

Inclusive Education Characteristics & needs / Creating an inclusive school

What is Inclusive Education

Inclusion means to include.

Inclusive education means placing and educating the children with disabilities or of children of any diverse background in regular classrooms with children of the same age who do not have disabilities.

Inclusive education implies that all children join in and are enrolled by their local schools in appropriate regular classes and are given full opportunity to learn, contribute and take part in all parts of the existence of the school.

Inclusive education is regarding how we create and plan our schools, classes, projects and exercises so all students learn and take part together.

Inclusive education must ensure that all students get quality schooling viably meeting their assorted requirements. Students take part in school's all activities in common learning environment.

At the school level, students should be prepared, structures should be revamped and students should get accessible learning materials.

Definition of Inclusive Education

According to Dakar World Education Forum:

Inclusive education means that schools should accommodate all students regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic or other conditions. This should include disabled and gifted students, street and working students, students from remote and nomadic populations, students from linguistic, ethnic or cultural minorities and students from other disadvantaged or marginalized areas or groups.

Characteristics of Inclusive Education

It involves **valuing all students** equally. Inclusive education teaches the students to give respect and value to each individual.

It increases the **participation of students** and reduces their exclusion from the cultures, curricula and communities of local schools/colleges.

It acknowledges the right of students to get education in their locality. Each and every student has the **right to education**, inclusive education gives full access to disabled or special children to get education in general schools without any hindrance.

It **reduces barriers** of learning and encourages participation of all students having special education needs. It gives equal opportunity to all students irrespective of any disability to participate in all co-curricular activities with normal students.

It is a process of overcoming barriers to increase access and participation of all students irrespective of their disabilities, backgrounds, cultures etc.

It emphasizes the role of schools in **community development**. It improves school-community relationship.

It provides the **least restrictive** and most effective environment to disabled so that they may develop like normal children

It helps in attaining the goals of **universalization of elementary education** by providing equality of educational and development opportunities to the disabled who have been devoid of equality so far.

Need of Inclusive Education

To achieve true meaning of Inclusive education we need to include special children with normal children and give appropriate environment in which all children can reach their potential.

For universalization of education. To achieve the aim of universalization of education it is important to give education to all children irrespective of their physical, mental, economical background.

For the upliftment of whole nation inclusive education is required. Education helps in development of whole society. Education opens more opportunities of employment and leads to better way of living.

Poverty and marginalization are two big causes of exclusion. To eradicate this inclusive education is needed. Children are often drop out from school due to poverty as they are not able to pay fees or afford school books. Also due to marginalization some students are discriminated and excluded from getting education with other children. Inclusive education is good option to come out of these problems.

It is also needed to improve the **quality of education** for all. Including children from diverse background inculcate the value of equality and brotherhood. Students and teacher both learn to give value to each individual.

Happy Environment: It is needed to create a happy and supportive environment in school and outside the school for every child. It creates an environment where all students feel comfortable and associated with each other.

It is needed for accomplishment of **Right to education** for all. This right can meet its aim by applying it for all equally and by treating children with and without disabilities in same way

It is needed for **social harmony**: Seed of social harmony should be inculcate in students from very beginning. It brings the feeling of cooperation and harmony in students.

It is helpful in **improving school staff and students**: Inclusive education ultimately helps in acquiring skills by learning to understand each other, improve communication skills, improving the power of adjustment in all kinds of environment.

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