

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

**Philippines
Foundation**



Inclusive Education

Building community partnerships to make education for all a reality.





What Are The Issues?

All children, including those with disabilities, have a right to education. This right is included in Philippine Law in the Magna Carta for Persons With Disabilities (1992), and in international law in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, ratified in the Philippines in 2008.

However the Philippine Department of Education reports that only 2% of children with disabilities (CWDs) are currently able to access educational opportunities and of those who do,

drop-out rates are high because of the barriers of accessibility and discrimination they face.

This means that the majority of CWDs in the Philippines grow up without a decent education, in spite of their potential talents and abilities. This has a lasting effect because it makes it much more difficult for people with disabilities to access employment opportunities and to live independently and achieve their potential later in life.

According to DepED, only 2% of children with disabilities are currently able to access the educational opportunities they are entitled to.

What Is Inclusive Education?

Inclusive Education is a learning environment where children with and without disabilities are taught together, as equals. This approach is different to more traditional approaches to the education of children with disabilities that involve segregating CWDs into separate classes or even separate schools.

Inclusive Education is recognized by teachers, families and policy makers to be a more beneficial way of ensuring that children with and without disabilities achieve their full educational potential, and it is included in the UNCRPD, Article 24.



“The segregated system is very expensive and hasn’t gone far yet. DepED should train school administrators and teachers on how to handle children with disabilities and programs for children with disabilities must be included in the mainstream education system.”

- Bert Hofman, Word Bank Country Director, Philippines

What Are The Benefits?

Achievement

Children with disabilities achieve better results when they are educated in an inclusive environment. They can learn at their own pace, with peers at the same stage as themselves, and they respond well to the higher expectations placed on them in a mainstream learning environment. They will better learn to overcome the challenges their disability can bring because they will be supported to participate fully in activities alongside able-bodied children.

Confidence

Isolating disabled children from their non-disabled peers puts an emphasis on their disability – this can lead to feelings of insecurity and worry when interacting with able-bodied people. By educating children with disabilities in an inclusive environment they will become more confident of their abilities and better able to make strong friendships with their peers. They will learn to be positive about themselves and what they can achieve.

Learning For All

Inclusive Education isn’t just good for children with disabilities. Able-bodied children in their class will also learn about the challenges faced by people with disabilities and make lasting friendships. They will develop a strong sense of equality and fairness, an understanding of acceptance and diversity, and will be less likely to discriminate or bully later in life.

How Does It Work?

Community Support Networks (CSNs)

Our IE Program is grounded in community based rehabilitation – we work at the grassroots level to support community leaders, families and schools in putting Inclusive Education into action in their local area.

Profiling

With the help of the CSNs, we conduct detailed research in the areas where we work – we profile CWDs and their families, organize focus group discussions and measure the impact of our interventions.

Information, Assessment and Therapy

We set up local centers for rehabilitation in schools and communities where information can be exchanged and diagnosis and therapeutic services and training can be accessed. We also provide assistance with assistive devices and medical services.

Teacher Training

We provide training for teachers on implementing inclusive education practices in their classrooms and on how to manage specific disabilities. We also train “Trainer Teachers” who can then help other teachers in their school.

Schools Assessments

We work together with schools to assess their facilities for accessibility and advise on and oversee adaptations. We then help them enroll children with disabilities as regular students, and provide them with ongoing support.

“She used to be very shy, but since she entered the Inclusive Education Early Learning and Rehabilitation Center, she has gained much self-confidence. She now enjoys other children’s company, and she also loves carrying books, pencils, and paper. I’m very thankful that she has gained not only self-confidence, but self-confidence through knowledge. ”

- Leonila de Rosa, Parent of an LCDPF Inclusive Education beneficiary

How To Get Involved

Inclusive Education works best when whole communities of people are involved – parents, teachers, children and community leaders – all working together to make sure that children with disabilities can access the educational opportunities that are their right.

We are also interested in working with NGOs that share our goal of creating a supportive education system that is inclusive of all children, with and without disabilities.

If you would like to get involved with the Inclusive Education Program, or for more information please contact us using the details below.



Leonard Cheshire Disability Philippines Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit, NGO with over 40 years experience working with and for people with disabilities in the Philippines. We are dedicated to promoting the rights of disabled people through Inclusive Education, Economic Empowerment, and our advocacy program for young people, Young Voices.



Leonard Cheshire Disability is a UK based NGO that exists to change attitudes to disability around the world. See www.lcdisability.org for details.

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