Fulfilling the Need for Assistive Technology for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

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ABSTRACT

Assistive technology is a big umbrella of terminology that concerns all tools helpful, adaptative, and rehabilitative, which is used by individuals with special needs, including individuals with intellectual disabilities. The results of previous research stated that assistive technology was very effective in increasing the ability of individuals with intellectual barriers to be independent and complete the given tasks. This study aims to determine the fulfillment of assistive technology needs for students with intellectual disabilities in terms of (1) the availability of assistive technology; (2) types of assistive technology available; and (3) utilization of available assistive technology. This qualitative study involved 415 teachers in special schools and inclusive schools throughout Indonesia. Data was collected through a questionnaire given online. The results showed that: (1) assistive technology was available at all levels of education, although in a limited number; (2) the types of assistive technology available are mostly low technology; (3) Not all available assistive technology is utilized in learning, and assistive technology is mostly utilized at the primary school level.