A Sociological Analysis of the Contribution of Education towards the Social Inclusion of Children with Disabilities

Ranasinghe PKGIL

University of Colombo, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology iru.ranasinghe@yahoo.com

Currently, there are numerous arguments taking place about the children with disabilities, both locally and internationally. When considering about the imperative fields in children with disabilities, one of most significant areas is their education. Specially, education is a hub that various children would meet together and it's a centre of training for future generation. Therefore, 'what would be the contribution of education towards the social inclusion of children with disabilities?' is a field that needed to be addressed more effectively. The objective of this research study is to find out the contribution of education for the social inclusion of children with disabilities. To get more insight into the research question, sub research objectives and research questions have been developed. A school which teaches children with disabilities separately has been selected as the core research area. Thematic analysis has used for the data analysis and research methodology has developed in accordance with the research question. Because of different social aspects, culture, economic and political factors, the education system in Sri Lanka provides less contribution for social inclusion of children with disabilities. Concept of gender has affected to children with disabilities too. Basically, almost all the educational policies have been designed for the students in general. Bring forth of workforce who match with the competitive education and capital market is the main objective of current education. With the concept of 'disability', both individual and social profiles should be considered. Many programs, policies and activities are conducting to strengthen the education of children with disabilities in Sri Lankan education system; hence these students are not excluded from the educational structure. But due to the weakness of poor conduction of above principles and activities, they are marginalized and those are not carrying out in accordance with an ideal structure.

Key words: Disability, Education, Exclusion, Marginalization, Society