

The Importance of Establishing Inclusive Elementary School Development Centers in Higher Education: Lecturers' and Teachers' Perspectives

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1; 2; 3; 4; 5;

Abstract

Background - The successful implementation of inclusive education in elementary schools requires the involvement of all parties, including higher education. Several problems, such as the absence of a special unit that helps solve inclusive problems and a mentoring program for schools by the government and related parties, are problems that inclusive elementary schools often need help with so that the implementation of inclusive education has not been optimal.

Purpose - This research aims to explore the perceptions of lecturers and teachers regarding the establishment of inclusive elementary school development centers in universities.

methodology - Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with sixteen participants: five university lecturers and eleven inclusive elementary school teachers. Data analysis used thematic analysis. The study's results produced two main themes, namely (1) the availability of inclusive education services and (2) the need for the development of inclusive elementary schools.

Findings - The findings show the importance of establishing inclusive elementary school development centers in universities, which is expected to restructure inclusive education programs that can positively impact elementary schools and universities through innovative and sustainable programs to systematically improve the quality of inclusive education. This research has implications for all parties, including universities, schools, and government, to work together well so that national education goals can benefit from inclusive education policies.

Originality - This research makes an important contribution by highlighting the urgency of establishing inclusive primary school development centers in universities. The findings offer empirical insights from the perspectives of lecturers and teachers, which have not been widely explored, and illustrate the strategic role of universities in supporting inclusive education through ongoing training programs, mentorship and innovative research. This adds value in strengthening collaboration between universities and schools to systematically improve the quality of inclusive education.

Keywords: development centers, elementary schools, inclusive, higher institutions
