

Pathways to Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities

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Abstract: *The word inclusion originated in order to create a moral position of respect, equality and moral values for every individual of society regardless of their abilities, family background, cultural background, caste, creed or color. This approach is budding at present to promote a society which favorably consents the especially abled children and students. In India lot of discrimination is done among people on the basis of poverty, caste, gender, disability. The basis of inclusive education is to provide education to every child inclusively regardless of their strengths and weaknesses. This approach of Inclusive Education is beneficial for both- the students with disabilities and the disadvantaged students. This program validates the value of each child and empowers all children to practice dignity and the confidence to learn. In the year 1994-95 the Government of India employed DPEP i.e. District Primary Education Project. This program concentrated on the incorporation of the children with disabilities or lesser abilities. Later in 2001, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan SSA was launched. This initiative posed a zero rejection policy. This helped all the children with CWSN Child with Special Needs to advantage education regardless of their disability.*

India is the land of varied cultures, religions and beliefs. In such a country the survival of especially abled students is a big question. One needs to analyze that such students get neglected in various situations which is a big challenge as well as an opportunity. In India nearly 26 million people are disabled according to the Census of India. This accounts to nearly 2.1% of the population of India. The concept is very new and needs a lot of efforts. If institutions endeavor in the field and develop innovative teaching pedagogies exclusively structured for the inclusive children, the opportunities are vast and this will prove out to be an altogether new market. Every parent wishes to provide quality education to their wards no matter they are disabled or not. The major areas that a marketer should concentrate with respect to inclusive education are the remote rural dwellers nomads, linguistic minority students, affected by conflicts, HIV AIDS, hungry and poor health and those with special learning needs.

Keywords: *Inclusive education, disability, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of Inclusive Education was first coined in 1994 at the “World Conference” held on the Special Needs Education Access and Quality it was regurgitated in 2000 at the World Education Forum. The concept petitions the government to give priority to make education system inclusive as a policy. The concept of inclusive education in India was developed in the year 1987 when NCERT, UNICEF and PIED worked together for the inclusion of students with disabilities into the regular schools. The inclusive education

accommodates to all those students effected by HIV, all boys and girls, those with disabilities, difficulty in learning. The aim of this is to abolish the rejection consequences of society’s negative attitude and response towards such children. Inclusive education provides opportunity for flexible individualized teaching, it is child centered. The intention of inclusive education is to equalize the opportunities for all.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To study the concept of Inclusive Education
- To analyze market potential in the field of inclusive education

3. CHALLENGES

There are various challenges in the Inclusive Education such as:

1. Scarce resources: The less resource availability is the main challenge for inclusive education. Less economic resource availability, lack of trained teachers and well-equipped workplace imposes the main challenge.
2. Negative Attitude of Community: The community is very negative about the disabled students. The mentality of the community is such that they see handicapped or physically disabled students differently.
3. Non-disabled parents: The parents of the disabled students are themselves non-disabled hence they cannot understand how their child feels as they never experienced what their children are facing.
4. Non-disabled classmates: The classmates of the disabled students are also not disabled so they tease the disabled students. Sometimes the disabled students get bullied and this imposes a problem for inclusive education.

4. NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR ENTRANTS IN THE FIELD OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

1. Trained Teachers (Special Teachers): The new entrant can provide trained teachers and staff for the inclusive education. Such staff will attract the parents of disabled students. There will be fewer drop outs and repeaters of the course heading the marketer towards the successful completion of attempt.
2. Flexible Curriculum: The curriculum should be designed in such a manner that it is apt for all the students falling under the inclusive education. E-modules should be prepared which are easily accessible for parents and students.
3. Accessible Environment: The right environment is very essential to motivate the disabled students. The environment should be designed in such a manner

that accommodates the needs of both the parents and the students. An academic environment should be created within the school which focuses on preparing all students through rigorous course work and setting norms for performance.

4. Availability of teaching aids and equipment's: Use of new technology such as e-classes, e-basta, and e-shiksha which are highly attractive, interactive, easily available, affordable and accessible must be used.
5. Involvement of parents: Special sessions for parents must be conducted where they can be trained on the usage of such education design for educating the children sitting back at home.
6. Support from Teachers and Parents: Positive mind set, cooperation and dedication is essential for the successful application of this program.

5. PORTER'S FIVE FORCE ANALYSIS

1. Industry Rivalry(Low)

The field is very new; no rivalry is present at the moment in the field of inclusive education. There is a big opportunity to explore in this field for the entrepreneurs. If skill based education is provided in this field then there can be a revolutionary change in the education industry.

2. Bargaining Power of Buyers(Moderate)

Due to the concept of RTE the buyers are getting an equal opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with the non-disabled students. The government support to such students will prove out to be a big challenge for the industry.

3. Bargaining Power of Suppliers (Moderate to Low)

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4. Threat of New Entrants

As of now there is no rivalry in the field of inclusive education as fewer researches are done on the same. But as soon as it emerges there will be intense competition.

5. Threat of Substitute Products

The NGOs, special colleges/ schools/institutes for the specially abled students are threats for the substitute.

6. FUTURE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Rising aspirations for better education, earning them social mobility reflect the shift in economic landscape that the students are facing today. But students from the low

social economic category are lagging in translating their aspirations into college enrollment. Since government schools serve a majority of students therefore, efforts should be made to increase the college access of such students. Skill-based subjects and vocational education should be integrated with general education; there is much demand of both.

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