Management of Challenges Faced by Learners with Disabilities:

A Case of Selected Inclusive Schools in Busitema Sub-County, Busia District, Uganda

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Declaration

I, Michail Peter Barasa, hereby declare that I am the rightful author of this study and that any assistance received in its preparation is fully acknowledged and disclosed. This dissertation is my original work, and to the best of my knowledge, has not been presented/published or submitted for any award in any other University or Institution of learning.

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Approval

This dissertation titled "Management of Challenges Faced by Learners with Disabilities: A Case of Selected Inclusive Schools in Busitema Sub-County, Busia District, Uganda", was written by Michail Peter Barasa under our guidance and supervision and meets the requirements set by Busitema University for the award of Master of Education Management and leadership. It has been submitted with our approval as the University supervisors.

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Dedication

I dedicate this work first to my parents late father John Musa Welekhe and mother Elizabeth Tayi who made me the person I am today. I will always appreciate the effort they invested in nurturing me and my siblings to greater heights. Then to my lovely wife Mrs. Grace Barasa and children; Kenny, Finney, Prossy, Jolivia, Shanitah and Mickey. May this work be a source of inspiration to all my children. Finally to my entire family, I am greatly indebted to you for the immerse psycho- social, moral, spiritual and financial support during my academic endeavors.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the management of challenges faced by children with disabilities in inclusive primary schools. The study was undertaken to establish the common disabilities in inclusive schools document the challenges faced by learners with disabilities and assess whether regular primary schools have the strategies for managing challenges that are faced by learners with disabilities.

A qualitative research approach in form of a case study design was carried out in Busitema sub county Busia District. The population of 70 informants included teachers, head teachers and children with disabilities and a purposive sampling technique helped to select respondents. Busia District was purposively selected because of the availability of promoting inclusive education in public schools since 1997. Questionnaires and interview guides were the instruments employed collect data from the respondents.

The study mainly revealed that sensitization had effectively been done, hence the teachers, pupils and the community in general had positive attitude towards Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Few trained Special Needs Education (SNE) teachers had adapted environment and few appropriate resources were available.. However it was noted that the schools needed funding to sustain their resources.

Therefore there's need to adapt the school environment, providing education resources and training and positing adequate staff to help varied types of disabilities in every regular school settings. I wish to recommend that, there should be continuous funding of the process and allocate a vote in the UPE funds to procure education resources, devices or equipment for Children with Disabilities (CWDs).

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Chapter One

Introduction

Overview

This chapter is organized into background, problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions, study scope, significance of the study and a summary presentation. However, the background is guided by the historical, conceptual, theoretical and contextual background.

Background to the Study

The concern to provide special education existed as early as the 1940s. With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights coming into force in 1948, the realization of universal special education was the main agenda of the world conferences (Kiyuba & Tukur, 2014). Free access to special education is a right in the Universal declaration of human rights. The 1989 Convention on Children's Rights which most countries signed to, voted on this right as legally binding. Emphasis has been put on universal primary education since the 1990s, and this has spread to many countries.

In 1997 when Universal Primary Education (UPE) was first introduced in Uganda, priority was given to a girl child and children with disabilities (CWDs) to join the mainstream primary education. In furtherance of education for Children With Disabilities (CWDs), the government White Paper on Education (1992) streamlined key policy issues among which, all Inclusive education services were recommended as the best approach to accessing education (Najjingo, 2009). This trend was followed by legislation for inclusive education which shows that Uganda education has moved away from the traditional specialized model and the aim is now total inclusion in all-public main stream schools.

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