

Inclusive Teaching and Learning: Attitudes (transcript)

DANIEL: Well, obviously, one of the attitude things that I would like to see changed is the attitude of learner capacities. Many teachers have got an attitude that learners with diverse needs have got lower abilities, and therefore, would even attempt to teach them at a lower level. Would even attempt to evaluate them at a lower level, which is essentially very unprofessional. You expect children to come with their capacities and the teacher's role would be to build on those capacities.

In African society, and that is where we belong, there are very weird beliefs regarding children with special needs. Let me focus on that group, children with special needs and disabilities. A lot of the beliefs are that they are as a result of demons, others as a result of curses and bad omens. And they also believe that some of these disabilities are contagious. And therefore, they think if we put these children together, let them learn together, then there would be a problem with the kids, in quotes, without disabilities.

And therefore, that one is a narrative that has been driven for years on end for quite long. And that one has hindered the push towards inclusion. Because while children belong to the government once they come to the school situation, but they still belong to the parents who determine where they go, which school they attend, which class they attend. So that one is a major barrier when it comes to facilitating inclusion.