

International Human Rights Perspective on Inclusive Education:

Implications of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)

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What is the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities ?

An international law that explains the rights of persons with a disability

Why is the CRPD Unique?

1. The way it was developed
People with disabilities helped write the CRPD
2. The way it understands human rights
Shifts understanding of disability from medical to social model; disability is not a problem, but results from barriers
3. The way it will be supported
As a human rights instrument and a tool for development

Inclusion International Policy on Education

- ✓ Promotes the right to inclusive education as the basis for the full development of the person and as a means to enable the person to participate effectively in society
- ✓ Believes that all persons with disability should be able to choose inclusive education in their own community

What the CRPD Says:

Article 24:

“ States Parties shall ensure an inclusive, education system at all levels, and life-long learning”

Article 24 Means:

- ✓ Inclusive education system at all levels
- ✓ Quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others
- ✓ Reasonable accommodation
- ✓ Effective individualized support measures
 - Braille, Sign language, Adapted Curriculum

Steps Towards Implementation

- Eliminate legal and policy barriers
- Make the general education system more accessible
- Involve the family and community

Eliminate Legal and Policy Barriers

- ✓ Is primary and secondary education free and compulsory?
- ✓ Is the Ministry of Education responsible for providing an education to students with an intellectual disability?
- ✓ Do students with an intellectual disability have the right to go to the same school as their non-disabled sisters and brothers?
- ✓ Does the school system provide accommodation for students with an intellectual disability?
- ✓ Are specialized staff and resources being used to support the regular system?

Make General Education System More Accessible

- ✓ What are the major challenges in the regular education system?
- ✓ Are teachers being trained to respond to diversity?
- ✓ Are there provisions for adapting the curriculum to respond to the individual needs of students?
- ✓ Are schools physically accessible to students with a disability?
- ✓ Are early childhood education programs preparing students with an intellectual disability for the regular education system?

Involve the Family and Community

- ✓ Are families supported to be able to participate in parent-school processes
- ✓ Are families prepared to participate in setting academic goals for their children?
- ✓ Is the community being educated about the benefits of inclusion and about the rights of students with disabilities?