

Inclusive Education

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The notion of inclusive education

- ▼ People understand the term in different ways. For example:
 - ▼ It emerges from the field of ‘special education’.
 - ▼ It deals with the education of the disabled.
 - ▼ It means the movement of some children from ‘special’ to ‘regular’ schools.
 - ▼ It is related to those experience ‘problems’, to foreigners etc.
 - ▼ The provision of equal opportunities for all.
- ▼ In order to move policy and practice forward within schools there needs to be clarity what is meant by inclusive education.

Inclusive education

- ▼ Inclusion cannot be defined.
- ▼ In some countries inclusive education is still largely seen as an approach to serving children with disabilities within general education settings.
- ▼ It is increasingly seen more broadly as a reform that responds to diversity among all learners.
- ▼ It starts from the belief that education is a basic human right and the foundation for a more just society.

Inclusive education

- ▼ The aim of inclusive education is to eliminate exclusionary processes from education that are a consequence of attitudes and responses to diversity in race, social class, ethnicity, religion, gender and attainment as well as to disabilities.
- ▼ It is a principled approach to education and society.
- ▼ It is a never-ending process. An inclusive school is one that is on the move, rather than one that has reached a perfect state (Ainscow et al., 2006).

Equity

- ▼ Some scholars prefer to use the term ‘equity’.
- ▼ It’s about inclusion but it can go beyond it, to fairness.
- ▼ We may include somebody but we may not treat them fairly.
- ▼ How do we develop schools that are equitable?

Inclusion as a series of stages

- ▼ Presence – getting the children into the school
- ▼ Participation – Children contribute, they are welcomed, their voice is heard (high level of participation)
- ▼ Achievement

- ▼ As we go up the stages it becomes more challenging
- ▼ Additional support, change of attitudes, change of policies and practices
- ▼ Change of the curriculum

▼ Thank you!

▼ Comments?

▼ For more information

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