A DISCUSSION ON THE INCLUSIVITY IN EDUCATION: THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract

We are currently living in an era marked by globalization, technological advancement, and inclusivity. Inclusive Education is just a different form of 'Education for all'. Inclusive education has become a major focus to confirm the achievement of social integration and cohesion among people. Globalization, technology, and inclusion are three criteria that are closely related to one another. When taken as a whole, these factors raise the idea of "Education for all" in society and promote the accessibility of education for students with diverse needs. Within this framework, the current study examines how inclusive education might progressively grow as a result of science and technology connecting every nation on the planet.

Keywords: *Globalization, Inclusiveness of Education, Technology, 21st Century*

Introduction

Presently, we are in going through the age of globalization, age of technological advancement and also the age of inclusiveness. There is a strong connectivity between these parameters that are globalization, technology and inclusivity. Together these all make education more and more accessible for students with diversified need and it increases the graphs of 'Education for all' in the society. In this context, the present paper explores the gradual development of inclusive education when all the countries of the globe are connected to each other with the help of rapidly developed science and technology.

Inclusiveness in Education

Inclusive Education is another form of 'Education for All' and it has become a major focus to confirm the achievement of social integration and cohesion among people. Each human being is the human resource of a country; involvement of all children irrespective of their class, caste, race, religion and socio-economic status in education is necessary for the entire development of the nation. India is a nation of super-diversity where people with diversified needs live together in social circumstances. Inclusiveness in education has a strong impact on social development in respect to global scenario.

No one is disabled. A child can be considered as differently abled. Children with and without disabilities-both deserve equal access to quality education so that they can develop themselves as useful members of the society as well as the nation. Children with special needs can avail the same benefit from the educational institutions with normal students in an inclusive setting. An inclusive education platform welcomes huge diversity among all learners. It supports the concept that all children with special needs

deserve inclusion in the traditional classroom to learn simultaneously with their non-disabled peers. Segregation in educational setting should be eliminated to keep the psychological and emotional balance stable in case of special children.

It is a big question to the society that what kind of inclusion is expected in the field of education: by chance or by choice? Inclusiveness provides the opportunity to the students to access education as per their own choice and it helps to eliminate all the restrictions that special students have to face in education. Inclusive education not only provides equal educational opportunity to the students but also promotes social justice to the students with special needs. Navigating society towards inclusiveness is presently becoming easier in this age of globalization. Making inclusive setting successful is not possible with the single effort of the special children; equally important is the cooperation of teachers and normal students of an inclusive classroom. Students should be benefitted as much as possible in the inclusive setting and teachers must have to play an integral role in this process if inclusion under the same umbrella of education. Combined effort is necessary to meet the heightened needs of both normal and special students in this era of dynamism. Knowledge is increasing its area day by day in the age of knowledge explosion and simultaneously the educational needs are also growing. Inclusivity provides students a big platform to play, learn and grow together under the same roof of education. In this competitive world of globalization each one is moving towards self-excellence and inclusiveness in education enables students to make themselves more enrich by increasing their stock house of knowledge.

Globalization

We are all going through the age when science and technology is rapidly growing in each and every context of life. With the help of this technology, globalization creates internal connectivity between various countries of the world. Technological advancement continuously facilitates the process of globalization. It is the cause of greater intensification of this inter-connection and interdependence among these global countries. With the advent of globalization, society is gradually changing its features. It has opened the doors of various new opportunities as well as some formidable challenges. Globalization has an unavoidable effect on every sphere of life, such as educational, social, political, economic, cultural and so on. With the process of globalization, simultaneously modernization is happening throughout the life. Globalization is the central cause of developing more inter-connected and complex world in respect to the earlier.

Directly or indirectly globalization affects the entire education system of the world as technology has interfered in all aspects of present education. Overall, education has become more accessible for the individuals in this era of globalization with the help of rapid growing technology. Education is a reliable way out for increasing the living standard of people. As compared with the pre-globalized world competitions are significantly increasing and educationally, each one is trying best for his/her excellence or prosperity. There is a strong connectivity between globalization and inclusiveness in education. It can be said that inclusion of excluded learners has become easier and more flexible with technological improvement in this globalized period. Any person can access education from any palace at any time by internet usage. Global knowledge is coming hand to hand very easily as globalization creates global village where all people are living with cooperation and interdependence. In broader sense, globalization helps to develop a trustable relationship between all nations of the globe. The global information highway has evolved and enriched in the present scenario. The whole world has become a small village and globally this process has left back its footprints in every aspect of life worldwide, education has become more broaden. The borders and boundaries have been broken down between various countries.

Technology in Teaching-Learning

Presently we are going through the period of living with technology. There is not a single port of life where technology is not involved. Use of technology makes our activities much easier as well as less time consuming in this digital era of 21st century. There are so many studies where researchers have found that technological advancement makes education more developed and enriched and it facilitates both teachers and students in the teaching learning process. Even in the pandemic period when educational institutions were completely closed and formal education system was stopped in face-to-face – it was only technology which made continuation of teaching learning process possible through virtual mode. In educational context we all directly or indirectly dependent on technological use. Gradual use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has noticeably increased educational outcome and it also makes us benefitted in the advancement of our stock house of knowledge. In each and every part of education, technology has been included to make education easier. Usage of internet is a blessing for students. Medias may be synchronous as well as asynchronous according to the necessity but both have unavoidable effect on students' learning. This involvement of technology has broadened the platform for the students. It makes education more attractive and understandable for learners. Technological use in education limits the geographical boundaries and increases the accessibility of education. Eliminating major drawbacks of technology, students and teachers should the maximum advantage for achieving educational excellence.

Teachers should have adequate knowledge and skill about the use of technology so that students' learning can occur more joyfully. The conventional methods of teaching do not fulfil all the requirements of students with diversified needs. In traditional teaching-learning process, the educational resources are only textbooks and teachers act as knowledge transmitter. The digital learning tools have yielded positive result in education of inclusive setting. Simultaneously, these technological tools have increased the motivation level and academic participation of learners. In the limited class period, it is not possible for a teacher to meet diversified needs of normal and special students together due to shortage of time. Usage of internet and technology creates a vast platform for all the students where they can learn as per their own needs and capacities. It has also removed the barrier in which students could not get individual attention of teachers in the traditional teaching-learning due to several causes. This inclusiveness in education is a crucial part to make sure the status of equality in education and is randomly enhanced with the support of ICT in education where students with disabilities can learn alongside their non-disabled peers under the same roof of education. Technology also helps in creating an adaptable and effective environment where students with different types of disabilities can be facilitated. Technology also improves the innovative and creative pedagogical practices in teaching learning process.

Literature Review

- **Inclusive Education**

The environment of educational institutions should be developed such a way in support of inclusive education to ensure that the knowledge gained by each student through active learning can be in accordance with the individual ability (Hameed, 2019).

According to the social model of disability, an individual impairment is not the cause of his/her disability, rather disability can be treated as the result of how society is organized with disadvantages and excludes people with impairments (Armstrong et al., 2011).

Inclusive education is an attempt to include all types of students in the educational platform who are excluded from the mainstream (Roy et al., 2017).

The dream society of Swami Vivekananda had promised to fight the battles and challenges of life as a whole – not as a fraction (Roy et al., 2018). Educationalists around the world have preached inclusiveness in education in various era of history (Adhikari & Saha, 2021; 2022).

We know that Swamiji's philosophy puts emphasis to the education of masses where all individuals are facilitated with equal educational opportunities as per their needs so that backwardness can be removed (Roy & Saha, 2021).

Inclusiveness in education can be considered as the reflection of education for sustainable development. It primarily focusses on 'Quality Education' as well as 'Reduced Inequalities' to fulfil the dream of making a sustainable future (Roy et al., 2018).

It is a critical aspect of inclusive education for a child with special need to have the acceptance and positive attitude of classmates (Jacob & Olisaemeka, 2016).

The slogan 'Change the environment to suit the child, not the child to suit the environment' immensely supports the inclusive setting of education (Pandit & Saha, 2023, 2016; Pandit et al., 2016, 2017).

- **Globalization**

The rise of a global society driven by technological enhancement is shaping the children into global citizens and the global education makes educational platform more open to all children (Chaudhary, 2016).

To develop and maintain a better-balanced society, everyone should be conscious to transfer social, political, economic and educational aspects to their future generation through the proper knowledge of globalization (Haloi, 2021).

Globalization identifies the characteristics and effects of the educational process and it also determines the desirable changes in educational system (Jahanian & Soleymani, 2013).

Inclusivity is reinforced with the concerning effect of globalization. Where inclusive education celebrates the notion of a class which embraces students with multiple characteristics (Hameed, 2019).

Globalization can be treated as the process of international integration – a worldwide movement that enhances the interaction between various countries all over the world with the random use of information and communication technology (Roy & Bishnu, 2018).

- **Technology**

Dependency on internet is rapidly increasing and currently this internet is esteemed for a colossal number of assistances that it caters to the global world of this 21st Century (Gorain et al., 2018; Gorain et al., 2021; Gorain et al., 2022; Mohanta et al., 2023; Khan et al., 2023).

Technological advancement helps in increasing the individual learning opportunity and teachers should also adjust with the changes and challenges of this digitalized era (Roy & Saha, 2019).

Technological enhancement in teaching-learning has broaden the platform of blended learning as well as flipped classroom approach which is proved more beneficial than the traditional methodologies (Mahato et al., 2022; Roy, 2023).

Conclusion

Globalization is a contemporary process which has a great impact on the entire education system. In this age of science and technology, globalization has become a tricky term and gained momentum in

educational scenario. These effects of globalization on education brings continual development of technology in this information-based society. It enables the society to ensure the inclusiveness of diversified students in education in order to reduce the scope of global inequality. The wider use of technology also develops the thinking process of individuals and makes them intellectually enriched. Individuals are being benefitted through these various ideologies. Demands and practicability of inclusive education foster so many changes on the entire education system. Society as well as the government should put emphasis on the connectivity of these vital issues of this 21st century which can enhance both the quality and quantity of education in an inclusive setting.

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