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ROLE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN PRESENT SITUATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Inclusive education has gained significant attention in recent years as societies strive to create more equitable and accessible learning environments for all students. Inclusive education is an approach that aims to provide equal opportunities for all learners, regardless of their abilities, disabilities, gender, socio-economic status. Inclusive education represents the latest trend in the provision of placement suggested in the field of education to disabled children. The objectives of inclusive education is to identify and enrol children with special needs in regular schools and provide effective support. Principles of togetherness and principles of equality are the main important principles of inclusive education. Inclusive education strategies refer to the different strategies and techniques to meet the diversity of children's needs and abilities. However in inclusive education, we are facing several problems such as lack of positive attitude towards teachers, lack of trained teachers, lack of inclusive learning environment, lack of recognition of people experiencing disability. This paper discuss the concept, disabled student, importance, principles, issues and challenges, goals, strategies regarding inclusive education.

Keywords: Inclusive Education, Disabilities, children with special needs, issues etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Inclusion is one of the most widely studied topic in the teaching learning process. It helps to success of teaching process. Inclusion is the educational practice of educating children special needs with children who do not have disabilities. It means all learners get equal opportunities regardless of their abilities, disabilities, gender, age, attainment and background. It involves changes and modifications in content, approaches, structures and strategies, with a common vision which covers all children of appropriate age range and a conviction that it is the focus is on creating an environment where every student can participate and learn together. It also encourages collaboration among teachers, parents and specialists to ensure personalized support and access to quality education for every learner. In 1974, The Integrated Education for Disabled students scheme was established to give equal opportunities for children with disabilities. The national policy for Person With Disabilities 2006, aims to established the framework within the government and private sector must function in order to promote a quality life for disabled children. With the publication of Salamanca statement by UNESCO in 1994, a large number of developing countries began reformulating their policies to promote the inclusion of disabled students in to mainstream school.. According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Inclusive Education is the most effective way to give all children a fair chance to go school, learn and develop the skills they need to thrive." World Health Organization(WHO) defines inclusive education as "a strategy to ensure that all children, including those with disabilities ,have access to quality education that meets their diverse learning needs and prepares them for life, work, and citizenship." In this paper, we are going to study the concept and meaning, principles strategies, problems and goals of inclusive education.

OBJECTIVES:

- To study the concept of inclusive education.
- To explain the importance of Inclusive Education.
- To identify the principles.
- To study the problems of inclusive education.
- To differentiate the various strategies of inclusive education

METHODOLOGY:

An Analytical method has been used for this study. Data are collected from secondary sources like books, magazines, journals, internet etc.

MEANING AND CONCEPT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:

The concept inclusion was conceived in 1948 with the declaration adopted by the UN General assembly on the "International Bill of Rights", which recognises that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The word 'inclusive' derives from a Latin word 'includere' the medieval Latin word 'inclusivus' that changed in to 'inclusive' in the time of late sixteenth century. The term "Inclusive Education" means inclusion of persons with physical and mental impairments such as sensory limitations, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, language disorder, behaviour disorder etc. The concept of inclusive education represents the latest trend in the provision of placement or alternative programs suggested in the field of education to the disabled children. The concept of inclusive education is broad means all children in the same classrooms, in the same schools. It emphasizes the importance of removing barriers and promoting equity. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician and educator made significant contribution to inclusive education by emphasizing the inclusion of

children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms. Inclusive education is achieved by enrolling all children of society in the same school. Children with special needs actually learn more in regular classroom environment. They get the help and support the need. Inclusive education defines as learning environment which provide all aspects of development including personal, academic and professional development of all learners. It is also called universal education or integrated education. Successful inclusive education happens primarily through accepting, understanding and attending to student differences and diversity, which can include physical, cognitive, academic, social and emotional. According to Stainback and Stainback claim, "Inclusive Education is the implementation of policy and process that allows all children to participate in all programmes. Policy means that disabled children should be accepted without any restrictions in all the educational programmes meant for other children. The process of inclusion denotes the ways in the system makes itself welcoming to all. Inclusive Education is nothing but making the programme for disabled children as an integral part of the general educational system rather than a system within general education." According to M. Manivannan, "Inclusive Education implies bringing together of the educational needs of the normal children and the educational requirements of the children with special needs, so as to evolve a common curriculum with a view to provide education to all in regular schools itself".

IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:

- Children can develop a positive understanding of themselves and others.
- Children can develop friendship and learn social skill in schools.
- Children learn important academic skills.
- All children learn by being together.
- Inclusive education provides help according to the need of children.
- Every child has the right to be included.
- Better understanding of strengthens and weakness.

PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:

The principles of Inclusive Education was adopted at the "World Conference on Special needs Education: Access and Quality".

- **Access:** Ensuring access to education for all is necessary for inclusive education to make an effective contribution to the social, economic and cultural development.
- **Equity:** In inclusive classroom, all children provide equal opportunities regardless of their gender, socio-economic status.
- **Relevance:** Inclusive education designed children with disabilities that should be relevant to the nature and needs of the children.
- **Participation:** Disabilities children also have the right to participate in all the activities.
- **Empowerment:** Inclusive Education is one of the best tools of empowering children with disabilities.
- **Individual differences:** It is another principle of inclusive education.
- **Principle of change:** Inclusive education tries to change the system of education to meet the requirement of the child and not about the change of the children to fit the education system.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:

The issues and challenges of implement of inclusive education are as in the following-

- **Negative attitude towards parents:** Inclusive education is mainly depends on the support of parents of the children with disabilities . But some parents do not like to bring their disabled children, which may become the barrier in implementing inclusive education.
- **Lack of good transportation facility:** The provision of transportation facilities for the children with disabilities is an important factor for successful implementation of inclusive education. But the lack of transport facilities hampers their access to education with dignity and equality.
- **Negative attitude of teacher:** Negative attitude of teachers towards disabilities and inclusion of such children in education is a challenge of inclusive education because teachers play a important role in inclusive education.
- **Inadequate teachers training:** Teachers must be trained because many teachers do not how to teach children with disabilities or how to teach in child friendly. Teacher has a crucial role for successful implementation of inclusive education. The lack of proper training is a major issues of inclusive education.
- **Large class size:** Large class size is also a major issues of inclusive education. It is very difficult for teacher to give individual attention in a large size of class.
- **School barriers:** Another barrier of implementing of inclusive education is school factor. Insufficient school budgets resulting in a lack of appropriate facility ,limited awareness of disability among teachers and school staff is the biggest drawback of implementing inclusion.
- **Less students Enrolment:** Enrolment rate of disabled children is less with comparing to normal children. In fact, out of 78.64 lakhs children with disability in India, three fourth of those aged five years don't attend any educational institution.
- **Rigid curriculum:** Rigid curriculum does not allow the special student to go at par in learning with normal student.
- **Methods of Teaching:** In most institutions, only some methods are used to teach by which disabled children unable to learn fully.

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE INCLUSION:

- **Flexible approach to providing support:** In an effectively inclusive environment, teachers are open to finding creative ways of helping a child in the class. The goal is to provide children according to their needs.
- **Integration of universal design and differentiated instruction:** Universal design and differentiated instruction can make schooling accessible to a wide range of learners.
- **Normalizing the reality of human differences:** Inclusive education practices do not deny the existence of differences including ability differences.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, it is a new concept covering wide range of areas. It leads to a sense of belongingness within classroom community. There are several obstacles and challenges related to educational system which hinders to promote inclusive education. In order for inclusive education to be viable , teachers and schools need to be given sufficient financial and material resources, training and other forms of support.

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