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ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND TEACHER EDUCATORS FOR EFFECTIVE INCLUSION

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ABSTRACT

An equal access to education is a matter of birthright to all irrespective of what they are. Indian constitution also emphasizes the Right to Education and equality of educational opportunities. Inclusive education is based on the belief that all children can learn and will reach their full potential if they are provided a suitable environment and enough opportunities to learn. The role of educational institutions and especially the teachers becomes significant to realize the aim of maximizing learning for all children in the classroom including children with disabilities. Thus, the teacher preparation for handling the different needs of the students, using appropriate teaching strategies for effectively dealing with these children becomes significant. They are supposed to develop a congenial learning environment for making them worthy of living and developing their dignity. Professionally, teachers need to develop and for this Teacher Education becomes a mandatory factor. Certain endeavors like appropriate monitoring strategies and evaluation mechanisms need to be adopted for the effectiveness of Inclusive Education. Opportunities to learn from, support and develop relationships with one another are not possible when students are streamed into separate classes. Despite all odds, inclusion work and it's must have a more humane society where every child can grow and develop without fear of failure or ridicule. A coordinated action plan of holistic approach is required to bring out a change in the entire Education System. A fully Inclusive Education system will definitely reflect Indian society as a whole and contribute to its betterment.

KEYWORDS: Inclusive Education, Teacher Education, Learning Environment