

Inclusive School Health Programs: Vision Screening



Natasha Graham
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Inclusive Education

There are two meanings behind the concept of “Inclusive Education”:

(1) Including *all* children in education

(meaning ALL – 100% - not only those deemed educable)

(2) Developing mainstream schools so that they can provide relevant teaching for ALL children, that is “*Inclusive Education*”

” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HLIHzRzK00>



Inclusive Education: an EFA Strategy for ALL Children

- Estimates for the number of children living with disabilities range between 93 million and 150 million
- Many of these children are excluded from mainstream education
- Inclusive mainstream schools provide a cost effective way forward



Disability vs. Impairment

- **Impairment:** an injury, illness or congenital condition that causes or is likely to cause a loss or difference of physiological function



- **Disability:** the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in society on an equal level due to social, institutional and environmental barriers
- A disabled person is a person with an impairment who experiences a disability



Disability vs. Impairment



Bottlenecks and Disability

- “Disability” is not the reason for being out-of-school
- The reasons are environmental barriers that children with disabilities face:
 - Attitudes and expectations
 - Lack of access to assistive devices
 - Inaccessible infrastructure and transportation
 - **Schools’ lack of capacity on inclusive education**



Education and Children with Disabilities

1. Children with disabilities **who are enrolled** in school but are excluded from learning (at risk for drop out)

Example: children with visual impairments



Education and Children with Disabilities

2. Children who are not enrolled in school but who could participate well if schools had the capacity in terms of knowledge, skills and equipment to respond to the specific needs of these particular children.

Example: children with physical disabilities, children with learning difficulties



Education and Children with Disabilities

3. Children with severe disabilities who require additional support (whether in school or not)

- This is usually the smallest group (2-3%)



Disability-inclusive School Health Programs

- Disability awareness raising for education staff
- Working with Inclusive Education units
- Health and Disability screening as part of School Health Programs
- Provision of referrals and assistive devices









Why introduce vision screening?



And another classroom: dark, which is especially challenging for children with visual impairments.



Difficult to see white board.



Another classroom: old white board, and faded markers used for writing.







Vision Screening: next steps

- Expansion to 15 countries;
- Providing training and technical support to MOEs;
- Working closely with Inclusive Education Units;
- Creating Communities of Practice.
- School health + disability awareness (using school health as a platform)

