

ASIAN-AFRICAN

Towards a Novel Understanding of Special Education



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Asian-African: Towards a Novel Understanding of Special Education



First Volume

Editors

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Title of the Book: Asian-African: Towards a Novel Understanding of Special Education

First Volume - 2024

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E-ISBN: 978-1-68576-475-3

MRP Rs.210/-

Publisher, Printed at & Distribution by:

Selfypage Developers Pvt Ltd.,
Pushpagiri Complex,
Beside SBI Housing Board,
K.M. Road Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka.
Tel.: +91-8861518868
E-mail:publish@iiponline.org

IMPRINT: I I P Iterative International Publishers

For Sales Enquiries:

Contact: +91- 8861511583
E-mail: sales@iipbooks.com

Preface

In the realm of special education, the global narrative has often been dominated by Western perspectives and methodologies. This edited volume, "Asian-African: Towards a Novel Understanding of Special Education," emerges as a pioneering effort to shift the focus towards the rich, diverse, and often underrepresented contexts of Asia and Africa. It is a compendium that brings together a multitude of voices, research, and practices from these regions, offering a unique and essential perspective on special education.

The genesis of this book lies in the recognition of the vast and varied experiences of individuals with special needs across different cultural, social, and economic landscapes. Asia and Africa, with their rich tapestries of cultures, languages, and traditions, provide a fertile ground for exploring innovative and context-specific approaches to special education. This volume is an endeavour to bridge the gap in knowledge and practice, challenging the one-size-fits-all approach that often permeates global discourse.

Our contributors are a blend of scholars, practitioners, and activists, each bringing their unique insights shaped by their experiences and research in Asian and African contexts. They offer critical perspectives, grounded theories, and practical solutions, reflecting the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in the field of special education within these regions.

The chapters in this book are organized thematically, covering a range of topics including cultural perceptions of disability, inclusive education policies, community-based rehabilitation, indigenous methods of special education, technology in special education, and the intersectionality of race, class, and disability. Each chapter not only provides a deep dive into specific issues but also illuminates the broader context, highlighting similarities and differences across various Asian and African societies.

One of the unique features of this volume is its commitment to not just academic discourse but also practical applicability. The chapters are enriched with case studies, narratives, and examples of best practices, offering readers tangible insights into the implementation of special education strategies in diverse settings.

As editors, we have endeavoured to ensure that this book serves as a valuable resource for a wide range of readers, including special education professionals, policymakers, researchers, and students. We also hope it will be a catalyst for

further dialogue and collaboration between Asian and African countries in the field of special education.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors whose dedication and expertise have been instrumental in the realization of this project. We also thank the reviewers for their invaluable feedback and the publishing team for their unwavering support. It is our sincere hope that "Asian-African: Towards a Novel Understanding of Special Education" will serve as a cornerstone in the ongoing journey towards a more inclusive and understanding world for individuals with special needs.

Editors

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Acknowledgement

On behalf of the editorial team of "Asian-African: Towards a Novel Understanding of Special Education," I extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the fruition of this significant work. This book, a tapestry of diverse perspectives and insights, would not have been possible without the collective effort, dedication, and passion of numerous individuals and organizations.

Firstly, our heartfelt thanks go to the esteemed contributors of this volume. Each author has brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and commitment to the project, enriching it with their unique perspectives on special education in Asian and African contexts. Their willingness to share their research, insights, and personal narratives has been instrumental in shaping a comprehensive and enlightening discourse.

We are immensely grateful to the academic and peer reviewers whose meticulous evaluations and constructive feedback have significantly enhanced the quality and depth of this work. Their expertise and critical eye have been invaluable in ensuring the rigor and relevance of each chapter.

Our appreciation extends to the various institutions and organizations that have supported our contributors. Many of these entities have provided not just the intellectual environment for research and writing but also the necessary resources and encouragement. Their role in fostering an understanding of special education within diverse cultural contexts is deeply acknowledged.

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support of our publishing team. Their professionalism, patience, and expertise in navigating the complexities of publishing have been crucial in bringing this project to completion. Their guidance in editing, design, and distribution has been essential in ensuring that this book reaches a global audience.

Special thanks are due to the families and communities of the contributors and the editorial team. Your understanding, support, and sacrifice have been the backbone of our commitment and motivation. This work is as much a testament to your unwavering belief in our endeavors as it is to our professional dedication.

Furthermore, we extend our gratitude to various non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and community groups working in the field of special education across Asia and Africa. Your work on the ground

provides us with the inspiration and the real-life context that is vital for a work of this nature.

Lastly, we thank our readers and future collaborators. We hope this book not only serves as a valuable resource but also inspires on-going dialogue, research, and collaboration in the field of special education, particularly in the Asian and African contexts.

In conclusion, while it is impossible to name every individual who has played a role in this journey, please know that your contributions are deeply appreciated and have left an indelible mark on this work.

Editors

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ISBN: 978-1-68576-475-3



MRP Rs: 210/-