

Bro. Tigga Dayal

Mini Research Paper

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### Special Needs Students in Regular Schools: Inclusion

The purpose of this paper is to show that inclusion of students with special need is a positive step depending on how it is accomplished. It is possible to include the students with special needs in the regular classroom. It is generally accepted that "Inclusion" means inviting those who have been historically locked out to "come in". *Shafik Asante is a former leader of New African Voices in Philadelphia, PA. He passed on in 1997.*

In the past many people thought that people with intellectual disabilities and mental disabilities were useless and they were separated from society. According to my acknowledgement all human being are children of God. They have right to live and to work in the society and they have same values and meaning of life. There are many people with disabilities were treated unequally in the society. They have been kept in the institutions or at home because they were considered abnormal and meaningless people. They were not allowed to work in the society. Today people are thinking that all human being are children of God and due to many educational developments, inclusion considers that all students are full members of the school. There are some people with disabilities feel excluded from school or from society because of their "abilities". How do we help them? First of all we have to respect and accept the person who has intellectual

disabilities and people have to see them as a normal person with love. They can do great things for society; therefore people have to support and help them so that they may be able to live, and to work like the other people. They may find the meaning of life and dignity in the society.

According to Stacy Hultgren (1996, Center for Applied Research in Education) Inclusion considers that all students are full members of the school community and are entitled to the opportunities that are available to all students in the school. In an inclusive school setting, students with disabilities are provided with specially designed instruction in their least restrictive environment.

There are many kinds of disabilities but I would like to focus two of them, namely Physical disabilities and mental disabilities. Physical disabilities are a handicap, bodily disabilities were it impossible to use a particular part of body and it can not be cured, and in the same way mental disabilities it makes it difficult or impossible to use a mind. Physical disabilities for example those who lose one of their limbs, I had experience when I was studying pre bachelor in Belgium, R came to our class to share her experience, R was very happy to share. I was wondering about her because she was in the wheelchair and R was doing all the activities. One thing I remember that R said, I am very happy with my Physical disabilities. This is the God grease and God has given me good life and I know the meaning of life. I could not know to help and support such kinds of person and they are very useful in the society.

Mental disabilities there are mild intellectual disabilities, moderate intellectual disabilities, light intellectual disabilities and severe intellectual disabilities. But some of the intellectual disabilities need little help and severely intellectually disabled people

need more help and support from people. Without help and support they are not able to learn and work in the society. It is very difficult to work with them but it is possible to teach and work with them. According to view and I believe that to include the mild intellectually disabilities, moderate intellectually, light intellectually students in the regular classroom is not difficult but it depends according on the society how they see the people. Indeed they need help and support from society and they need special guidance and care to study in the regular classroom. Because I had experience that those people need special guidance and support because very often they forget. They do not know what to do and where to go, even they forget to eat if you do not ask them to eat, therefore I could say that they need help and care in the classroom. According to my opinion classroom should be big enough. It does not matter about first floor and second floor, hallway should be in the school, and decoration must be well organized with good painting and some pictures on the wall in side the classroom and outside the classroom. Teachers must avoid any kind of decoration which is harmful and meaningless to disabled students. Outside the classroom there should be nice flower garden.

School settings and environments should be adaptable according to the needs of the students. School should be not far from home, parent have to look at facilities to study near by. Classroom should be big enough, and furniture should be adaptable according to the special students and the classroom environment should provide the use of a study carrel when necessary. Teachers should provide good seat so that students can sit longer because some physical disabilities students can not sit longer.

Inclusion requires general education teachers and special education teachers, and teachers should be certified and have sufficient knowledge and training to teach students.

Teachers must support one another and teachers must be model for the students. It is best way to show the students and teach in good way. Regular teachers, and special teachers and other staff members should collaborate in team work. Inclusion requires staff members, nurses, therapist, caregivers, parents and other members.

Many uses of technology can support the successful inclusion of students with a disability in the classroom. Adaptive technologies and equipment enable students with disabilities to participate more directly in classroom activity. For example, some students can benefit from accessing computer-mediated instruction. Students can incorporate technology in developing their vocational technical skills for future employment and independent living.

In conclusion, I could say that all the human beings are children of God and human being have right to live and work according to their abilities. It is very good to have good communication and collaboration, between regular education teachers and special education teachers and other staff members and family members; they can make very good inclusion successful. They can bring joy and happiness to the students, they can create new heaven and earth for them by helping and supporting. Good setting of the school brings happiness and the students feel at home and they feel the members of the society.

Community inclusion is recognizing that we are one even though we are not the same. The act of inclusion means fighting against exclusion and all of the social diseases exclusion gives birth to racism, sexism, handicapism and so on. They are included in the feeling of belonging other students, teachers, and support staff. Students benefit from inclusion, because they find acceptance and respect from society and they form good

relationships with the society. In the classroom normal students understand the special students and they help each other and support each other. Well some time regular students confronted with special students but develop good relationships and understanding they face the problems. Both regular and special needs students grow from leaning together. However parents of the students benefit from inclusion, parents feel that my child is learning and growing up with a good understanding and good friendships. Teachers also benefits from inclusion and teachers feel happy with students because they are successful from their work and studies.

## References

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<http://specialed.about.com/cs/teacherstrategies/a/strateategies.htm>