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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

BUSIA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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File CBR

In any correspondence on
this subject please quote NO. EDU/360/3.

Department: ...Education...

Date: April 25, 2007.

The Chief Administrative Officer
BUSIA DISTRICT.

BRIEF ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION/SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

Background:

All national and international conventions that Uganda has acceded to attest to the fact that all human beings are equal and are entitled to basic education as a right. Uganda is a signatory to the Universal declaration on education for all which emphasizes provision of quality education for all children including those that are disadvantaged. This provision enables the children to attain their full potential so as to meaningfully participate in community activities throughout their lives.

Inclusion:

This is the process of making necessary changes and meeting the needs of all children by adjusting and changing the practice in the home, the School and the society at large. All individuals regardless of differences can have the opportunity to fully and equally participate in and contribute to what happens in their community.

Inclusive Education:

Inclusive Education refers to addressing all learners needs. All members with barriers to learning and development should experience a feeling of belonging and have the freedom to interact or play, learn and develop in accordance with their potential and difficulties.

Since November 2005 the Norwegian Association of the Disabled (NAD) has extended a helping a hand to rekindle the efforts of the Special Needs section in the Department of Education.

Achievements:

- 1) Collection of data on children with disabilities in all Primary Schools, (8093). This has formed the basis for planning for the betterment of delivery of services
- 2) Sensitization of School Management Committees, parents of children with disabilities, Headteachers, Teachers, Local Council leaders on the plight of disadvantaged members of society particularly the School going children.
- 3) Live talk shows on the Local radio stations to cover a wider audience. The radio talk show on open gate radio on inclusive education attracted a huge response even from as far as Iganga and yet the audience planned for had been Busia since the talk show was in the Local language. The discussion involved lecturers from Kyambogo University with vast knowledge on Inclusive education.
- 4) Held various meetings with CCTs, Headteachers, and SNE to draw a plan of action and to identify the pilot schools where the meagre resources should be concentrated.
- 5) Organized 3 day educational tour to Rachuonyo District in Kenya for 10 Headteachers to specifically visit 3 Schools that were practicing inclusive education. The skills benefited on this tour are already being practiced in Dabani Girls P/S, Busikho P/S, Busitema College etc.
- 6) Two learners with disabilities from Busia District participated in the United Nations convention on the protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities at Butiru Mission in Butiru, Manafa District on 12th April 2006. The child from Busia Inter P/S performed well and is to benefit from a future international conference.
- 7) Workshops have also been held to help and train teachers, parents, Health workers and other service providers ;on the use of sign language as a means of communication.
- 8) Training of teachers on use and production of local educational materials is on going and is evident in Busikho, Bulekei, Budecho, Busia Inter, and Bujwanga Primary Schools.
- 9) The department is actively collaborating with the CBR Programme to carry out home based interventions in order to assist parents who have children with disabilities by referring them for further management.
- 10) Training disadvantaged children in sports and games for the visually impaired learners in an inclusive setting.

- 11) Hosted Hon. Minister for Gender at Busikho Primary School to witness inclusiveness at first hand.
- 12) Hosted at a different time the Permanent Secretary for Gender at Busikho Primary School watched an interesting inclusive sports by blind children.
- 13) Hosted the then NAD Coordinator Mr. Johan Grimstad at Busikho and Dabani Primary Schools.
- 14) Received grant assistance of shs. 10,000,000 from NAD to purchase various items for the District resource center and 3 pilot School centers.
- 15) Acquired a new computer with necessary accessories
- 16) Linked to Internet for easy communication with counterparts worldwide.

Challenges:

- 1) Inadequate funding to inclusive Education activities because of low priority given to the plight of disadvantaged members of our society.
- 2) Insufficient facilities provided for games for disabled children
- 3) Inadequate assistive devices for CWDs in all Primary Schools.
- 4) Prohibitive prices of some useful and relevant equipment like the Braille machine.

Way Forward:

- 1) Raise the priority rating of the plight of the CWDs
- 2) Lobby for increasing funding to activities of inclusive Education
- 3) Sensitize all relevant stakeholders on inclusive Education
- 4) Subsidise the Braille machines and other assistive devices.



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