

РЕЦЕНЗІЇ, ОГЛЯДИ

PROMOTING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Yuliya Demianova¹

PhD (Linguistics),

National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine

e-mail: demianova75@gmail.com

In the past decades, the Ukrainian education system has moved towards inclusive education at all levels in which students with particular needs are encouraged to participate and prosper to the best of their abilities. This emphasis on inclusion is reflected in the set of national priorities, legislative documents that advocate the rights of the disabled for education and professional development, promote social cohesion, equality of opportunities, and active participation in learning. Thus, increasing social expectations have posed additional challenges to schools, colleges, universities, education authorities, civic organizations in regard to what they can do to achieve the ideals of true inclusion.

Nowadays the term ‘inclusive education’ is being used increasingly in Ukraine and beyond, in social, educational, and research contexts. An inclusive approach to education presumes creating a climate of high expectation for students with particular needs; promoting their success and self-esteem; valuing a broad range of talents, abilities and achievements; promoting a positive appreciation of the diversity of individuals and groups within the Ukrainian society.

Implementing the concept of inclusion is not an easy matter. It includes the joint efforts of many people, authorities, and organizations. In this context, the civic organization “All-Ukrainian Parliament of Working-age Disabled People” strives to provide the independence and rights of people with visual impairments to be free from discrimination in Ukraine. Its philosophy is aimed at developing the personality, talents, mental and physical abilities of the individual to their fullest potential; it recognizes the importance of working in partnership to support parents through support groups and family literacy on matters affecting their daily lives; it works to bring together education, health, and social work to provide a more holistic support service for people with visual impairments and their families.

Undoubtedly, it is needed to develop increasingly close relationships with other authorities and organizations to maximise the effectiveness in promoting true inclusion. And these relationships must be based on a true partnership with a clear understanding of the contribution that each partner can make towards achieving this goal. Therefore, we invite everyone to join us in the effort of promoting the idea of social inclusion and integration within the society of people with particular needs.

¹© Дем’янова Юлія Олексіївна, 2015 Ліцензується на умовах Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)