

Integrated Education: Challenges For Special Children and Teachers

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ABSTRACT

Integrated education is a way that brings the special children near to normal life. Integrated merges the children in a normal classroom setting. Both types of children have equal rights of education, but integrated education provides them a platform to get education together and live a normal life whether they have any type of disability or not. This paper throws the light on the problems faced by special children and also by teachers in normal classroom setting. This paper also includes what we can do for special children in integrated education system, what is the role of teacher to support special children in and outside classroom and how it impacts special child. Society plays the key role for providing facilities and giving a normal life to all types of special children. Integrated education is a tool to bring change in society and societal attitude towards special children.

INTRODUCTION

Classroom is the place where children bloom with happiness and prosper with education. Each child is different, no one can be the same, their IQ level, physical abilities, mental abilities are different. Some children are physically unfit as we can say disabled. But they are part of society, part of education system, part of classroom, we can't exclude them from our education system. They have right to be a part of regular classroom and integrated education provides them to get education with normal children. Their disabilities or diversities can't be the barrier for their education, for their growth. The aim of integrated education is to promote understanding, appreciation, and respect for diversity among children.

MEANING OF IMPORTANT TERMS

INTEGRATED EDUCATION

Integrate means 'Combine with another to form a whole'. In education 'whole' means each and every student, irrespective of their drawbacks, diversities, disabilities are combined into a common classroom for further education process. Integrated education focuses on bringing students with disabilities into mainstream classroom. They are the part of same classroom as normal children are. They get the same education, learn same curriculum as normal children learn. Extra support may be implemented to help them to learn the regular curriculum, but they are given the same treatment by teachers and school administration as they treat normal children. Disabled children are part of society and they should be treated well. Integrated and inclusive education is the pavement towards the growth and inclusion of disabled children. This approach aims to promote social inclusion, academic success and harmonious development for all children. The main motive of integrated education is to create a healthy learning environment which is accessible and inclusive for everyone irrespective of their abilities or disabilities. In simple words, Integrated education includes education of disabled children with normal children in a natural and regular teaching learning environment.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

It is broader term than integrated education. Integrated education talks about the integration of disabled children in classroom, but inclusive education talks about inclusion of disabled children in whole education system. Inclusive education system values the unique contribution of children of all backgrounds bring to the classroom and allow diverse groups to grow side by side, to benefit the whole community and society. Inclusive education gives the equal opportunities to all children whether they are disabled, whether they are normal, they have equal rights to education. So to develop such

environment, inclusive education is introduced in education system. It is a merging of special education and regular education with the hope that all children are part of same education system.

DISABILITIES

Disability is a condition which stops a person or make a person unable to do certain activities. In straight words, disability is a permanent or long-term total or partial impairment in one of the physical, sensory, mental, communicative, educational or psychological abilities. They mean that normal life requirements can't be met by disabled persons, leading them to depend on others to meet them or need a special tool that requires special training. Disability is the part of a community, or we can say whole society. About 1.3 billion people- about 16 percent of the whole population of the world are experiencing disabilities. It is a health condition of a human being such as cerebral palsy, down syndrome, depression etc.

INTEGRATED EDUCATION REQUIRES

- Non-Discrimination
- Motivation to disable children
- Rights of children to be protected
- Protection from abuse and violence
- Opportunity for life and education within the community
- Support with mobility
- Access to health care
- Habilitation and Rehabilitation
- Respect of each individual in educational institutions whether disable or not
- Safe and Inclusive environment
- Support for teachers and students
- Commitment and Investment from government

PROBLEMS FACED BY STUDENTS IN INTEGRATED SETTING OF CLASSROOM

In integrated education, we try to merge disable and normal children together in classroom setting. They shared common classroom, teacher curriculum. We try our best to provide disabled children healthy environment, but in reality, they face tremendous problems in common setting of classroom. They face discrimination, normal children avoid sitting with such children. They can't run properly, they can't play with normal children properly, so normal children or healthy children don't involve them in playing activities. This type of behaviour demotivates disabled children as well as give them less chance to be friends with normal children. They feel, they are not capable of doing those activities which normal children can do.

Second major problem which disabled children face is the lack of infrastructure which they need. Most of disabled children can't go upstairs, they need ramp. They can't use normal toilets according to their disability. They can't sit normal chair table of classroom; they need supported table chair to meet their needs. Their requirements should be met in actual life if we talk about integrated education. But in reality, they don't get such facilities in normal schools. The main reason of this problem is, if there is only one disable child out of hundred children in a normal school, then the need of that student is totally ignored. No doubt, he or she is given support by teachers and students but not the correct infrastructure.

The third problem which they face is lack of trained teachers. Disabled children can learn in regular classroom, but teacher should be properly trained to teach them. In our education system, it is very rare that normal schoolteachers get training during their service time, even n workshop, no seminars, no special education in common setting. The fourth

problem which they face is that disabled children need special equipments for learning according to their disability like individual Hearing aid, Braille, Mobility cane, Typewriter, Artificial Limbs, Psychological Tests used for testing, Audiometer, white stick, Wheelchair, Sign Language Modules etc. But they don't get these types of equipments in general school. They are given education, which is given to normal children. But we have to remember, they need little bit more attention, more care, more support than normal children while teaching.

PROBLEMS FACED BY TEACHER IN INTEGRATED EDUCATION SETTING

In integrated education, teacher also face so many problems like teachers are not aware of the difficulties of disabled children as well as their mood, their health issues, also how to tackle the situation if they get fits or something else. They even don't know the techniques to tackle their over emotional behaviour like extreme anger, extreme caring etc. Teachers are appointed on the basis of teaching normal children. They don't get training to teach disabled children. Teachers have to prepare normal children to adapt from heart disabled children as their friend. Teachers have to teach normal children how they can support disabled children in classroom and of course outside classroom. Teachers have to take care of both types of children and make them comfortable in classroom. They have to teach normal and disabled children in same setting, same curriculum and they have to check while they are learning or not. To manage all the things in a classroom is not an easy task. It is a big responsibility and only good trained and responsible teachers can fulfil it.










WE CAN DO FOR DISABLED CHILDREN IN INTEGRATED EDUCATION

1. No discrimination should be there in classroom or in school between normal and disabled children.
2. Don't show sympathy to demoralise them instead of only showing sympathy, support them. Don't hurt disabled by showing they are object for showing sympathy.
3. Provide proper teaching learning material according to their need.
4. Give equal opportunities to all disabled children in each and every work like in leading morning assembly, class management, in house works, projects etc
5. Don't treat them as they are different, treat them as normal but with this also take care of their comfort.
6. Some disabled may be slow learners, but teachers have to cooperate with them by taking extra classes of those children or by helping them in their learning and by keeping patience in classroom.
7. It is very important to teach them vocational education as well as education in gaining different skills like skill of embroidery, skill of using technical devices, skill of knitting, skill of painting and drawing, skill of fixing mechanical devices etc. these skills will help them in their earning at later stage.
8. In integrated education, there should be trained teachers, who can cope up with all types of special children as well as normal children.
9. Each and every child consists different qualities, skills or we can say they are creative in their own way. They should be given chance to show their creativities time to time.
10. Provides them infrastructure according to their needs or disabilities, which will help them to be comfortable in classroom for teaching learning process.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTEGRATED EDUCATION

Indian government always promote integrated education in its all states through Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan, which includes all levels of school education from play-way to senior secondary class. This abhiyaan aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all students. It focuses on universal access to education, gender equality, quality improvement of Education and infrastructure.

The Following are some of Governments initiatives and schemes:

-  Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan
-  Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan
-  Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan
-  National Programme for Education of girls at elementary level
-  Mid-Day Meal Scheme
-  Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
-  National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme
-  Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
-  National Action Plan for Inclusion

These schemes and programmes lay the particular focus on integrated education or the education of special children alongside regular students with some support and help. Government provides books and stationery, school uniform, transport allowance, Reader allowance, escort allowance, equipment costs for disabled children.

CONCLUSION: Government is doing work for integrated education at broader way but can't support each and every special child at ground level. We, the common people are pillars of society, we live near them, we can support them genuinely. Our kindness, love and helping behaviour towards them, can change their whole life. As a teacher, I think by providing them an environment of common education to all children bring change in society as well as in the life of special children. They are part of society; they have rights to get education and as a good citizen it is our duty to respect their rights.

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