

TEACHER EDUCATION AT TERTIARY LEVEL: NEED AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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ABSTRACT

What is inclusion --- An environment where everyone has an opportunity to fully participate, everyone has the same opportunity, there should be no boundaries such as ethnicity, gender and disability all should feel valued mix and participate with all members of the group.

Inclusive teaching strategies refer to any number of teaching approaches that address the need of students with a variety of backgrounds, learning styles and abilities. These strategies contribute to an overall inclusive learning environment.

Keywords--

Inclusive education, Teaching strategies, UDL, Co-operative learning, Alternative teaching

INTRODUCTION

What is inclusion -- An environment where everyone has an opportunity to fully participate, everyone has the same opportunity there should be no boundaries such as ethnicity gender and disability all should feel valued. and participate with all members of the group. Inclusive teaching strategies refer to any number of teaching approaches that address the need of students with a variety of backgrounds, learning styles and abilities. These strategies contribute to an overall Inclusive learning environment in which students feel equally valued. So teaching and learning strategies for inclusive education is a commitment of equal access to all.

It utilizes a variety of teaching strategies, activities and assignments that will accommodate the needs of students with diverse learning styles abilities backgrounds and experiences. It also provides flexibility in how students demonstrate their knowledge and how you access student's knowledge and development. The teaching learning strategies in an inclusive system are clear about how students will be evaluated and graded, it provides justification to the abilities and capabilities of the students. In this system time is taken to assess the classroom climate by obtaining mid semester feedback from students (by asking students about the degree of comfort in the class and mentoring of those students who are not comfortable with the classroom environment).

There are so many reasons of using inclusive teaching strategies. The major benefits of inclusive teaching.

1. One can connect with and engage with a variety of students by methods one to one and one to many.
2. One is prepared for spark moments on issues that arises when controversial material is discussed.
3. Student connects with course material that is relevant to them.
4. Students feel comfortable in the classroom environment to voice their ideas/ thoughts/ questions.
5. Students are more likely to experience success in your course through activities that support their learning styles, abilities and backgrounds.
6. Environment should be created so that students feel free to connect to the environment.

Every teacher wants to provide the best instruction and education for his/her students. Students with special and exceptional needs are placed in inclusive learning environment more frequently than in the past. For general educators with a limited special education background, this can often be anxiety provoking and stressful.

Inclusive education differs from previously held notions of integration and mainstreaming which tended to be concerned principally with disability and special educational need and implied learning changing or

becoming ready for or deserving of accommodation by the mainstream. By contrast inclusion is about the child's right to participate and the school's duty to accept the child's right. Inclusion rejects the use of special schools or classrooms to separate students with disabilities from students without disabilities. A premium is placed upon full participation by students with disabilities and upon respect for their social, civil and education rights. Inclusion gives students with disabilities skills they can use in and out of the classroom.

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Inclusion is viewed by some as a practice philosophically attractive yet impractical. Five strategies that have been successful for working with students in inclusive classrooms are –

- 1 Get to know your students.
- 2 Implement universal design for learning (UDL)
- 3 Support important life skills.
- 4 Engage in collaborative planning and teaching.
- 5 Develop a strong behaviour management plan

When designing teaching and learning strategies we need to consider the diversity of the student population the general guideline for inclusive teaching are --

- 1 Flexibility
- 2 Clarity
- 3 Alignment

Effective teaching practices for students in inclusive classrooms are –

1. Interactive teaching
2. Alternative teaching
3. Parallel teaching
4. Station teaching

Teaching and learning should be a two way process which should underpin appropriate behaviour and respect for everyone in the group; The government aim to achieve, over the next decade a world class education system, that provides learning opportunities of equal quality for all students.

Co- operative learning pioneered by Roger and David Joheon US in 1970's is a set of teaching strategies used in inclusive system where students with different skill and achievement level learn together and take responsibility for both individual and group achievement . The cooperative learning fosters team work and teaches working together.

Team work is an important life skill.

Thus keeping in mind the socio- economic condition Inclusive education looks like a dream but the road of perfect learning goes through this lanes, sub-lanes and neighbors.

Fully inclusive schools which are rare, no longer distinguish between general education and special education programs instead the school is restructured so that all students learn together.

Inclusion is viewed by some as a practice philosophically attractive yet impractical. Although inclusion is generally associated with elementary and secondary education it is also applicable in post secondary education. According to UNESCO inclusion is increasingly understood more broadly as a reform that supports and welcomes diversity amongst all learners. Under this broader definition of inclusion steps should also be taken to eliminate discrimination based on gender, class, economy, ethics by faith and provide accommodation for all students who are at disadvantage because of some reason other than disability.

Students with special and exceptional needs are placed in inclusive learning environment more frequently than in the past. Five strategies that have been successful for working with students in inclusive classroom are –

- 1.** Get to know your students

Upon receiving all type a student in the class and noticing a student with a specific plan is entering the class its important to connect with that student. One of the most common accommodations for students with special needs is preferential seating.

2. Implement Universal design for learning (UDL)

Universal design is so much more than one of the hottest buzzword circulating around education . It is an approach to curriculum paining and mapping that makes learning engaging, enjoyable and accessible to a wider range of learners with different strengths and needs.

3. Support important life skills

There are necessary skills needed in order to be productive and contributing to the society.

4. Engage in collaborative planning and teaching.

Working together to improve student learning.

5. Develop a strong behaviour management plan.

Having a successful inclusive classroom depends upon having control of your classroom. It is essential to have clearly communicated expectations and goals that are accessible to all students.

DISCUSSION

Some specific behavior management strategies that support effective instruction are –

- a Posting daily schedules.
- b Displaying classroom rules and expectation.
- c Encouraging peer to peer instruction and leadership.
- d Using singles to quite down start working and putting away materials.
- e. Giving students folders labels and containers to organize supplies.
- f Checking in with students while they work
- g Utilizing proactive rather than reactive interventions as needed.
- h Speaking to student privately about any concerns.
- I Employing specific targeted positive reinforcement when a student meets a behavioral or academic goal.

Use of a variety of co-teaching methods and creating a structured classroom and helping students.

1. Interactive teaching- Teachers alternate roles of presenting, reviewing and monitoring instruction.
2. Alternative Teaching – One person teaches, re-teaches, on enriches a concept for a small group, while the other monitors or teaches, the remaining students.

3. Parallel teaching – students are divided into mixed-ability groups, and each co-teaching partner teaches the same material to one of the groups.

4. Station teaching – small groups of students rotate to various stations for instruction, review, and/or practice.

To ensure success for students with disabilities in general education classrooms, teachers must plan collaboratively, create structure classrooms with clear rules and expectations and teach context in meaningful and memorable ways.

Inclusive Education and its benefits- Inclusion is also about finding different ways of teaching so that classrooms actively involve or children. It also means finding way to develop friendships, relationships and mutual respect between all children and between children and teachers in the school.

Benefits of inclusion for students with disabilities

- Friendships.
- Increased social initiation, relationships and network.
- For role models of academic social and behavior skills.
- Increased achievement of IEP goals.
- Enhanced skill acquisition and generalization

The teaching- learning process in an inherently social act and as instructors we need to be minded of the quality of the social and

emotional dynamics in our course, because they impact learning and performance.

Study is the process of applying the mind in order to acquire knowledge, critical thinking, creative thinking and problem solving strategies, maximizing academic experience. Teaching strategies creates an effective learning climate.

CONCLUSION

Students need the opportunity to articulate and test their understanding of key areas and to receive informed and constructive feedback.

Examples of inclusive assessment strategies:

- Provide students with the option of using a variety of assessment method such as exams, essays, presentations, demonstrations, reports, visual journals, multi-media presentation and group discussion (as interactive sessions).
- Consider the different ways of examinations to be conducted.
- Provide opportunities for continuous assessment as modules are delivered/ completed and consider the weighting given to ongoing assessment tasks.

Students enter higher education from diverse backgrounds bringing with them diverse learning preference and life experiences. Inclusive teaching is designed for all students, both traditional and non-traditional.

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