



## Objective of inclusive education – Need, challenges, and case study analysis

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### Abstract

Inclusive education means that every child, irrespective of ability, disability, or social background, learns together in a common environment. It promotes equality, respect, and understanding among learners. This article explains the main objectives of inclusive education, its need in today's world, the challenges in achieving it, and presents selected case studies from India and abroad that demonstrate successful inclusive practices. The study follows a descriptive and qualitative approach using secondary data sources like educational reports, policies, and academic papers.

**Keywords:** Equality in education, learner diversity, disability inclusion, social background, equity in learning

### Introduction

Education is a basic human right and a key tool for social and economic development. Inclusive education ensures that all learners—regardless of gender, disability, socioeconomic background, or cultural identity—receive equal learning opportunities. It reflects the idea that diversity should be celebrated, not ignored. The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) in India emphasizes inclusive and equitable education as a priority for national progress. However, despite awareness, achieving true inclusion remains a challenge due to social, economic, and institutional barriers.

### Methods

This paper uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Information was gathered from government documents such as the Right to Education Act (2009) [2], the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan framework (2018), and global reports from UNESCO and UNICEF. Academic studies and case reports were reviewed to understand the objectives, needs, and practical challenges of inclusive education. The paper also examines three case studies—two from India and one international example—to analyze practical applications.

### Results

#### 1. Objectives of Inclusive Education

The primary objectives of inclusive education are to ensure equal access to learning opportunities, eliminate discrimination, and promote social participation. It also aims to create a supportive environment for children with disabilities, enhance teacher capacity, and ensure every learner feels valued and respected. Inclusive education helps students develop empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving skills by learning together in diverse classrooms.

#### 2. Need for Inclusive Education

The need for inclusive education arises from the universal right to education as recognized by the United Nations and the Indian Constitution. Inclusive classrooms allow students from different backgrounds to grow together, encouraging mutual respect and understanding. It contributes to social justice, reduces dropout rates, and prepares students for inclusive workplaces. Moreover, inclusive education aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

#### 3. Challenges in Implementation

Despite positive intentions, inclusive education faces many practical challenges. These include insufficient teacher training, limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, lack of assistive learning materials, and societal stigma. Many teachers are not trained to handle children with disabilities or behavioral issues. Schools in rural areas often lack ramps, accessible toilets, or specialized learning aids. Additionally, societal attitudes toward differently-abled children continue to be a barrier.

#### Case Study Analysis

##### 1. Case Study 1: Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan – India

The Government of India launched the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in 2018 [3] as a holistic approach to school education, integrating inclusive education as a key component. Under this program, resource rooms and special educators were introduced in schools to support children with special needs (CWSN). Accessible teaching materials such as Braille books and audio lessons were developed. This initiative also encouraged teacher training and awareness programs for parents and students. Although implementation varies across states, it has successfully brought many children with disabilities into mainstream schools.

##### 2. Case Study 2: NGO Efforts – Amar Jyoti School, Delhi

Amar Jyoti School in Delhi is an example of community-led inclusion. Established by a non-governmental organization, the school admits both differently-abled and non-disabled students in the same classroom. Children learn, play, and participate in activities together. The school uses peer support models, individualized education plans, and accessible sports facilities. This approach helps to build empathy, respect, and social integration among students. The success of Amar Jyoti has inspired similar models in other states, proving that inclusive education can succeed with community involvement.

##### 3. Case Study 3: Finland's Inclusive Education Model

Finland's education system is often considered one of the best examples of inclusion in the world. All children, regardless of learning ability, attend the same neighborhood

school. Teachers are specially trained to address diverse learning needs through multi-level support systems. Individual education plans (IEPs) are prepared for students needing extra help, and there is strong collaboration among teachers, parents, and health professionals. The Finnish model shows how early intervention, flexible curricula, and teacher empowerment can lead to genuine inclusion.

### **Discussion**

The case studies show that inclusive education can succeed when proper planning, training, and awareness exist. Government initiatives like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan demonstrate institutional commitment, while community-driven efforts like Amar Jyoti School prove that inclusion starts at the grassroots. International examples like Finland highlight the importance of teacher empowerment and systematic support. For India, the biggest challenge remains the implementation gap between policy and practice. Continuous teacher training, infrastructure improvement, and societal awareness are essential. Technology can also play a vital role in promoting inclusion by providing digital tools and accessible resources for differently-abled learners.

### **Conclusion**

Inclusive education is not only an educational approach but also a social philosophy that promotes equality and respect for diversity. India has taken significant steps through policies like NEP 2020 and Samagra Shiksha, but practical challenges remain. More funding, specialized training, and active community involvement are needed. Learning from successful models—both domestic and global—can help strengthen India's inclusive education system. Ultimately, inclusive education must go beyond policy to become a collective practice that transforms schools into spaces of equality and belonging.

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