

Review of: "Challenges of Educational Support for Students with Disabilities during Covid-19 Pandemic"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article needs to specifically show 'how' the presence of the Covid-19 pandemic created challenges for students with disabilities. As it stands, the article presents everyday challenges in the schooling life of students with disabilities. These have been acknowledged worldwide. What one expects is that the author would show how the pandemic exacerbated the already present challenges and how these affected the teaching and learning activities for students with disabilities. For example, the author states that there is need for qualified teachers. I would understand it if the author was referring to qualification in terms of using ICT and other assistive devices to enable teaching and learning during the pandemic time. Just stating that there is lack of resources and qualified teachers is commonplace knowledge. "How did the pandemic make this situation worse?"

Many schooling environments are inaccessible for students with disabilities on a normal day. So, how did the covid-19 pandemic make this situation worse for such learners? If schools were shut down and students had to learn from home, then how did this make things extra difficult for them? Did their families have the necessary resources to enable online teaching and learning? Did the students have the necessary support structures at home similar to those available in schools?

Government commitment to provision of inclusive education is a challenge in everyday situations. What does the author mean about lack of government commitment? For example, in the context of this study, what would government commitment look like to ensure that students with disabilities get the necessary quality education that they need?

The author also argues that "...students with disabilities should be provided with a proper and adequate inclusive education." What does proper and adequate inclusive education mean? What should it look like?

I find this conclusion by the author problematic: "Let me conclude by saying that kids with disabilities, especially during a tough time like today, should seek UNICEF's aid in funding inclusive educations." Why should students with disabilities be responsible for seeking funding from UNICEF? What does the author mean by "tough times like today"? Does this refer to everyday life or covid-19 pandemic times? How will UNICEF funding help if there is lack of governmental commitment?

I believe that this article can be reworked and strengthened to highlight the effect of covid-19 on the challenges that students face on a day-to-day basis in terms of teaching and learning.

