WORKSHOP 1

Inclusive education:
Approaches, Scope & Content

Diane Richler
Inclusive education: Approaches, Scope & Content

Diane Richler
President
Inclusion International
1. Why is inclusive education essential for children with disabilities?
2. What are the implications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for inclusive education?
3. How can the objectives of the CRPD be achieved?
4. Are there different challenges in developed and emerging economies?
Why is inclusive education essential for children with disabilities?
Benefits of Quality Education

✓ Better health
✓ Reduced fertility
✓ Higher productivity
✓ Increased family income
✓ Increased Self-determination
For parents of children with intellectual disabilities...

QUALITY = INCLUSION
Goal of Parents

A child with a disability will attend the same school as his/her siblings and be included in age appropriate regular classes with non-disabled peers.
Desired Indicators . . .

- Every child will be welcomed at the neighborhood school
- Every child will benefit from the social and academic stimulation of education with his/her peers
- Every school will develop strategies of support to make this approach successful.
Why Is Inclusive Education Essential?

• Can’t reach Education For All without children with disabilities

• Financially and practically impossible to create separate education system

• Inclusive education can provide a better education for all

• To build SOCIAL CAPITAL
One third of children out of school have a disability
Children are out of school because of...

- Discrimination
- Not registered at birth
- Lack of $ for clothes, shoes, materials
- Lack of transportation
- Unrest or armed conflict
Current Education Development Investment Strategies

- Out of context
- Result in limited participation
- Based on medical and rehabilitation models
- Segregate persons with a disability
- Don’t address systemic exclusion
- Limited coverage
- Expensive and unsustainable
What are the Implications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for Inclusive Education?
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Article 24

Inclusive Education:

A goal agreed to by governments and civil society
Article 24 Means:

- Inclusive education system at all levels
- Quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others
- Reasonable accommodation
- Effective individualized support measures
- Qualified teachers
How can the objectives of the CRPD be achieved?
• Eliminate legal barriers

• One ministry and one school system responsible

• Use special education resources to assist mainstream system

• Train educators to respond to diversity

• Address teaching conditions

• Invest in inclusive early childhood education (ECCE)

• Provide training to parents of children with disabilities
Steps Towards Implementation

• Eliminate legal and policy barriers

• Make the general education system more accessible

• Involve the family and community
Are there different challenges in developed and emerging economies?
Challenges to Achieving Inclusive Education

• Policy commitments not enough without corresponding investment
• Special education alone cannot achieve inclusion
• Influencing investment means influencing donors and recipients
In Developed Economies

Need to tear down segregated system and Transform existing system
In Emerging Economies

Need to create

a system

FOR ALL
Return to Salamanca: Renewing our Vision and the Road Ahead 1994-2009

October 21-23, 2009
Salamanca, Spain

www.inclusion-international.org