

## PERCEPTION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*Education is the right of every student. Education is the key to learn and fulfill one's dreams. Students with learning disabilities should be given an opportunity to discover their true potential and education holds the key to it. Learning in an inclusive environment provides this opportunity to student with learning disabilities. This paper explores the perception that College students with learning disabilities have towards inclusive education. The data for the research was collected from thirty students with learning disabilities and focus group interviews were also conducted. The conclusions are that students with learning disabilities are content learning in a diverse environment. They are in a position to learn better with typically abled students. However they face various challenges, teachers and students do not have clarity on what is learning disability, hence they are not able to express themselves fully and many a times the requirements that they have from educationist go unattended. This paper throws light on the perception of students with learning disabilities on Higher Education. It further explains the challenges faced by them and also suggests strategies which can be followed by teachers to get better results in the classroom. Teachers are required to make very small changes in their pedagogy; however, the benefits will be large for students with learning disabilities. It is very important for teachers to know who the students are having learning disabilities, so that they can design their lectures accordingly. Learning disability in a student cannot be eliminated but the right assistance can help in shaping their lives for the better.*

**Key words:** Learning Disability, Inclusive, Education, Students, College

#### Introduction

Education caters to students coming from various diversities. The educational needs of all the students cannot be the same. In a class, there are going to be students who are able to understand concepts quickly and others may struggle with the same. Students with learning disabilities understand things in a diverse way. The brain of students with learning disabilities is wired differently. These students may be smarter than their classmates in some aspects; however, they struggle with reading, writing, spellings or in organizing information and remembering facts. Students with learning disabilities will have an enhanced learning experience if the right strategies are used for teaching them. Some very well-known personalities

like Albert Einstein, Walt Disney etc. had learning disability but it did not stop them from achieving success in life.

Inclusive education means placing students with special needs and students without special needs in the same learning environment so that they can learn and grow together. The Government of India is committed to ensuring that every student in the country gets basic education. Since independence, the Government has created various policies for special education. In 1966, the Kothari Commission highlighted how important it is to educate children with disabilities after independence. The Government of India is making policies which provide equality in education to all and inclusive education is a part of this initiative.

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