

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT

by:

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Inclusive education in the country Philippines has been an important focus and target of the Department of Education (DepEd) in recent years. It aims to ensure that all learners regardless of their intellectual, physical, emotional, social or other conditions still have the access to quality education. The framework of this inclusive education is guided by various laws, policies and program that promote equality and accessibility in education.

Special needs education learners encompass a diverse group of individuals that requires additional support so they can fully participate and succeed in an educational setting. They may have physical, intellectual, sensory, emotional or developmental disabilities, and the needs of each individual are unique.

The Department of Education stated that in inclusive education it needs shared responsibility since the said department can't do it alone. It is a process that involves active participation of learners, families, educators and even other community members. It involves planning, implementation and evaluation of certain educational programs and services that definitely meet the needs of all students ensuring that all students have an opportunity to learn and engage in their school community's life.

The reasons why inclusive education is vital here in the Philippines is to guarantee that students have the opportunity to learn, develop and grow in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Secondly, it is a considered students' preparation for the real world through teaching them on how to work with people of all abilities. And lastly, it

breaks down barriers between with people with and without disabilities and surely promotes acceptance and understanding.

In order to aim a success in the implementation of inclusive education here in the Philippines, all schools must be properly prepared and equipped to accommodate students with disabilities. For example, schools must have ramps and elevator for students who use wheelchairs and crutches. In addition to that are braille textbooks for blind students or have a low vision and there must also be a sign language interpreter for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Secondly, teachers must be properly trained in teaching students with disabilities and special needs. Trainings should cover everything to cater, accommodate and modifications to behavior management. Teachers must be knowledgeable in identifying the different types of disabilities so they can understand what they can do and know best to help them learn. Most important is to make sure that there are enough resources such as special equipment or materials they need in their learning process.

Third, inclusive education needs more support from the government. The government should provide funds for the initiatives of the said program, and government should ensure that all schools must comply with the law.

Last, there needs to have broader awareness about inclusive education such as educating parents, teachers and students on the importance of inclusive education.

Realizing that every individual is unique, inclusive education is not just a policy requirement but a fundamental approach in building fairness, just, equitable and prosperous society in our country. Regardless of their abilities or background, it ensures that every individual has a need to learn, grow and contribute for the national development. In this program, the Philippines will harness the potential of all its citizens, foster more inclusive, productive and harmonious society.

*References:*

<https://www.teacherph.com/inclusive-education-philippines/>

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