TURNING DISABILITIES INTO CAPABILITIES: INCLUDING SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS INTO GENERAL CLASSROOM SETTING

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Every child has the capability to acquire knowledge regardless of what specialization they have. Every child can learn but it varies the way a child could learn, their level of understanding and how much knowledge they could acquire, most especially for a child with special needs. These are the children with learning abilities. Learning disabilities are neurological disorders which impact the way they process and understand information that manifest difficulties in listening, speaking, writing, spelling, etc.

There are special classes offered for students with disabilities wherein they are separated from children who do not have special needs. But, it is also important for these special-needs students to be part of a normal classroom setting which is called inclusion. Marcela De Vivo (2014) said that "inclusion is a simple principle that states children with special needs should take part in regular classes and activities – just like children their age without special needs."

Inclusion can be beneficial with these students because they will be able to interact with other students in which they can develop their social and communication skills. The more they are exposed into different activities, the bigger chance that they will absorb knowledge. It is also a great opportunity to transform disabilities into capabilities because they will be geared with different skills which can help them overcome the difficulties and improve their learning abilities.

Further, inclusion can help these students achieve academic excellence because there is more interaction than being isolated in a specialized classroom for them. It also improves their self-esteem and they will be more comfortable to get along with other children. The kind of environment that a general classroom setting provides help them discover in which area they could excel and what other skills they could be acquired and developed.
However, according to Danielle Picard (2015), "disability labels can be stigmatizing and perpetuate false stereotypes where students who are disabled are not as capable as their peers". That is why it is important to make other students understand their situation and the teacher must take an action in order for the students with disabilities not be outcast in the classroom.

At the end of the day, all of the children with or without disabilities have their own special needs that are needed to be addressed. Regardless of the level of understanding of the students, it is still essential to have a supervision from their parents and teachers in able for them to continue to grow and discover the things that they are capable of. Special-needs students and children without disabilities do not have much difference. It just takes patience and determination in able to nurture these children to prepare them in their future endeavours in life.

References:
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http://thesocialexpress.com/how-inclusion-can-benefit-special-needs-children-socially/