INCLUSION OF ALL STUDENTS: CREATING A SUPPORTIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

by:
Randell John M. Ruiz
Teacher III, Pablo Roman National High School

In recent years, there has been a notable increase in the discourse surrounding the inclusion of all children in educational environments. Ensuring that all students have equal access to educational opportunities, independently of their origins, learning styles, talents, or disabilities, is known as inclusion. This method respects each student's potential and dignity and is not only a pedagogical issue; it is also a moral and ethical need.

Promoting variety and acceptance is the first reason why inclusion is important. Diversity is honored in an atmosphere that is fostered by inclusion. Pupils get an appreciation for the diversity of skills, backgrounds, and experiences. Students are better equipped to negotiate a varied world outside of the classroom because to this inclusive setting, which fosters empathy and understanding. Second, it improves learning outcomes: Studies show that inclusive classrooms may help everyone in the class do better academically. Everyone gains from a richer learning environment created by teachers who use tactics to suit different learning needs and styles. Peer learning fosters greater understanding and collaborative problem-solving abilities. Third, it fosters social skills: Peer interactions between young people with different skill levels are made easier by inclusion, which can improve social development. Students gain knowledge of efficient communication, teamwork, and collaborative effort. Adult success on both a personal and professional level depends on these social abilities. Fourth, it fosters cognitive growth by pushing children to think critically and adjust to other viewpoints.

Students' comprehension can be expanded and their cognitive flexibility improved by interacting with classmates who take a different approach to challenges.

Schools must use a variety of tactics in order to successfully implement an inclusive education model. The first is differentiated instruction, in which teachers modify their approaches to accommodate the various needs of their pupils. To accommodate various learning styles, this might entail employing technology, changing up teaching methods, or offering more materials. The second method is collaborative teaching, which may be quite successful when general education and special education teachers collaborate in the same classroom. All students benefit from the additional assistance this partnership offers and the opportunity to share skills. Professional development comes in third: Teachers need to be trained in inclusive methods. Workshops for ongoing professional development can provide educators the tools they need to identify a range of needs and use successful teaching techniques. The fourth is support services: schools should make sure that students have access to speech therapy, counseling, and other services that assist meet their unique requirements and improve their ability to interact with the curriculum. The fifth is community and family engagement: It is essential to include community people and families in the educational process. In order to keep parents aware and involved in their child's education, schools should establish relationships that promote candid communication.

Notwithstanding the obvious advantages of inclusion, there are still a number of obstacles to overcome. The first is the distribution of resources: Many schools lack the funds and materials required for successful inclusive practices. This may make it more difficult to offer sufficient support services. The second factor is resistance to change: Some teachers and administrators may be reluctant to implement inclusive practices because they don't understand them or are afraid of how difficult it will be to manage diverse classes. Third, the focus on standardized testing may exclude kids with special

15 November 2024

learning needs, resulting in a curriculum that is more limited and less possibilities for inclusive participation.

All pupils must be included in educational settings; this is not just required by law; it is essential to creating a just society. In addition to respecting each student's rights, we enhance everyone's educational experience by fostering inclusive settings. A more creative, empathetic, and connected society can result from embracing diversity in educational environments. In order to ensure that every kid has the chance to succeed, it is imperative that educators, families, and communities work together and promote inclusive practices that value each student's individuality.

References:

Department of Education. (2021). Policy Guidelines on the Provision of Educational Programs and Services for Learners with Disabilities in the K to 12 Basic Edcuation Program [Deped Order 44, s. 2021]. https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DO_s2021_044.pdf

15 November 2024