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Environment Modifying in Inclusive Education

S. Cathrine Asha

Ph.D., Scholar

Mother Teresa Women's University, Chennai

Dr. A. Blessing Mary

Assistant Professor, Department of Education

Mother Teresa Women's University, Chennai

Abstract

The goal of inclusive education is to give all students equal opportunities to learn, without regard to their abilities, backgrounds, or needs. To achieve this, it is essential to alter the educational environment to meet the distinct requirements of each learner. Visual schedules, tactile materials, and auditory aids are some of the sensory resources available in inclusive classrooms to cater to different sensory preferences. To promote focus and comfort, learners can opt for adaptable seating and quiet spaces. An environment that fosters inclusivity is as much about culture as physical elements. It is critical to cultivate an atmosphere of empathy, understanding, and respect. Among all students, a sense of belonging, peer support, and open dialogue can be encouraged by recognising and commending their differences and unique qualities. Environment modification in inclusive education, improved by changing surroundings, is a key method for giving excellent education that appreciates students' diversity. By making these changes, schools and teachers can aid in making sure that every student has an equal chance to learn, join in, and do well in school.

Keywords: Environment Modification, Peer Support, Physical Elements, Comfort, Sensory Resources.

Introduction

Inclusive education has the ability to make environmental modifications through several arrangements and innovations. First and foremost is the sheer accessibility of the space, which means designing schools and classrooms in a way that is inviting to everyone. This incorporates wider doorways, elevators, ramps or other physical modifications to make sure that students with mobility impairments feel at ease in the classroom environment. Inclusivity has been greatly impacted by technology, as customised assistive technologies are now available for disabled students. These include communication devices as well as screen readers and software for speech-to-text. As a result, students can now learn with fewer obstacles. An ongoing commitment is needed in inclusive education for environment modification to ensure that every learner can prosper. Regardless of their unique needs, an accessible, supportive, and inclusive environment is crucial.

Inclusive Education

It is defined as an educational environment that supports the personal, academic and professional development of all students of race, colour, gender, disability, sexuality, education and language. Teaching involves intentionally creating a learning environment in which all students are treated fairly, have equal opportunities to learn and feel valued and supported in their learning.

Learning Environment Modification in Inclusive Education

The learning environment describes not only the physical area but also the educational space of a job-focused lab or room. This common lab is packed with high-cost and occasionally intricate gear, instruments, tools, and machinery. It also includes fixtures, storage spots, and furnishings. Aspects like light, air flow, colour, feel, and sound also play a part in shaping the learning environment. The setup of the classroom or lab should lead to a smooth, organized, and cosy place to learn. How we feel and do in any professional or technical lab and classroom is impacted by its learning ambience, affecting our comfort, emotions, mental health, safety, and achievements. It's important to adjust if regular methods don't fit some learners' requirements. Some educators have a mindset towards pupils with special needs, believing they won't thrive in their career-focused program due to their disabilities. Doubt may be the first response. Sure, some with physical or sensory difficulties might not use certain tools. But it's equally true that many students with special needs can surpass social assumptions.

To affect positive change in student behaviour, teachers can modify the learning environment of their classrooms by doing things like setting a classroom schedule, using instructional strategies, and focusing on physical arrangements. They are,

1. **Arrangements of new seating:** New seating styles are making their way into classrooms around the world. Instead of the typical desk-and-chair setup, movable and adjustable options are being used to create more flexibility, comfort, and engagement for students. These options can include bean bag chairs, standing desks, floor cushions, wobble stools, and yoga balls. With the ability to choose where they sit, students can find the ideal spot for their learning needs and teachers can promote a more dynamic environment. These flexible seating arrangements are enhancing the overall learning experience and are being embraced as a new method of teaching. To facilitate easy access for students with mobility issues, arrange the seating and desks in a strategic manner. Additionally, ensure that the teacher and materials are also accessible to everyone in the classroom. Mobility needs and various seating preferences can be accommodated through flexible seating options.
2. **Universal design for learning (UDL):** Designing universally accessible teaching strategies is the essence of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This approach broadens the scope of traditional curriculums by catering to the unique needs of all individuals, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or mental and physical abilities. UDL upholds the belief that diversity and inclusion are fundamental components of effective teaching and learning. It not only takes into account the diverse needs of students but also their varied strengths and preferences. UDL provides a framework for creating learning environments that use multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression to cater to a wide variety of learners. By employing this approach, teachers can develop lessons that are flexible, inclusive and engaging, facilitating deep learning that is meaningful and long-lasting. Incorporate UDL principles into your lesson plans to ensure that every student can access and comprehend the material despite their individual abilities. To cater to various learning styles, it's essential to provide different ways of representing, engaging, and expressing information.

3. **Assistive Technology:** Technology that helps individuals with disabilities is called assistive technology. This technology can be incredibly helpful in making life more independent and comfortable for those who need it. Devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, and speech recognition software are all examples of assistive technology. In addition to helping with daily tasks, assistive technology can also help individuals with disabilities to participate in activities that they previously weren't able to. It's important to remember that each individual has unique needs, so it's essential to find the right assistive technology for them. Support disabled students by incorporating a gamut of assistive technology devices and tools, which may entail communication devices, speech recognition software, and screen readers.
4. **Communication:** Communication that is clear is important for effective and efficient exchanges of ideas and information between individuals or groups. To achieve clear communication, it is critical to use simple language that is easy to understand, avoid jargon or technical terms that may confuse the receiver, and maintain a friendly or professional tone depending on the context. Additionally, being attentive to the recipient's body language or verbal cues can help ensure that the message is received and interpreted correctly. Overall, clear communication is essential not only for personal relationships, but also in professional settings, as it can help foster trust, understanding, and successful collaborations. For effective teaching, it's important that all students can easily access clear instructions and communication. Consider utilizing a mix of visual aids, written guidelines, and verbal explanations to meet the needs of everyone in the classroom.
5. **Materials Classroom:** Students with disabilities require accessible instructional materials that need to be adapted according to their needs. Such materials include textbooks that can be transformed into braille editions or converted to large print or audio formats.
6. **Individualized Education Plans (IEPS):** Education plans tailored specifically for individuals, also known as IEPs, require a customised approach to learning. This ensures that students with unique learning needs have their requirements met in the most effective way possible. IEPs are a legal requirement for students with disabilities, and they promote academic success by providing the resources and support needed for each student to excel. Schools and educators use IEPs to create a personalized approach that meets each student's individual needs, allowing them to reach their full potential. With the aid of special education experts, devise effective IEP Plans aimed at catering to the individual needs of students with disabilities by providing them with specific modifications and accommodations.
7. **Co-teaching:** Differentiated instruction and individualised support are enabled through co-teaching models where both a general education teacher and a special education teacher collaborate in the same classroom. Inclusivity is promoted through peer support and buddy systems which encourage social interactions between students. By fostering such connections between those with and without disabilities, a safe environment is created.
8. **Supporting Behaviour:** Creating a positive and inclusive classroom environment can be achieved through the implementation of positive behaviour interventions and supports (PBIS). This approach encourages appropriate behaviour for all students, regardless of differences.
9. **Professional Development:** Sharpening one's skills and knowledge for career advancement. It might involve attending conferences and workshops or pursuing higher education. For example, a lawyer may attend continuing education seminars to learn about current changes in laws and legal proceedings. A software developer could enrol in a coding boot camp to improve their programming skills and stay relevant in a fast-paced industry. Regardless of the field, it's important to continually develop oneself to meet the demands of a dynamic job market. Related to inclusive education strategies and best practices are the skills and knowledge that teachers

can improve through ongoing professional development. Provide this to them to ensure they stay at the top of their game.

10. **Support for Behaviours:** All pupils can benefit from fostering appropriate behaviour and cultivating a positive classroom environment through the introduction of PBIS, or positive behaviour interventions and supports.
11. **Sensory-friendly Environment:** With special attention given towards those students who have a sensory processing disorder, it is important to make a classroom that is comfortable for them. Create a space that properly addresses their needs with zones for relaxing, noise-cancelling headphones, and playful fidget tools.
12. **Individualised Supports:** Based on the individualistic needs of students, we provide accommodations and support which may include visual schedules, extra time for assignments, or modified assignments.
13. **Family Involvement:** Family involvement remains crucial, encouraging guardians' participation helps foster a feeling of belongingness and assistance for pupils confronting challenges. Regular interchanges, parent-educator gatherings, and including families in goal setting and choices manufacturing are fundamental. Adaptive solutions like absorbing sound materials, stable racket machines, or improved audio frameworks can better listen and correspond with scholars with hearing incapacities or preparation issues.
14. **Outdoor Learning:** The outdoor learning spaces open doors for understudies to embrace experiential learning, build up gross engine abilities, and appreciate nature-based exercises. This favours considerably more youth confronting actual or passionate troubles, who may advantage of elective showing conditions. Lastly, customized learning plans empower understudies to push ahead at their own speeds and address distinctive learning styles.
15. **Acoustic Solutions:** Acoustic solutions like installing soundproofing panels or using adaptive audio equipment can help students with hearing impairments better understand lessons by reducing echoes and amplifying voices.
16. **Supportive Environment:** Evolve teaching techniques to meet the changing needs of students with disabilities by engaging in frequent collaboration with parents, special education professionals, and support staff.

Conclusion

Creating an inclusive teaching environment is a continuous journey where modifications to make it supportive and inclusive should be made. Key principles that should be implemented for effective inclusive education are communication, collaboration, and ensuring individual needs are met. These strategies, when enforced, create a teaching environment inclusive and supportive for all students' diverse needs. It also aids in fostering academic, social, and emotional growth. An inviting class environment is a space where every learner feels they possess educational and emotional support. It's a region where they sense longing within the class, disregarding their uniqueness, their preferred learning style, or their education level.

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