

Fostering Inclusivity through inclusive education: A success story of Amar Jyoti Rehabilitation & Research Centre

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ABSTRACT

Background- Inclusivity comes through inclusive education. Inclusive education promotes diversity, fosters empathy and prepares students for an inclusive society. It enables learners to achieve their potential and live with equality and dignity. Post-UNCRPD has become a global priority, as an essential component in regular education, policies and strategies for achieving education for all. In India, the National Education Policy-2020, Rights of persons with disabilities-2016 and many more Acts and policies are positive outcomes of effective implementation of inclusive education. Despite various policies, practices and laws promoting inclusive education, inclusion is currently not a regular feature of the school education system. The number of schools promoting and practicing inclusive education is relatively low. To make inclusion a reality it is imperative to fully understand the significance of the term in the context of the Indian Education System and plan a strategy to implement specific measures to promote and facilitate inclusive education. Aim- To understand the methodology of implementation of meaningful mainstreaming of learners with diversity Methodology- The philosophy of inclusive education rests on giving equal opportunities and full participation along with a barrier free environment to an inclusive group of children, with and without disabilities, studying together. The holistic approach of having academics, pre-vocational skill development training, medical facilities, inclusive sports and cultural activities ensures effective implementation of this concept. Teachers' training in cross-disabilities ensures that the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) are incorporated in the teaching pedagogy for the required curricular adaptations. Page 1 of 2 Outcome The concept of holistic approach being practised with efficacy by Amar Jyoti is inculcating confidence, self-esteem and happiness amongst the inclusive group of students. Our alumni have made us proud by their performance at national and international level in academic and co-curricular activities. The Amar Jyoti model is acknowledged as a pioneer in promoting inclusivity and inclusive education. Conclusion There is a paradigm shift from charity to empowerment and from the medical model to the psychosocial models. The challenge is to adopt a multi-dimensional, multipronged and multi-factored approach. Networking amongst policy makers and stakeholders, ensuring comprehensive services for inclusion, use of ICT, sharing good practices and taking cognizance of new strategies will go a long way in fostering inclusivity and create barrier-free and rights-based society.