and religion. This right is also enshrined in the constitutions of all independent nations. The question is to what extent are national governments guaranteeing the right of 'every' citizen to an 'appropriate' education as we approach the new millennium? What measures are in place at national and local level to address imbalances in education?

In almost every country, children and adults are excluded from formal education altogether, some of those who go to school do not complete. They are gradually and deliberately pushed out of the school system because schools are not sensitive to their learning styles and backgrounds. In a gesture of sympathy, some children are sorted out into categories and placed in separate special schools, away from their peers. This has led to the development of two separate systems of education within countries, regular