



The 2nd World Conference on Language Learning

Manchester, United Kingdom

18 - 20 October 2024

Integrating Students with Disabilities in General Education Classrooms in El Salvador

Allison Palacios

Humphrey Fellow from El Salvador

Abstract

El Salvador's journey towards a brighter future necessitates exceptional education for all, particularly the 119,944 children living with disabilities. Despite governmental and private initiatives, systemic shortcomings persist, leaving many marginalized and educators needing more resources. The urgent call to action is clear: bolster teacher training, integrate special education basics into pre-service programs, and overhaul curricula for inclusive learning environments. Effective teacher training in El Salvador involves a comprehensive approach, drawing from successful models globally. Strategies include revising teaching standards, incorporating inclusive education into pre-service programs, and providing ongoing professional development. Successful experiences in countries like Argentina and good practices in the top 3 American universities specializing in special education offer structured programs and inquiry-based approaches. As demonstrated by the San Francisco Unified School District, fostering professional learning communities enhances teacher knowledge and student achievement. Successful professional development programs must be inclusive, comprehensive, adaptable, and evidence-based to meet the diverse needs of students. A partnership-driven approach, exemplified by collaboration between Gerardo Barrios University, an NGO in San Miguel, and the Ministry of Education, is crucial. This collaboration promises immediate advancements and enduring impacts by capitalizing on each partner's strengths. Transparent and accountable budgeting ensures fiscal governance, empowering stakeholders with insights into project execution's complexities.

Keywords: El Salvador, Education, Learning Disabilities, Children, Government, Private initiatives, Resources, Teacher training, Special education, Pre-service programs, Curricula, Inclusive learning environments, Global models, Professional development, Professional learning communities, Student achievement, Partnership-driven approach, and Collaboration