

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

by:

Jeferson John P. Basto, EdD
Teacher III, Doña Integrated School

Learners with special educational needs, especially those who are autistic, visually impaired, or hearing impaired, struggle with vision, hearing, memory, and communication.

DepEd Order No. 044, Section 1. The 2021 order, also known as "Policy Guidelines on the Provision of Educational Programs and Services for Learners with Disabilities in the K to 12 Basic Education Program," acknowledges the rights of learners with disabilities to inclusive, equitable, relevant, and quality basic education by offering them effective and efficient educational services that will enable them to become well-rounded, joyful, and productive people.

In educational institutions, particularly, the teachers, it is hard to accept and mix these kind of learners to regular class. Different approaches must be applied because of their uniqueness and identity especially if the teacher do not have proper training or background in handling Learners with Special Educational Needs. However, inclusive education stated that no one will be left behind and everybody must have an access to education regardless of their condition.

The Division of Bataan is now having different seminars and trainings on inclusive education and special education content and pedagogy. This aims to acquaint teachers, as well as school administrators on how to handle LSEs. Likewise, to enlighten teachers on the characteristics of Learners with Special Educational Needs.

Some of the characteristics of LSENS are as follows:

-having difficulty in socialization

-resists change in routine

-inappropriate attachment to objects

-no eye contact

-marked physical overactivity

- standoffish manner

-no fear of real danger

-sustained odd play

-acts as deaf

-difficulty in initiating or getting started on tasks

-highly energetic

-easily distracted by huge stimuli like sounds, lights and movement in the environment

-leaves seat and roam around the classroom

-hits when upset or grab things away from others

-difficulty in waiting turn

-fearless

-high pain tolerance

-possible academic underachievement

-possible communication-language lags

-possible learning disabilities.

Knowing these characteristics can help teachers identify whether the learner has disabilities or none. However, only professional experts can have diagnosis in the learners. Knowing these characteristics may assist teacher to have proper accommodations, so, that learner will include and feel the sense of belongingness in the class.

References: