



## EQUITY AND INCLUSION OUTSIDE SCHOOL WALLS

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### **Introduction:**

Some children are easily identified as candidates for special needs from their medical history. They may have been diagnosed with genetic condition that is associated with mental retardation may have various forms of brain damage, may have a developmental disorder may have visual or having disabilities or other disabilities.

There are many types of disabilities as given below:

- Physical diversities- mentally challenged, gifted, creative challenged
- Learning disabilities- Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, Autism
- Socio-Economic culturally and emotionally diverse learners

For these students the government has formed many policies such as (BMP 1993-2012) Biwako millennium framework, UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD 2006) National Policy of Education (1998) National policy of disabilities (2006) Curriculum framework (2005) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) these are some of them and through the inclusive education was started before considering. If there is equity outside school walls we should know about equity and about inclusion.

- What is Equity?

Equity recognizes this uneven playing field and aims to take extra measures by giving those who are in need more than others who are not.

- What is Equality?

No one person has an unfair advantage everyone is given equal opportunities and accessibility and are then free to do what they please with it.

- What is inclusive Education?

Inclusive education does not simply mean to move children from existing special education services to an ordinary classroom. As is obvious there will be no proper inclusive education. If existing school systems are not being reformed to make them at the very least disabled friendly. The need of the hour is to find what is best for the child in every given situation. If the main reason for excluding the children in the first place was that the regular schools were failing to meet their needs it makes no sense to bring them back unless changes have been made.

In defining inclusion it is important to highlight the following elements. It would be also worthwhile to see what inclusion is about and what it is not.

<b>Inclusion Is about</b>	<b>Inclusion is Not about</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcoming Diversity</li></ul>	Reforms of special education alone but reforms of both of the formal and non formal education system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benefitting all learners not only targeting the excluded</li></ul>	Responding only to diversity but also improving the quality of education for all learners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children in school who may feel excluded</li></ul>	Special schools but perhaps additional support to students within the regular school system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing equal access to education or making certain provisions for certain</li></ul>	Meeting the needs of children with disabilities only

categories of children without excluding them	Meeting one child needs at the expense of another child
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In particular for key elements have tended to feature strongly in the conceptualization of inclusion. The four elements are as follows:

**1. Inclusion is a process**

That is to say, inclusion has to be seen as a never ending search to find better ways of responding to diversity. It is about learning how to live with difference and learning how to learn from differences. In this way differences come to be seen more positively as a stimulus for fostering learning, amongst children and adults.

**2. Inclusion is concerned with the identification and removal of barriers.**

Consequently it involves collecting, collating and evaluating information from a wide variety of sources in order to plan for improvement in policy and practice. It is about using evidence of various kinds to stimulate creativity and problem-solving

**3. Inclusion is about the presence, participation and achievement of all students.**

Here “presence” is concerned with where children are educated, and how reliably and punctually they attend,” participation” relates to the quality of their experiences whilst they are there and ,therefore must incorporate the views of the learners themselves, and “achievements” is about the outcomes of learning across the curriculum, not merely test or examination results.

4. Inclusion involves a particular emphasis on those groups of learners who may be at risk of marginalization, exclusion or underachievement. This indicates the moral responsibility to ensure that those groups that are statistically most “at risk” are carefully monitored and that where necessary steps are taken to ensure their presence, participation and achievement in the education system.

**Expanding Inclusion Approach:**

Inclusion approach is needed not only for Education, but it has to be expanded further in a comprehensive way to all aspects and areas of life. It should not be restricted to only educational institutions like school or colleges. All persons with special need are in fact the part of the whole family and society at large. Their needs and life styles constantly affect the others in the family and society. They need the appropriate inclusion not only in school but also outside the school walls, i.e. in the family, in the relatives and in the broader society.

**Inclusion in the family:**

The easy and smooth inclusion of persons with special needs in their family set up is very important. After all “charity begins at home!” unless the members in the family try to cooperate that person with the right spirit of inclusion, the person cannot get adjusted in the school or society properly. Many times it is seen that even parents of such a child are not very friendly with him. This is a hidden sense of guilt or disgust in their mind. Such a situation may cause a very serious and undesirable effect on the child’s health and mental condition. Such a child should get an equal opportunity of free expression and friendly company in its family set up. It should never feel excluded at any time for any reason. It should never suffer from deep sense of inferiority complex, or jealousy regarding brothers and sisters.

The family members should see that the special child is taken out of family for mixing with other relatives in various family functions like marriages. This requires a sense of sacrifice and readiness to accept additional responsibilities and cares for such children. They should not avoid their company in any kind of family gatherings.

**Inclusion in the society**

The right perspective needs to be cultivated among people in general to accept the children with special needs in various social situations. It should become the part of value education. It should also become the part of proper civic sense and. In all public places like market,

temples, streets, stations, bus stands, recreation centers, whenever we come across children or persons having special needs we should have a human outlook. We should behave in a friendly and co operative manner. It does not mean that we have to show them only pity or sympathy.

The more you consider these children and persons normal human beings the more easily they would get accommodated in the general stream of social life. These persons should not get the feeling that the others are doing some special favor for them. They should not develop the feeling that they are the undesirable and unnecessary burden to the society.

**Various aspects of Social Inclusion:**

In a society that promises the equity, it goes without saying that children or adults with special needs should get their due right of living human life properly. In spite of catering their special needs they should be constantly encouraged to become the part and the parcel of normal social life.

**The following hints may serve the appropriate guidelines in this direction:**

- Equal opportunity in the varieties of jobs available.
- Encouragement for sports and recreation entertainment.
- Enhancement of self expression in possible ways.
- Proper depiction of their life and needs in literature and fine arts.
- Appropriate orientation regarding them in mass media, especially movies.( As in case of the movies like ‘Black,Tare Jamin Par, chaukatRaja,Yello,My name is Khan etc)
- Propercases to be taken not to be underestimate them in commercial advertisements.

**Conclusion:**

The inclusion at family and social level has become the essential need of the time. We need to develop proper understanding and create an awareness regarding right kind of attitude and

behavior towards the persons having special needs so that they can easily get merged in the flow of normal social life.

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