Inclusive Education: Taking the debates forward

Nidhi Singal
Professor of Disability and Inclusive Education
@nsingal14
Human Rights: Why? We count.

Why Educate Children with Disabilities?

Fiscal returns:
- +1 year
- ↑10% salary
- ↓disability (poverty)

Better Schools for All:
- Accessible schools and materials helps us all
- Reduces barriers for me too
- Better differentiation and materials
How?
Right to be counted

Access: India data (2018)

Learning outcomes: Pakistan data (2018)
Resources

Teachers as enablers

• Not necessarily negative in their attitudes (Singal et al., 2016, 2018; Johansson, 2014). Articulation of strong feels around inability to teach: lack of professional expertise and confidence, not rejection of the child with disabilities.

• Most common current practices (TEACH, 2018 data): Giving extra time and attention; changing seating position; encourage peer interactions for learning; reduce curriculum demands.
Teachers did struggle: knowledge and support

• Challenges articulated:
  • Disability certification of little value to teachers
  • Heavy load of ‘non-teaching activities’
  • Short training of 2-3 days

• Significant impact on quality of provision and poor learning outcomes for all children

The needs for not just upskilling (more training) but working on developing innovative models for supporting teachers
“People are looking for information, there is a clear gap, and people are trying to find answers and solutions, which aren’t necessarily there”.

“We are trying to do a lot with the little pool of evidence that we have”.

“Good research...will not on its own change the world. It needs to be accompanied by sophisticated and strategic activism” (Swartz, 2014, p.5).

‘on tap’ not ‘on top’ Albert and Harrison (2005)
not ‘on shelf’ (Singal, 2017)
Rigour, Respect and Responsibility

• Need for research which builds on local realities and priorities
  • Identifying enablers and not merely positioning systems as deficit

• People/children with disabilities as knowledge creators not just consumers

• Undertaking more sophisticated research explorations
With many thanks to:

• CaNDER [https://canderesearch.wordpress.com/](https://canderesearch.wordpress.com/)

• Illustration credits to: Hannah Ware and Julia Hayes (for the last slide)