THE ROLE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract. Inclusive education is an essential part of modern education because it promotes equality, diversity, and social integration among other learners. It creates opportunities for all learners to achieve their full potential regardless of their differences. Inclusive classrooms help students develop academic knowledge, emotional intelligence, and social responsibility. Although there are some difficulties such as limited resources and insufficient teacher training, the benefits of inclusive education are far greater. Governments, schools, teachers, and communities must work together to create educational environments where every learner feels respected and supported. As modern education continues to evolve, inclusive education will remain a key factor in building fair, compassionate, and successful societies in the future.

Keywords. Equal education, feel valued, remove barriers, mainstream classrooms, linguistic background, integration and collaboration, encourage empathy, tolerance, Presidential Decree № 4860, social exclusion, UNICEF, UNESCO, SEN(students with special educational needs)

Inclusive education has become one of the most important principles of modern education systems throughout the world. It means to the practice of providing equal educational opportunities to all learners regardless of their physical abilities, social background, language, gender, ethnicity, or learning differences. In the twenty-first century, education is not only about academic success but also about equality, participation, and respect for diversity among disabled and physically healthy one. Inclusive education creates an environment where every learner feels valued and supported during lesson and in community. Inclusive education is based on the belief that every student has the right to study in a regular classroom with peers of the same age. It promotes participation and removes barriers that may prevent students from learning effectively. Traditionally, students with disabilities or special educational needs were often separated from mainstream classrooms (*A mainstream classroom* is a *general education setting* where students of diverse abilities, backgrounds, and needs learn together, typically following a standardized curriculum. It collaborates students with special needs, or those with different linguistic backgrounds, alongside their peers to promote inclusion, social interaction, and access to the same educational opportunities) However, modern educational theories encourage *integration* and *collaboration* among all students. Inclusive education does not only benefit students with special needs. It improves the learning experience for all students by encouraging empathy, cooperation, tolerance, and communication skills. Teachers in inclusive classrooms use different teaching strategies such as group work, differentiated instruction, technology-based learning, and individualized support to meet the needs of diverse learners. Moreover, Uzbekistan has made inclusive education a key priority in its state policy, and significant progress is underway in this area. A major step forward came with Presidential Decree № 4860, "On measures to further

improve the system of education and upbringing for children with special educational needs". This decree laid the foundation for the country's efforts to enhance inclusive education. As part of this initiative, Uzbekistan developed a concept for advancing inclusive education in the public school system from 2020 to 2025, and created a "road map" for its implementation in 2020–2021. The plan also set specific targets for improving education for children with special needs by 2025. Much effort has gone into supporting young people with disabilities, encouraging their social engagement, boosting their interest in employment, and involving them in science, technology, art, and sports. In 2021, Uzbekistan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To put the provisions of the Convention into practice, the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis approved a National Action Plan for 2023–2025. Currently, 115 special education teachers are working in general secondary schools where inclusive education has been implemented. Additionally, to raise awareness among teachers, parents, and the public about the rights of children with special educational needs and the essence of inclusive education. In addition to this, offline and online training seminars are organized every academic year for educators and teachers in general secondary schools where inclusive education has been introduced. According to the regional analysis, inclusive education has been implemented in 44 general secondary schools in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 46 in Andijan region, 23 in Bukhara region, 43 in Jizzakh region, 37 in Kashkadarya region, 17 in Navoi region, 61 in Namangan region, 20 in Samarkand region, 16 in Syrdarya region, 41 in Surkhandarya region, 65 in Tashkent region, 47 in Fergana region, 18 in Khorezm region, and 52 in Tashkent city. The primary goal of developing the inclusive education system should be to ensure equal opportunities for all children, providing the necessary conditions for them to succeed in education, regardless of their individual characteristics, achievements, language, culture, or the social and economic status of their parents. Modern societies are becoming increasingly multicultural and diverse. Schools must prepare students to live and work in environments where people have different backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities. Inclusive education helps students understand the *value of diversity* and teaches them to *respect others*. One of the main goals of inclusive education is *social equality*. When children learn together from an early age, they develop positive attitudes toward differences. This reduces *discrimination* and *social exclusion* in society. Inclusive classrooms also help students to build confidence and self-esteem because they feel accepted and appreciated among others. Furthermore, inclusive education contributes to the development of democratic societies. It supports human rights and equal access to education for everyone. International organizations such as ***UNESCO*** and ***UNICEF*** strongly encourage countries to implement inclusive educational policies to achieve sustainable development goals.

Key benefits of inclusive education:

- **Improved Academic Outcomes:** Students with special educational needs (SEN) often achieve higher academic results in inclusive classrooms compared to segregated ones. Students without disabilities also show neutral or positive academic growth, benefiting from diverse teaching methods and peer-to-peer learning.
- **Social and Emotional Growth:** Inclusive classrooms improve friendships and a sense of belonging, reducing bullying and social isolation. It encourages students to be more patient, empathetic, and accepting of differences, preparing them for a diverse world.
- **Enhanced Social Skills and Confidence:** The various environment boosts social interaction, leading to improved communication, self-awareness, and self-esteem for all students.

- **Preparation for the Real World:** Inclusive education prepares children for a different society where people of all abilities work and live together, building a more inclusive and equitable community.
- **Development of Empathy and Tolerance:** By learning alongside peers with different abilities, students develop a deeper understanding and empathy, reducing stigma and discrimination.
- **Stronger School Communities:** Schools that prioritize inclusion often see higher engagement from families and educators, leading to a more collaborative and supportive school culture.

Technology plays a significant role in supporting inclusive education today. Digital tools, online learning platforms, educational applications, and assistive technologies help students access information more easily. For example, screen readers, speech-to-text software, subtitles, and interactive learning applications support students with various learning needs. Online education has also increased opportunities for inclusive learning. Students who face physical or geographical barriers can participate in educational activities through virtual classrooms. Technology allows teachers to personalize learning and monitor students' progress more effectively. Despite its many benefits, inclusive education also faces several challenges. One major challenge is the lack of resources and trained teachers. Some schools may not have suitable facilities, learning materials, or technology to support students with special educational needs. Another difficulty is classroom management. Teachers mayfind it challenging to address the needs of students with different learning abilities at the same time. Large class sizes can make individualized instruction more difficult. In some communities, negative attitudes and stereotypes toward disabilities still exist. These social barriers may affect the successful implementation of inclusive education. Therefore, governments and educational institutions should organize teacher training programs, awareness campaigns, and financial support to improve inclusive educational systems.

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