Accommodation Strategies for Students with Disabilities in the Classroom

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Abstract

In this study, all the important aspects of accommodation strategies and their impact on the educational sectors specifically on students with disabilities have been discussed throughout the study. All the challenges faced by disabled students have been discussed in this study and how the implementation of accommodating strategies helps to improve their academic career has been discussed in a detailed manner in this study. However, this study has focused on discussing the different types of accommodation to understand the depth of these strategies and their impact on the educational sectors. These strategies help to develop empathy in the teachers by improving their teaching skills and these strategies provide more effective care and support to disabled students. However, there is a detailed discussion about the factors that affect accommodation strategies in the educational field and the factors that affect the mental health of students with disabilities. Hence, this study has included all the perspectives on implementing accommodating strategies in the education system to improve the academic career of disabled students positively. Besides that, the secondary qualitative data collection method has been implemented throughout the study to conduct appropriate outcomes of the study by thematic analysis of the collected data.

Keywords

Academic Career, Academic Performance, Accommodating Strategies, Disabled Students, Learning Process, Mental Health.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of accommodation strategies in the classroom is to describe the role of accommodation in delivering care and support to learning-disabled students who need special care. For students who have health impairments, accommodation strategies help to provide them extra care and support by including flexible attendance requirements, alternative exam arrangements, record class sessions, access to their assignments on electronic devices, internet-accessible resources and many others to improve their learning process and establish their academic career with no issues [1]. Besides that, the accommodation strategies in the classroom help the learning-disabled students to complete their assignments and task the same as other students in the class by providing extra care and special guidance to them. However, education is prioritised differently in different countries around the world but as of 2022, research has shown that almost 90% of the world's population have completed their primary education [2]. Hence, in this study, the issues of disabled students and accommodation strategies according to their issues have been discussed thoroughly to understand the depth of the study.

AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aims to focus on the factors that affect the educational career of disabled students and how providing different accommodation strategies in the classroom can develop more facilities for disabled students in their learning process.

Objectives:

- To understand the concept of accommodation strategies in the classroom
- To identify the different efficient accommodation strategies to improve the academic career of disabled students
- To find out the effectiveness of the accommodation strategies in the classroom for provisioning special care and attention towards disabled students

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

Children with learning disabilities need special care and support from educators and their family members to build confidence in them which will help them to achieve success in their academic careers effectively. The teachers can help them in many ways to reduce their struggle in educational sectors by accommodating different efficient and effective strategies. However, there are different types of accommodation strategies such as presentation accommodations, response accommodations, setting accommodations and many others that help disabled students to enhance their learning skills. These accommodations help to modify the educational structures and provide a better educational environment for the students. Apart from that, it also enhances their learning skills by providing advanced tools in the classroom to establish better brain development for learning disability students. Hence, all the important and relevant data have been included in this study to understand the implication of different accommodation strategies in the

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classroom to enhance educational structures.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research design

An effective research design specifically supports in conducting the plan and procedure associated with the research in order to collect, study, and evaluates the overall collected data. By addressing the research problem, an effective research design supports in creation of a logical and consistent model for data analysis [3]. Various types of research design are there that helps in creating minimum amount of data in research and thereby increase the data accuracy. On this note, the main types of research design are characterised as qualitative and quantitative research. Qualitative research type deals with collection of qualitative data from primary or secondary resources whereas quantitative design is the collection of quantitative or numerical data from primary or secondary resources. However, considering this research objectives and data collection procedure, qualitative research design has been selected as the most appropriate in terms of gathering and analysing data regarding accommodation strategies of classroom and their impact on the educational sectors specifically on students with disabilities.

Research type

A research is about establishing effective methods in order to investigate any specific problems and thereby generating knowledge regarding it. In this case, identifying the type of research is clearly defining the parameters while applying most appropriate methodologies for verifying the research problem [4]. However, there are various types of research in accordance with its purpose such as theoretical research, applied research, exploratory research, descriptive research and correlation research. Considering the following research topic, a descriptive research has been selected as the main criteria for this research. Descriptive research is mainly associated with defining the characteristics of any particular phenomenon and thereby investigating the research effectively [5]. As the following study emphasises on identification of accommodation strategies of students with disabilities in the classroom and its impact in their education, conducting a descriptive research has been the most appropriate.

Research duration

A total of 30 days have been taken by the scholar while conducting this study and gathering huge data. In this regard, the researcher has first collected data from Google scholar using key word searching and then the data published after 2018 has only been selected.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Following the inclusion criteria, articles, journals and websites published on or after 2018 have been selected as justified for gathering a significant amount of data regarding the following subject matter. On the contrary, secondary resources published before 2018 have been excluded for collecting data with a view to align the topic in the contemporary scenario. Along with that, blogs and conference paper have been excluded for gathering data and any biasness have been avoided for conducting it in order to attain the objectives with utmost effectiveness.

Choice of subjects

The research has been selected depending on the preference of the scholar. In the contemporary scenario, innovative classroom accommodation strategies have emerged as potential solutions for providing effective learning support to the students with disabilities. Collecting secondary qualitative data specifically emphasises on collecting descriptive data from authentic resources while conducting a research and thereby proven as one of the most effective for conducting any research effectively [6]. Hence, considering this, a significant amount of secondary qualitative data have been collected using keywords and thereby the collected data have been described effectively in order to attain the objectives.

RESULTS

Challenges faced by students with disabilities in the classroom

Students with disabilities all around the world face the same kind of barriers in their life and in pursuing their academic careers. However, the degree of difficulties might vary from one country to another but the main issue of lack of inclusivity remains the same. This inclusivity of students varies in different forms such as physical barriers, technological barriers, failure of accommodation and many others. These barriers need to be removed from the education system to make the education system completely inclusive. Physical barriers or physical inaccessibility is referred to the disabled students of the education system and most countries have failed to develop an effective infrastructure to make the institutions physically accessible for disabled students [7]. There are many accommodation gaps in the institutions for disabled students of the world such as lack of ramps for wheelchairs, less proper tile marking for blind students, lack of elevators, inaccessible washrooms for disabled students and many others that make these institutions inaccessible for disabled children.

Besides that, at the university level, disabled students face many problematic situations just because of the lack of facilities and accessibility in different educational fields for students with disabilities. However, some developed countries have proper inclusive education systems and the governments of these countries provide more flexible facilities to specially-abled children. Besides that, the most common reason behind the establishment of barriers for disabled students is a lack of awareness in institutions [8]. Many educators are unaware of laws about specially-abled children that suggest equal rights to the education levels of

these children. Besides that, many countries use blanket categories which are formulated and established on the basis of the disability weaknesses of the students but the strength of individual students is not assessed by the educators which creates complicated challenges for the students in educational sectors.

Apart from this, many institutions show a lack of interest in knowing accommodation strategies for disabled students which creates complexity for the students and they feel less confident about their educational knowledge. There are many stereotypes and negative connotations around the world about disabled students which impact their psychology negatively. Many institutions are provoked by these stereotypes which creates negative attitudes toward disabled students which affect their educational career. There is a lack of study materials for blind students which creates the biggest hurdle for them. Blind students completely depend on listening and remembering lectures as they don't have much access to the study materials. However, in this digital era with different technologies, accommodation strategies are improving every day to give special care and attention to disabled students.

Evaluation of special care and accommodation for students with disabilities

In this digital era, educational accommodations are rapidly changing and frequently given to disabled students to maintain their academic careers and establish better educational knowledge in them. Specially-abled students need more attentive care in their educational sectors and different accommodations, and strategies help to enhance their confidence levels in their educational career. The main purpose of these educational accommodation strategies is to improve educational equity to give equal opportunities to every student. These accommodations provide alternate instructions for teaching the specially-abled child with more flexible accessibility in their academic career while the essential content remains the same as other students [10]. Besides that, it helps to provide beneficial facilities for the specially-abled child such as conducting examinations on other dates, special sitting arrangements for disabled students in the examination hall, and providing beneficial facilities to improve their qualifications in the academic sector.

Several laws have been developed in different countries to provide proper training and teaching for specially-abled students to improve their academic careers. In accordance with these laws, the educational systems have generated different accommodating strategies which help to provide different effective tools and procedures that give equal accessibility to gaining knowledge and opportunities to every student to improve their educational careers. However, without these efficient accommodation strategies students with disability are might not able to gain access to the learning process and also might not able to access better grades in their academic careers. They might lose their confidence levels and lose their interest in participating in

different assessments to achieve success in their life [11]. Thus, all students with disability are entitled to appropriate accommodations in their educational careers that help them to fully participate in different complex situations in their life to solve them with more confidence.

However, students with a complex disability face more challenging situations in their educational careers in both ways mentally and physically. Tackling these children is difficult and the parents of these students face more challenging situations in their lives as they want to educate their children in an appropriate manner. For the parents and educating them with proper care and attention creates more complex and challenging situations in their lives [12]. Thus, the help of different accommodation strategies in the educational sectors provides a more accessible learning process to specially-abled students and provides equal opportunities in their academic life same as other students.

Identification of the accommodation strategies for providing effective care to students with disabilities in the classroom

There are different educational accommodations for disabled students to improve their academic performances and the main goals of these accommodations are to remove physical and instructional barriers of the specially-abled students in their learning process so that they can compete on the basis of their academic abilities. These types of accommodations are designed with substantial limitations that are imposed by the disability but preferred not to change the courses or programme. Instead, it is determined to teach these students with special care and attention so that they can compete fairly just like the other students [13]. Assisting students with disabilities is a major part of accommodation strategies and it is very challenging for educators as different children have different types of disabilities and they need different kinds of care and attention.

Thus, assisting specially-abled students are challenging and difficult for educators as they need to develop efficient and effective accommodation strategies that are able to overcome the barriers that these students have faced in their academic career. Every student in class needs responsible accommodation which can be implemented by appropriate instructions by the educators in the learning process that helps to modify the student's mental health to overcome the challenging situations in their academic life. With the right information and with proper care educators can provide important support to the students to help them to thrive [14]. However, accommodation and modification are not the same things, as accommodation changes the access of a student towards their learning material without lowering their academic expectations.

On the other hand, modification changes the perspectives of students regarding their learning process and establishes a better understanding of the possible ways in which the students are taught or are expected to learn and grow in their academic careers. However, even after these efficient and

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effective accommodating strategies there are some challenges that affect the academic career of the students such as collaboration being critical, educators' failure to provide fair chances and many others [15]. Besides that, the implementation of modification and accommodation in education increases its positive effects such as it builds strong communication between the teachers and the students, planning UDL reduces extra work pressure, and students may not have to use the accommodation in every lesson to understand the study and many others.

Strategies for enhancing accommodation strategies for students for enhancing learning abilities

There are different strategies that enhance the accommodation strategies for disabled students which help to modify the educational system and help to enhance their academic career. Apart from that, these strategies help to develop a better classroom environment to improve their learning process and help them to achieve their goals in the future. Besides that, teachers of the education system play a huge role in developing the academic career of disabled students by developing better communication relationships with the students. This bonding impacts their academic performances positively and nurturing this relationship encourages the students to participate in different educational fields and makes those students more confident and successful [16]. However, there are different accommodation strategies for the teachers to improve their teaching skills and train them in teaching these disabled students such as having compassion and empathy for individual students, ramping up the positivity, creating supportive and secure learning structures and many others.

Apart from this, there are some other strategies to improve the classroom environment for disabled students such as the active listening power of the teacher to understand the problems of individual students, building collaborative relationships with other students to improve their general knowledge, supportive strategies to solve their academic risk factors, establishing healthy classroom environment and many others. Besides that, the substitute teachers of every organisation also play an effective and impactful role such as providing ongoing projects in an easier way and helping every student to become calm and empathetic with specially-abled students and many others [17]. However, in 2021, the total value of the global market of elderly disabled assessment technologies and gadgets have reached 26.5 billion U.S. dollars and it will increase by 50 billion U.S. dollars in 2030 [18]. Hence, all these accommodating strategies have been implanted with advanced technologies to improve the classroom environments for disabled students to improve their academic performance levels and academic career.
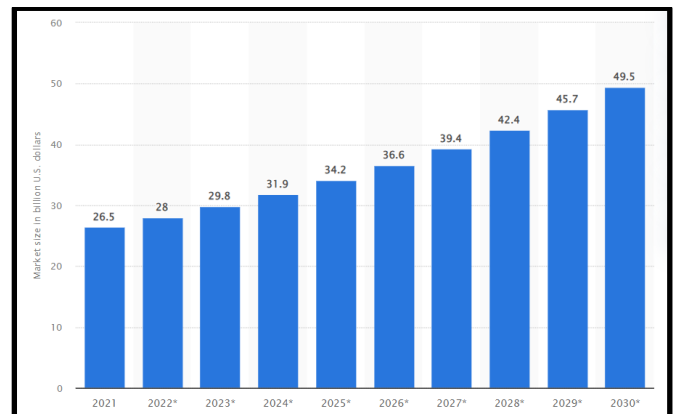

Figure 1: Global market of disabled assessing technologies (2021-2030) [18]

DISCUSSION

The accommodating strategies in the educational sector improve the educational structure in many ways and also provide special care and attention for the disabled students of the educational system. The main purpose of accommodation strategies in the educational sector is to help disabled students in their learning process by providing more effective care and support in their studies to improve their educational careers. There are many challenges that these disabled students face in their life and sometimes it affects their mental health negatively thus they need more empathetic behaviours from the educators and also from their classmates. Everyone in the educational sector needs to be more protective, empathetic and supportive to encourage their academic careers [19]. Accommodating strategies help to develop sustainable solutions to recover numerous problems of disabled students in the educational sectors. Besides that, these strategies help to improve the mental state of the students and establish more confidence in their life to boost their learning process and their acknowledging power with sufficient care and attention.

There are different types of accommodation strategies among them are presentation accommodations suggest listening to recording audio instead of reading, learning strategies from audio books, videos and digital media, which help to get notes from another student, students get written instructions and many others that help to improve the academic career of disabled students. Another type of accommodation is response accommodation which suggests giving responses as per their comfort level, providing using a spell checker, providing a calculator to solve maths facts and providing many other technological tools to help disabled students with effective digitalisation [20]. Besides that, there are setting accommodations which help to understand academic growth by providing exams and tests, timing accommodations help to provide more time to the specially-abled students to complete their tasks and assignments and the organisation skills accommodation suggests to improve the time management of all the educational organisations, provide more efficient instructions to the students to improve their learning skills.

On the other hand, common modifications suggest assignment modification that helps to improve the outcomes of assignments given to specially-abled students, and curriculum modification helps to improve the extracurricular activities of the students by engaging them in different activities recognising their physical health conditions and many others. This modification helps to modify the educational structures and provide a better learning process for students with disabilities. However, every educational organisation with specially-abled students has faced a lot of challenges while establishing their academic career but in this digital era with different advanced technologies, it has changed from previous decades [21]. Besides that, accommodating strategies are made with advanced technological tools that can be provided to the students to improve their learning process and also these strategies help to make other students understand their challenges so that the other students become empathetic towards them and help them in their bad times.

Apart from that, accommodating strategies help to understand the mental state of the students and help to encourage them in participating in different educational fields. These strategies help to provide more efficient and effective strategies to improve the teaching skills of the teachers to provide better learning procedures for disabled students. However, these strategies positively impact their educational career as it suggests a positive classroom environment, and improve communications between the teachers and the students which automatically establishes a strong relationship between them also these strategies help the students with disabilities to connect with their classmates easily [22]. Apart from that, these strategies give them equal opportunities in the educational system and help them to become a successful person in their life. Hence, over viewing all the aspects of this study it can be stated that accommodation strategies help to improve the academic career of students with disabilities in the classroom.

CONCLUSION

In this study, all the necessary elements and aspects associated with accommodation strategies in the educational system have been discussed thoroughly to understand the depth of the study and to provide a better outcome for the study. The accommodations strategies help to change the educational sectors for the specially-abled students by providing them with a more effective and efficient learning process with lots of care and support so that they can achieve their goals and become successful people in future. There are many challenges that disabled student faces in their lifetime and sometimes it negatively impacts their mental health and they cannot perform well in their academic career. Thus the accommodation strategies help to provide a safe and secure classroom for disabled students with different advanced technologies and also they teach them with extra care and empathy. Besides that, these strategies provide them with more beneficial facilities regarding their academic career

such as it provides more opportunities to the students, giving them access to competing with the normal students and many others. Hence, all the necessary aspects of accommodation strategies were discussed in this study to enrich the outcomes of the study that these strategies help disabled students to improve their academic careers.

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