

From Segregation to Inclusion: An Analytical Study

Simpa Nag

B.Ed student, Vidyasagar Teachers' Training College, Midnapore, West Bengal, India

Abstract:

This study explains the change in the education system from segregation to inclusion system of education. In earlier times, children with special needs (CWSN) were taught in separate schools, which kept them away from the mainstream of society. Later, the idea of integrated education was introduced, where they were placed in regular schools, but no major changes were made in the education system for them. As a result, they had to adjust to that system. At present, inclusive education is helping to solve these all problems by allowing all students to study together in the same classroom and learn according to their needs. This study is based on secondary data. Information has been collected from books, research articles, journals, and government documents. The study shows that inclusive education helps to develop equality, social skills, empathy, and confidence among students. It also reduces discrimination and plays an important role in the overall development of all learners.

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Introduction:

In earlier times, children with special needs (CWSN) were educated in separate institutions, this system of education known as segregated education. Later, to overcome this narrow approach, the concept of integrated education emerged, where children with special needs were included in regular schools but no special changes were made to the education system for them.

Currently, to overcome these limitations, inclusive education has been introduced, where all students study together in one classroom and all those CWSN children are provided with support as per their needs.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand the concepts of segregated, integrated, and inclusive education.
2. To analyse the changing trends in education.
3. To identify the benefits of inclusive education.

Research Questions:

1. What are the main differences between segregated, integrated, and inclusive education?

2. What are the major changing trends in the field of education?
3. What are the benefits of inclusive education for students?

Methodology of the Study:

In this study analytical and descriptive methods have been used to interpret the data.

➤ Sources of Data:

The study is based on secondary data. Data have been collected from various reliable sources such as-

- Books
- Research journals and articles
- Government reports and policy documents etc.

➤ Method of Data Collection:

This study is mainly based on secondary data. In this study information was collected through a systematic document analysis of relevant literature, including books, research papers, and official reports on inclusive education. To make the study more reliable, government policies, such as UNESCO reports and the Salamanca Statement have also been included.

➤ Method of Analysis:

The collected data have been analysed using a qualitative and analytical approach.

➤ Limitations of the Study:

- The study is based only on secondary data
- Lack of primary data such as field survey or interviews
- Limited to conceptual and theoretical analysis

Conceptual framework:

➤ **Segregated education:**

In the segregated education system, CWSN are separated from general students and educated in special schools. As a result, they remain outside the mainstream of society as a marginalized group and they cannot interact with general students. This later creates difficulties in their adaptation to the broader social environment.

➤ **Integrated education:**

The concept of the integrated education system was introduced to overcome the shortcomings of the segregated education system. In this system, children with special needs are placed in regular schools; however, they are expected to adapt to the general education system. As a result, although these students get opportunities for socialization, they suffer from low self-esteem due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure, teaching methods, and support.

➤ **Inclusive education:**

The inclusive education system goes beyond the limitations of both segregated and integrated education systems. In this system, all students learn together in the same classroom and are provided with education according to their individual needs.

Changing trends in education:

Education, like everything else, changes over time. In earlier times, separate schools were arranged for general students and students with special needs. Later, the idea of integrated education developed, where students with special needs were placed in regular schools, but the education system was not changed for them. As a result, they had to adjust to the existing system. Nowadays, to solve these problems, the concept of inclusive education has been introduced, where all students are given equal importance and support according to their needs.

The aspects of educational change are reflected in every aspect of education. They are discussed below-

• **Celebrate Diversity:**

In the current education system, diversity is not only recognized but also celebrated. Students' differences in terms of language, culture, religion, ability, and cultural background are viewed as positive and valuable aspects.

• **Development of Teachers:**

General teachers are provided with special training, and special educators are being appointed in schools to support CWSN children in the classroom.

• **Use of Assistive Technology:**

Education has become easier and more effective for CWSN children with the help of digital education and assistive technologies. For example, screen readers, hearing aids, audiobooks, and smart boards help students learn better in the classroom.

Benefits of inclusive education:

- Provides equal opportunities for all students, including CWSN children.
- Helps in developing social skills and cooperation among learners.
- Promotes acceptance of diversity and respect for individual differences.
- Improves confidence and self-esteem of CWSN children.
- Encourages empathy and positive attitudes among general students.
- Supports active participation of all students in classroom activities.
- Enhances both academic and social development.
- Reduces discrimination and social barriers.
- Makes learning more effective through assistive technology and support services.

Conclusion:

Based on the above discussion, it can be said that the progression from segregated education to inclusive education is a positive change in the education system. Inclusive education ensures equal rights for all students, not only for those with special needs. It promotes social harmony, cooperation, and mutual respect among all learners. Although the successful implementation of this system requires trained teachers, appropriate infrastructure, and assistive technology. These challenges can be solved with proper planning and implementation.

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