

Inclusive Education

Inclusive education aims to increase the participation of all students in their local school communities.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- The CRC protects and promotes the rights of all children.
- Article 2 relates to non-discrimination.
- Articles 28 and 29 relate to education.
- Article 23 relates specifically to disabled children.

"The priority needs of disabled children are not special, they are basic. Disabled children need food, shelter, love and affection, protection, and education."

Education provision should reach children marginalized by poverty, social status, language, gender, disability, ethnicity, and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Save the Children-UK's Education Strategy Objective No 2: Inclusion



"Inclusive education implies the equal right of all children to the 'educational package', however basic that package may be. A rights-based approach to education is consistent with providing support to the inclusion, rather than to the segregation of disabled children."

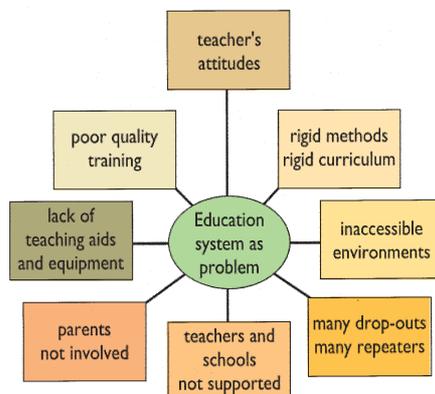
Disability, Poverty and Development UK Department for International Development (DfID) 2000

EENET's Definition of Inclusive Education:

- Acknowledges that all children can learn;
- Acknowledges and respects differences in children: age, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, HIV and TB status etc;
- Enables education structures, systems and methodologies to meet the needs of all children
- Is part of a wider strategy to promote an inclusive society
- Is a dynamic process which is constantly evolving

International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) seminar on IE, Agra, India, 1998

Education system as problem



"School improvement may be a result of inclusive education, or it may provide the opportunity for more inclusive practices to be promoted. Whichever route is taken, school improvement must take place."

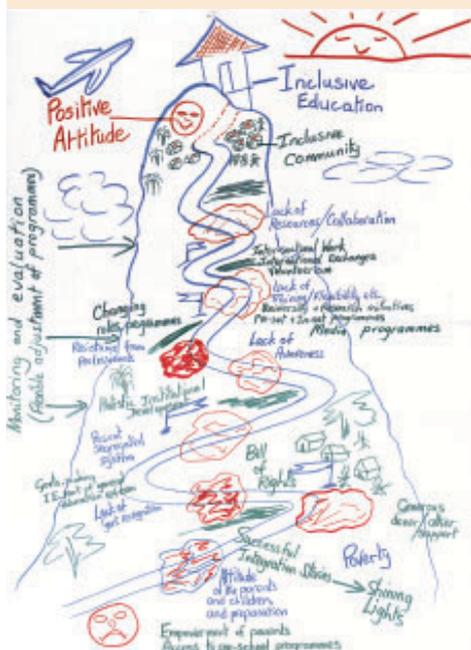
Save the Children supports Inclusive Education because it:

- enables disabled children to stay with their families and communities;
- can improve the quality of education for all;
- can help overcome discrimination;
- promotes inclusion in society.

How can we support inclusive education?

By promoting:
positive attitudes;
inclusive learning environments;
early intervention;
positive role models.

By supporting:
appropriate policy development;
system change in education.



"Successful inclusion depends upon the careful and planned allocation of existing human and material resources."

The rationale for IE

IE starts from the belief that the right to education is a basic human right and the foundation for a more just society.

In order to realise this right, the Education For All (EFA) movement has worked to make quality basic education available to all.

Inclusive education takes the EFA agenda forward by finding ways of enabling schools to serve all children in their communities, as part of an inclusive education system.

Inclusive education is concerned with all learners, with a focus on those who have traditionally been excluded from educational opportunities – such as learners with special needs and disabilities, children from ethnic and linguistic minorities, and so on.

Open File on Inclusive Education UNESCO 2002



How can local education managers promote more inclusive practices?

- Carry out a situation analysis before implementing IE;
- Develop a pilot school;
- Ensure that specialists, if they exist, are based at district/national level, not in the schools;
- Encourage community involvement and ownership.

How can head teachers promote more inclusive practices in their schools?

- Ensure that their teachers are not overloaded;
- Reward good teachers;
- Allocate time for teachers to observe each other;
- Identify out-of-school children;
- Encourage Child-to-Child activities.



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