

TEACHERS' ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT, TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

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The attitude and willingness of teachers to accept and involve students with disabilities is important to ensure the success of Inclusive Education Program (IEP). It is believed that teachers' attitudes related to their teaching knowledge and skills can affect the learning progress and development of special needs students. Therefore, a positive attitude towards the involvement of teachers in the Special Inclusive Education Program (SEIP) in Malaysia which involves the majority of students with special needs, is very important. However, current research that focuses on teacher attitudes as well as integrated programs in Malaysia is lacking. The Inclusive Education Program (IEP) in Indonesia provides opportunities for all students with physical, emotional, mental, and social disabilities or who have the potential for intelligence and special talents to obtain quality education tailored to their needs and abilities. In Ministerial Regulation Number 70 of 2009, the principle of inclusive education in Indonesia is to respect diversity and not to discriminate against all students with disabilities. Therefore, this study aims to determine the relationship between teacher attitudes; their knowledge and skills; and awareness and involvement of SEIP in primary and secondary schools in Malaysia and IEP for vocational schools in Indonesia. The study was conducted to understand the challenges, strategies and successes that SEIP has had in Malaysia and IEP in Indonesia. The quantitative research method approach (questionnaire survey) was applied in this study. SPSS was used for data analysis. This study will provide important information regarding teacher attitudes, teacher awareness and involvement of the integrated program (SEIP), and contribute basic knowledge to the Ministry of Education regarding the level of knowledge and skills of teachers in SEIP. The findings of this study will provide further insight into the current advantages and challenges of implementing the Malaysian SIEP. This knowledge serves to provide important advice for national special needs education policy and implementation under the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2015.

Kata Kunci: *Special Education, Teachers' Attitude, knowledge and Skills, Awareness and Engagement*