

UNESCO (Short Notes) - on 5th July 2017 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) released 'A Guide for Ensuring Inclusion and Equity in Education'.

UNESCO, as the United Nations specialised agency for education is leading the Education 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." by 2030.

The Guide is intended as a resource for countries to help embed inclusion and equity in their education policies and systems. "The ultimate objective is to create system-wide changes for overcoming barriers to quality educational access, participation, learning processes and outcomes, and to ensure that all learners are valued and engaged equally."

This objective is consistent with the obligation of countries as signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). "The right to inclusive education encompasses a transformation in culture, policy and practice in all formal and informal educational environments and to accommodate the differing requirements and identities of individual students, together with a commitment to remove the barriers that impede that possibility. It involves strengthening the capacity of the education system to reach out to all learners. It requires an in-depth transformation of education systems in legislation, policy and the mechanisms for financing, administration, design, delivery and monitoring of education."

The General comment calls on Governments to transfer scarce human and financial resources held up in segregated special schools and units to support the inclusion of students with disability

in general education classroom. "The ~~the~~ Committee urged state parties to achieve a transfer of resources from segregated to inclusive environments. State parties should develop a funding model that allocates resources and incentives for inclusive educational ~~or~~ environments to provide the necessary support to persons with disabilities."

The UNESCO Guide also envisages the practical and progressive transfer of resources from special schools to inclusive educational settings.