

A REVIEW STUDY OF RESEARCH ARTICLES ON THE BARRIERS TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Martina Kurowski¹✉
Michal Černý²
František Trapl³

¹Masaryk University, Department of Social Education- Faculty of Education, Czech Republic

²Masaryk University, Department of Information and Library Studies- Faculty of Arts, Czech Republic

³Masaryk University, Department of Social Education- Faculty of Education, Czech Republic

✉ kurowski@ped.muni.cz

Article history

Received

March 31, 2021

Received in revised form

February 10, 2022

Accepted

May 30, 2022

Available on-line

June 30, 2022

ABSTRACT

This article presents a review of research studies related to the theme of barriers to inclusive education in primary schools. The basic data set for our study consisted of 27 expert articles selected from the Web of Science and Scopus databases according to clearly defined criteria. The result of the analysis provided findings that appear across all the texts. The research questions of this review study are what the barriers to inclusion in primary schools are, what we know about them, and whether there are ways to reduce them. We focused in more detail on the themes of discrepancies between legislation and practice, teaching barriers in the classroom, transdisciplinarity and inter-professionalism, and methodological specifics. In the analysis and discussion, we delineate the essential points of the individual articles by searching for similarities and differences among the texts.

KEYWORDS

Barriers to inclusion, educational opportunity, inclusive education (IE), primary school, special educational needs, overview study

HOW TO CITE

Kurowski M., Černý M., Trapl F. (2022) 'A review study of research articles on the barriers to inclusive education in primary schools', *Journal on Efficiency and Responsibility in Education and Science*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 116-130. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7160/eriesj.2022.150206>

Highlights

- Lack of relevant research on the topic of barriers in inclusive education as well as a research knowledge gap in terms of the formation and application of broader models and coherent theories, which might be applied more universally on the topic of IE.
- We are missing the mechanisms which make the implementation of the declared legislation realizable.
- The core of inclusive education is transdisciplinary, but we still see difficulties in cooperation between different professional identities.
- Inclusive education is a transnational issue; thus, the unclear terminology of inclusive education is reflected in the challenges of pedagogical practice globally.
- There is a lack of support (material, technical, and training) for the pedagogical staff worldwide; the pedagogues don't feel prepared well for work in the inclusive classroom.

INTRODUCTION

For more than four decades now, the theme of inclusivity has been becoming increasingly relevant in global discourses on education. The principle of inclusive education (IE) is firmly grounded in discourses of human rights and social justice. In 1994, 92 countries of the world signed the Salamanca Statement, introducing the novel concept of IE for children and adults with special educational needs (SEN). The definition of inclusion in the Statement is quite broad and goes beyond the concept of disability to include 'Education for All'

(EFA), a target specified by many regional and international organizations in various initiatives since Salamanca. The basic principle of inclusion is that all pupils should learn together whenever possible and that mainstream schools must respond to the diversity of individual pupil needs. To this end, schools must receive adequate support and services. Most international organizations involved in the field of education have adopted this comprehensive approach, including groups sponsored by the United Nations (UNESCO, UNICEF), the Council of Europe and the European Union (Hardy and Woodcock, 2015).

Participants at the World Education Forum in Dakar further recognized that ‘the heart of EFA activity lies at the county level’ (UNESCO, 2000: 10).

At present, a definitive shared framework for the concept of inclusion has not been agreed upon (Armstrong and Cairnduff, 2012; Tso and Strnadová, 2017), although a number of concepts have emerged. One indisputable finding is that the feeling of belonging to a school further correlates to greater life satisfaction and better academic results (OECD, 2017, 2018). The decisive factor towards securing real inclusion for all are teachers (Choi, 2018; Riley, 2017). Many educators have reported that they do not regard themselves as sufficiently prepared for their role as inclusion actors (Cologon, 2013; Soto-Chodiman et al., 2012), a feeling which is also reflected in the emotions they experience as inclusion is realized in pedagogical practice.

As the inclusion of pupils with disabilities has always been a prominent issue in general discourses on inclusivity (Clough, 1998; Davies, Garner and Lee, 1998), naturally, questions have arisen regarding the appropriate formulation and institution of educational policies along these lines (Barton, 1986; Davies, Garner and Lee, 1998). Strategies were once based largely on market competitive comparisons of the educational results of individual schools, yet this is an approach that has been found to make real inclusion impossible. Inversely, a number of studies have focused primarily on factors related to social inclusion (Mowat, 2019), featuring many key elements, such as a general sense of belonging (Riley, 2017), relationships within the school (Bossaert et al., 2013), as well as other affective factors that function as motivational and protective elements (Prince and Hadwin, 2013).

IE has been described as ‘the process of educating children with disabilities in the regular education classrooms of their neighbourhood schools - the schools they would attend if they did not have a disability - and providing them with the necessary services and support’ (Rafferty, Boettcher and Griffin, 2001). Inclusivity as ‘Education for All’ concerns not only the mere physical placement of pupils with SEN in the local school but also improving the conditions of social life in the school community and enriching the learning environment. Inclusion also concerns the specific way of teaching, which includes supporting all actors involved, thereby securing the benefits of such education (Haug, 2003).

As the results of our study show, inclusion is a global phenomenon, with studies showing tension in various environments worldwide between educational policy and the practice that individual inclusion actors seek to implement (Anderson, Klassen and Georgiou, 2007; Daly et al., 2016). Despite good intentions, the insensitive or ineffective implementation of educational policy in relation to inclusion can potentially lead to anxiety or even friction among all actors involved (Raffo and Gunter, 2008). Our review study aims to describe particular barriers inclusion actors have encountered and dealt with in different cultural contexts. Then, using this information, we seek to determine particular common denominators within the basic research discourse. Meeting both of these goals can help set more effective educational policies, improve teacher training, and point to directions for future research into IE.

Inclusive, internally differentiated education of pupils during

compulsory schooling, has been shown as a highly desirable model (Idol, 2006), which not only enhances the cognitive development of all pupils but also has a positive effect on pupil socialization (Hunt and Goetz, 1997; Mowat, 2019). The authors of the present paper wish to use this text to support an inclusive philosophy that is both fairer and more beneficial for all pupils and students.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The aim of our review study is to describe the research discourse in the field of barriers to IE within primary school. We will attempt to analyze the most frequently discussed topics in both content and methodology. Findings have shown that inclusion is commonly portrayed as problematic in some media and is perceived as such in the wider society (Brown 2020; Gilmour, 2018; Whitley and Hollweck, 2020) and to highlight the particular case of inclusive education policy reform in the province of Nova Scotia. As with most other provinces and territories, inclusive education policy in Nova Scotia has broadened to include a lens of equity, with a focus on not only students with special education needs, but all students – particularly those most often marginalized by and within Canadian school systems. The article reflects on the first phase of the developmental evaluation process which took place prior to full implementation of the policy. Four interconnected key themes emerge: 1). Also, authors more accommodating to the concept of IE have indicated the many problems that exist in the media space (Jack and Manoeli, 2020; Murphy, 2015). As our goal is to review how the relevant professional literature describes the particular barriers that appear in the field of IE, as well as how IE as a whole is described in terms of barriers, we will leave aside discussions of media portrayals; although this is a very valuable research area, e.g. in terms of providing the public with accurate information regarding IE.

The research questions of this review study are what the barriers to inclusion in primary schools are, what we know about them, and whether there are ways to reduce them. To shed light on our research, we draw on the paradigm of action research (Zuber-Skerritt, 2001; Ketterer, Price and Politser, 1980). This emphasises the need to understand the status quo and discover the mechanisms that can lead to the desired positive change. Our research is also linked to change - we are looking for ways in which barriers to inclusion can be removed.

For our review study, we chose the search terms ‘inclusion’, ‘primary school’ and ‘barriers’. The aim was to examine texts that deal either generally with the issue of inclusion in the field of basic education (especially at the first stage, i.e. ISCED Level 1), or more specifically with barriers that may be associated with its implementation. As our research target relates to the school environment, it was necessary to exclude from the search results texts directed toward other domains, e.g. STEM fields, the legal and health professions, other fields in the humanities, etc. A few texts, including the search terms that were completely unrelated to the research area, were also excluded from the analysis.

The search filter was set to the years 2017-2020. Since our analysis aimed to depict the current situation, we did not explore older texts. The texts were sourced from the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases, which we chose as they feature the highest quality texts in terms of professional and scientific

excellence. If a text was indexed in both databases, we chose the version listed in WoS. A total of 21 texts were retrieved from the WoS database, along with another 6 from Scopus, thus, we worked with a total of 27 documents in the analysis. Exclusively research articles were included.

The review study is limited to the years 2017-2020 for two reasons: the first is that barriers to inclusion are well described in older literature or textbooks (Darrow, 2009; Lloyd, 2008/1997; Powell, 2015) and the aim of our study was not to extend the period of the studies reviewed and to petrify these findings, but to offer insights into current research approaches, methods, findings, and perspectives. The second is the qualitative focus of the study, which allows for detailed work only on a limited number of studies. Thus, the reduction to this time period fulfills both an updating and selective role so that the chosen approach is methodologically transparent.

We undertook both a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the texts. The qualitative part consisted of the analysis of noteworthy findings and other information that facilitates a clearer understanding of barriers to the implementation of inclusion in primary education. All three authors of the present review study read all of the texts, following which the qualitative analysis was conducted. After the methodologically more subjective qualitative evaluation, a quantitative analysis was conducted. For each text, the sample size and its structure, methods, research tools, data processing methods, and location were determined.

We also originally intended to analyze the research questions of the articles but this was not successful since many articles (even empirical studies) did not work with explicit research questions at all. Similarly, not all the texts share a clearly defined research paradigm on which to rely. Thus, while for most of the articles it is possible to assume the prevailing constructivist presuppositions, in no text was it possible to identify them methodologically. For this reason, in the resulting table, findings regarding evaluations of the research questions are not featured at all.

In general, qualitative concepts prevailed (22 of the studies).

A large part of the texts described research that employed a methodology that produced results that were not very acute or unambiguous, using methods such as thematic analysis, content analysis and/or semi-structured interviews; Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), ethnographic methods, etc. were also represented. Our findings show that qualitative methods have usually been regarded as more appropriate in examining themes related to inclusion, as the concept is typically seen in terms of relatively broad and complicated phenomena. The fact that we do not have quality large-scale quantitative studies (6 in total, out of which 4 were purely quantitative and 2 mixed design) should also be emphasized. A few single and multiple case studies (3) were also represented.

RESULTS

The 27 studies included in our research were carefully analyzed by the three authors, who then agreed on the key messages of the individual studies. In addition to summaries of the findings of each study, the attached table in the appendix also shows the geolocation of the individual surveys (11 studies from Europe, 1 from America/ Caribbean, 4 from Asia, 6 from Australia, 5 from Africa) along with research methods (most often various forms of interviews - 21, questionnaires or tests - 10, and observations - 5). The sizes of the research samples were quite diverse, ranging from a set of 2,649 pupils to single cases and case studies. It is not possible to determine one dominant target group of research, although most often the research included teachers (16), pupils (5), and parents (5), as well as assistants, school principals, and administrators.

Research results have been mapped, documenting the experiences of more than a thousand teachers, three thousand pupils, and more than four hundred other inclusion actors. It can thus be argued that the presented results capture a relatively extensive, multiculturally diverse set of experiences at the time of the study, which has allowed the researchers to observe in a broader way, certain general trends regarding barriers to the process of IE in primary schools.

Discourses	Article
Discrepancies between legislation and practice	Alborno, 2017; Daly et al., 2020; Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Hodges et al., 2020; Keon, 2020; Materechera, 2020; Miles, Westbrook and Croft, 2018; Parey, 2022; Qu, 2019; Suc, Bukovec and Karpljuk, 2017
Educational barriers in the classroom	Alborno, 2017; Alderton and Gifford, 2018; Anglim, Prendeville and Kinsella, 2018; Hodges et al., 2020; Kerins et al., 2018; Martos-García and Monforte, 2019; Mowat, 2019; Mukhopadhyay, Mangope and Moorad, 2019; Sánchez, Rodríguez and Sandoval, 2019; Suc, Bukovec and Karpljuk, 2017; Tso and Strnadová, 2017
Transdisciplinarity as a challenge	Alborno, 2017; Anglim et al., 2018; Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Hankebo, 2018; Hodges et al., 2020; Imasaka et al., 2020; Kerins et al., 2018; Martos-García and Monforte, 2019; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019; Ndhlovu and Varea, 2018; Overton, Wrench and Garrett, 2017; Quibell, Charlton and Law, 2017; P. A. Sánchez et al., 2019; Tso and Strnadová, 2017
Qualitative research designs with no ambitions to formulate more general theoretical hypotheses predominate investigations into IE	Alborno, 2017; Alderton and Gifford, 2018; Anglim et al., 2018; Daly et al., 2020; Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Hankebo, 2018; Hodges et al., 2020; Imasaka et al., 2020; Keon, 2020; Martos-García and Monforte, 2019; Miles, Westbrook and Croft, 2018; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019; Ndhlovu and Varea, 2018; Overton et al., 2017; Qu, 2019; P. A. Sánchez et al., 2019; Suc et al., 2017; Tso and Strnadová, 2017

Table 1: Particular area and the relevant article (source: own thematic analysis)

Data analysis

Within our research framework, we processed the 27 texts using a combination of two methods: content analysis followed by framework analysis, which we used to examine the most general characteristics of the analyzed texts. In the appendix of this article is a table with selected data that we have chosen as relevant. We identified certain common structures that were found in a substantial portion of the analyzed articles. Four areas were identified as the most common and important. They are the result of the thematic analysis carried out. This is the core of the analytical review, which we focus on in a broader and deeper analysis below.

Discrepancies between legislation and practice

The OECD report (1999) argues that although there is a consensus in the international context on what comprises IE, the main barriers to implementing IE in practice show a combination of a lack of political will and an endless resistance to change.

The broad definition of IE enshrined in the Salamanca Declaration (UNESCO, 1994) and the Framework for Action (UNESCO, 2000) is reflected in the national legislation of many countries, especially the signatories of this declaration, e.g. Trinidad and Tobago (Parey, 2022), Australia (Hodges et al., 2020), South Africa (Materchera, 2020), and Great Britain (Alderton and Gifford, 2018). In most of the texts analyzed, a noticeable emphasis has been placed on specific national policy contexts (Alborno, 2017; Daly et al., 2020; Parey, 2022). The breadth of the internationally supported definition of IE must be reflected at the national level, albeit in various forms. In the 21st century, most countries cannot afford to claim that education should be of a purely exclusive nature or that people with a certain otherness should be segregated, as stated in Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 2 (UNICEF, 1989) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Article 24 (UN, 2006). This means that the idea of humanity as a social invariant represents a relatively broadly accentuated concept within the value framework of individual countries (Glass, 2001).

Still, a strong gap remains between the declared value framework of IE enshrined in national education policies and public attitudes (Alborno, 2017). We can see pressure supporting IE as a fundamental human right, but we can also feel considerable resentment from parents and the general public. They feel that any otherness hampers other pupils and delays their development, negatively affecting their educational outcomes (Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Keon, 2020). In the Irish context, these attitudes reflecting public antipathy have been termed 'soft barriers' (Cradden, 2021; Keon, 2020).

Teachers are thus placed in a situation in which they must liaise with parents, yet still emphasize a partnership-oriented and open approach that is often in sharp contrast to the value framework of parents (Hodges et al., 2020; Keon, 2020). This tension, often framed in terms of a 'mismanagement of public debate', is indicated as a strong negative aspect regarding inclusion in most of the studied texts (e.g. Ireland: Keon, 2020; United Arab Emirates: Alborno, 2017; Australia: Hodges et al., 2020; South Africa: Materchera, 2020).

Another manifestation of the conflict between legislation and practice is illustrated by the example of Trinidad and Tobago: 'The participants shared that the Equal Opportunities Act was the only piece of national legislation which secures the rights of children with disabilities with regards to inclusion in schools in Trinidad. They mentioned that, due to the absence of monitoring mechanisms, the implementation of this legislation was not strong.' (Parey, 2022: 569).

In practice, this means that different countries across continents (Trinidad and Tobago: Parey, (2022); Slovenia: Suc et al. (2017); United Arab Emirates: Alborno (2017); United Kingdom: Alderton and Gifford (2018); Ireland: Kerins et al. (2018); Australia: Hodges et al. (2020); Tanzania: Miles et al. (2018) have instituted an inclusive school legislation that sets a strong systemic and value framework only in some respects. IE is seen as intended and even desirable, and putting school legislation into practice is considered to be primarily the job of the school. Nevertheless, despite well-intentioned efforts, no mechanisms exist that would support the practical implementation and evaluation of an inclusive form of education in schools (Tannenbergerová, 2018).

Additionally, problems may also stem from a disparity between a country's cultural roots and its official IE policy (Qu, 2019). In Confucianism, which shapes the Chinese idea of a highly homogenized society, great emphasis is placed on harmony and order (Li, 2006). Whatever violates this order is perceived as negative, and the goal of education is to eliminate this contradiction (Qu, 2019). In such a situation, inclusion, which in itself entails the existence of otherness, is a concept very difficult to integrate culturally with the desideratum of stability and consistency.

When IE is viewed through a special pedagogical or human rights prism, it becomes necessary to clearly define the widest range of possible disadvantages and needs that a teacher may encounter in the classroom (Ebuenyi et al., 2020). If not, misunderstandings will arise, and in the worst case, segregation may occur in situations where it otherwise would not have occurred at all.

Educational barriers in the classroom

In addition to the aforementioned discrepancy between social and legislative norms, throughout the analyzed texts, specific barriers are described that stand in the way of successful inclusion. The emphasis on the feeling of the lack of help is critical. Inclusion is perceived as something that needs to be accomplished, but at the same time it always has the character of something extra, simply another requirement placed on the already overburdened school ecosystem. Results concerning IE have been closely related to the quality of teaching and learning (Cara, 2013). Educators and teaching assistants feel unprepared for an inclusive classroom environment, and also lack continuing professional development (CPD) regarding work with a heterogeneous classroom (Anglim et al., 2018; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019; Smith and Broomhead, 2019). A total of five texts touched upon the theme of working with children and pupils with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (Anglim et al., 2018; Hodges et al., 2020; Kerins et al., 2018; Tso and Strnadová, 2017). In other articles, we noted mentions

of unpreparedness for working with ASD or, alternatively, with a group of pupils with social, emotional, and behavioural needs (SEBN, a specific group which also includes pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders) (Alborno, 2017; Kerins et al., 2018; Mowat, 2019; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019; Suc et al., 2017).

Another interesting finding is the relationship between didactic methods and inclusion in schools, with a close connection shown between didactic methods and the results of IE (Martos-García and Monforte, 2019; S. Sánchez et al., 2019). In general, frontal methods that emphasize a Foucault division of power work less effectively with inclusion; in contrast, strongly activating and socializing projects (associated with teamwork along with shared practical and enjoyable experiences) have a relatively large potential to support IE in a number of ways (Alderton and Gifford, 2018). Keeping all of this in mind, exactly how should future and current teachers be prepared to face the challenge of working with heterogeneous school participants?

In addition to the weak support in terms of both undergraduate preparation and further education of pedagogical staff, in the analyzed texts, we noted other factors of a material nature hindering or preventing the adoption of an inclusive curriculum altogether. In some countries, education actors must work with outdated or dilapidated classroom equipment, or they must deal with the unavailability of supporting educational materials and other inadequate teaching resources (Mowat, 2019; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019). One respondent of research conducted in South Africa's mainstream schools communicates these concerns: 'Inclusive education can work if classes are not too big. So, more educators need to be employed, because if the classes are as big they are now, where some teachers have 52 pupils, it's terrible; there is not even space in the class to move around. That's why I say the teachers are already negative about this inclusive education [...]'. (Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019: 780). The common denominator of all these barriers is the lack of financial resources.

Transdisciplinarity as a challenge

Inclusion has always been characterized by a transdisciplinary approach, which is central to whether the inclusion process works or fails. Alborno (2017) indicates the large number of actors, i.e. inter-professionalism, who must be involved in the process of IE. It is necessary to ensure that all the participating actors are able to confer with each other and cooperate, that they respect each other and are able to pursue common goals. However, in the current overall climate, it seems such an ideal situation rarely occurs. Like the obstacles regarding classroom barriers, it seems that much more could be done to establish the transdisciplinary approach as a goal, both in theory and practice (Kerins et al., 2018). This objective has proven difficult to fulfill with regard to the diverse professional identities and the sometimes divergent views of individual actors involved in educational processes (Kerins et al. 2018). This situation often leads to less common pedagogical concepts and procedures (Quibell et al., 2017), or experimental research designs (Ndhlovu and Varea, 2018) based solely on one discipline to the exclusion of others.

The theme of transdisciplinarity in IE was analyzed by Suc et al. (2017). They found that teachers perceive cooperation with other professions (health professionals, psychologists, counsellors, social workers) very favourably and as an activity from which they benefit in practice. On the contrary, therapists perceived interdisciplinary cooperation within a much smaller scope, with their contact with educators primarily taking the form of information transfer. Therefore, certain basic issues, even the definitions of work expectations and responsibilities, must be dealt with in terms of interprofessional communication for effective inclusion to be implemented.

One finding which emerges from the research is the need to rethink the very meaning of transdisciplinarity in the context of IE, along with the implications of such an approach (Suc et al., 2017). Transdisciplinarity entails not only information transmission but also a process of adapting educational methods and approaches, examining socialization interactions in relation to school architecture, as well as many other sub-dimensions in which it will become necessary to search for genuine interdisciplinary and inter-professional cooperation (Overton et al., 2017; Sánchez, Rodríguez and Sandoval, 2019). Given the general results identified in current research, however, a degree of scepticism may be expressed as to whether teachers, teaching assistants, counsellors and other professionals are really prepared for such an approach (Alborno, 2017; Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019).

The fact that IE cannot be tackled at the level of a single worker or specialist but can only be achieved consortially is also evidenced in studies on people with disabilities (Hankebo, 2018; Martos-García and Monforte, 2019), specifically people with autism, whose inclusion is possible only through a cooperative synergy among several professions and professionals (Anglim et al., 2018; Imasaka et al., 2020; Kerins et al., 2018; Tso and Strnadová, 2017). Hodges et al. (2020) illustrate this theme in the relationship between social integration and school culture, emphasizing that it is not possible to achieve real IE without social pedagogical intervention.

Qualitative research designs with no ambitions to formulate more general theoretical hypotheses predominate investigations into IE

This research reality also reflects the situation described above in the reported results. Steps toward inclusive measures are usually of a partial nature, embracing a limited approach that does not go far enough towards resolving major issues such as teacher training, specialist interdisciplinary cooperation within the school environment, the provision of resources for assistants and aids, as well as other challenges which must be met for IE to be successfully implemented.

Qualitative research designs, showing no inclination toward formulating more general theoretical hypotheses, predominated our review study. Limited perspectives on broad problems, as well as examinations of isolated phenomena in specific situations, are explored, although sometimes in original or otherwise interesting ways. Generally, few precise measuring instruments are used to produce results that could later be related to specific government policy recommendations (Qu, 2019). If we ask why inclusion is failing, or at least is not

proceeding as robustly as it could, one of the reasons may be a lack of quantitative research that could influence specific policy measures, e.g. by creating information feedback loops between policy makers and on-the-ground inclusion actors. This practical failure at the school and classroom level is especially disheartening in situations where strong legislative initiatives have already been implemented.

Innovative and experimental qualitative methods produce extremely valuable knowledge and insights that cannot be obtained in any other way, often by giving a voice to the voiceless, in our case pupils and their teachers. We do not intend to portray a negative characterization of qualitative research tools, but only to draw attention to the fact that by their very nature they generally lead to a description of only one particular situation (Alborno, 2017) or the experiences of a unique group of people (Miles et al., 2018). We only seek to point out that often qualitative methods are not grounded in, nor do they lead to, broader frameworks of thought. It is imperative that isolated qualitative studies, which in our review are shown as prevailing in inclusivity research, be supplemented to a much greater degree by more quantitative research to obtain a comprehensive view of the special issues related to IE, including barriers to full implementation.

Although, as indicated, qualitative approaches predominate quite convincingly in our review, four studies were of a purely quantitative nature. The first was a Spanish paper by S. Sánchez et al. (2019) in which over 2,500 learners completed a questionnaire, culminating in information about the possible construction of a valid and reliable tool that would facilitate work with easily measurable quantifiers. The second article focused on working with a questionnaire for principals and special pedagogical assistants (Kerins et al., 2018), while the third uses Spahiro-Wilk statistics to compare results from two groups (outdoor and indoor learners) of respondents (Quibell et al., 2017). In the fourth purely quantitative research work, the authors chose a study group and a control group for which multiple statistical techniques were used (Vallaba Doss et al., 2020). Only in two selected studies did the authors use a mixed design of quantitative and qualitative methodology (Materchera, 2020; Parey, 2022); in both cases, the authors combined in-depth interview methods and questionnaires.

In terms of qualitatively oriented research, the predominant method is interview (Tso and Strnadová, 2017), which are often supplemented by other research tools, such as focus groups (Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Hodges et al., 2020; Mowat, 2019; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019; Suc et al., 2017), document analysis (Alborno, 2017), observations (Alderton and Gifford, 2018; Hankebo, 2018; Imasaka et al., 2020; Overton et al., 2017) and/or various types of questionnaires (Baxter and Meyers, undefined/ed; Keon, 2020; Materchera, 2020; Parey, 2022; P. A. Sánchez et al., 2019). It is not possible to trace one predominant line in the interviews; in-depth IPA interviews (Anglim et al., 2018; Smith and Broomhead, 2019) and semi-structured interviews (Daly et al., 2020) appear as the two most prominent forms but also unstructured interviews (Ndhlovu and Varea, 2018) and in-depth interviews on mostly unspecified topics (Miles et al., 2018), specified in-depth interviews (Martos-García and Monforte, 2019) and small

interviews conducted during observation (Overton et al., 2017) were featured in our review.

The review findings emphasize in particular the absence of a strong theoretical framework as the basis for the structured interviews or quantitative methods. As stated previously, although these studies often present interesting results, no unifying concept or theory is presented to form discussions or conclusions that may be useful in broader contexts. It has been established that inclusion in the school environment has been thoroughly researched and reflected upon using these methods. Researchers have put forth efforts to improve the current situation in the local or even regional context, e.g. (Ebuenyi et al., 2020; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019), but a research knowledge gap remains in terms of the formation and application of broader models and theories that might be applied more universally, i.e. a set of basic principles from which to start. The situation is one in which the relatively large amount of data obtained through in-depth interviews (generally processed through IPA, but also otherwise), as well as semi-structured interviews, is too fragmented to form a deeper framework.

DISCUSSION

IE (Lindner and Schwab, 2020; Nilholm, 2021), as well as its challenges and barriers; Schuelka et al., 2020), represent a necessary research and application topic with a solid multicultural dimension (Hayes and Bulat, 2017; Ramberg and Watkins, 2020). The analysed studies show that this topic needs to involve many helping professions (Baird and Mollen, 2018; Walsh et al., 2020), whose approaches can help with a multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach. The topic of inclusion is not just a school issue but extends to the entire social environment of educators, pupils and students. An educationally adequate method that removes barriers will better integrate pupils or students with specific learning needs and transform the whole social discourse (Liasidou and Symeou, 2018). Therefore, it is an essential topic for all, as it leads to the systematic inclusion of differences in education (Mestenhauser and Ellingboe, 2005; Woodruff, 2020), which we consider an essential pedagogical issue (Eisenberg et al., 2021).

In our study, we have left aside topics that are purely focused on special educational issues because we believe that IE discipline as a whole is capable of taking a good stance on such problems and strives for this kind of inclusion through the education of future and current teachers (Felder, 2021; Florian, 2019; Paseka and Schwab, 2020). Similarly, we have left aside topics such as lack of material or economic security or lack of political support because what we want is to describe the changes that education can make (Nilholm, 2021).

An interesting aspect related to **internationally recognized legislation is that the theme of IE** has become topical across continents, which also reflects the transcultural nature of IE. We can currently observe the world's interconnectedness regarding this issue in the adoption of transnational documents on education (e.g. Salamanca Statement), although it is understandable that discourses of inclusivity continue to be

reflected in diverse ways in local policies within particular national contexts. As we have shown in the example of China (Qu, 2019), the promotion of IE may be associated with a certain value-environment or historical experience (Materchera, 2020). Despite national and regional idiosyncrasies, however, the basic scenery in which inclusion moves in the school environment is similar.

In the majority of the analysed texts, in terms of the **understanding of IE¹ the authors refer to the Salamanca Statement** (UNESCO, 1994). Nevertheless, the research shows a discrepancy between the declared broad understanding of the concept of IE and practice in specific schools, which for many reasons often do not receive adequate support (Anglim et al., 2018; Kerins et al., 2018; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2019). In such a situation, IE is reduced to the mere physical integration of pupils with special educational needs, i.e. the presence of these learners does not significantly affect the current course of the class and the educational process. ‘If inclusion, for all its complexity, is such an important principle, why is it not a readily identifiable, stand-alone entity in policy? And why is inclusion so often only mentioned in passing in many policies?’ (Hardy and Woodcock, 2015: 145). When international and, therefore, national legislation has already defined the conception and form of IE, then is it still now appropriate to ask how we will reflect and support this legislation in practice?

The inadequate training of pedagogical staff and consequential lack of experience of work with the specific needs of pupils has been identified in our research as a basic barrier standing in the way of IE (Anglim et al., 2018; Hodges et al., 2020; Tso and Strnadová, 2017). The literature identifies two possible, and in some ways antithetical, pedagogical approaches (Haug, 2017). Impairment-oriented teaching strategies focus on learner pathologies along with the particular personal difficulties associated with specific learning problems related to each condition. To support pupils and students and their particular needs, the school needs special educators who understand specific impairments as well as know how to compensate for them (Kreitz-Sandberg, 2015). The second approach, referred to as ‘good all-round teaching’ (Mitchell and Sutherland, 2014), is based on the principle that common teaching strategies, suitable for the majority of pupils, are also suitable for pupils with special educational needs. Each individual is different, thus as is the case with the general learner population, some pupils with SEN undoubtedly need more time, more repetitions, fewer tasks, and a slower progression, as well as, in some cases, adjusted performance expectations. Still, specific teaching strategies in this approach may be the same for all pupils regardless of their needs. In this case, the need for regular teachers in inclusive schools who are highly qualified in SEN, becomes even more imperative (Florian, 2014).

In the context of transdisciplinarity, Kearney and Kane (2006) distinguish two interpretations of inclusion: (a) inclusion based on a special education framework and special teacher expertise, and (b) inclusion as meeting the needs of all learners in similar ways irrespective of what those needs are. The divergence

between these two approaches is clearly visible in the results of our review study. Responding to the widely agreed upon identification of transdisciplinarity as desirable and necessary, although difficult to attain, Haug (2017) describes an ideal state which, unfortunately, is not realized in practice. Without a transdisciplinary approach (Rausch, Bold and Strain, 2021), it is impossible to institute IE and to successfully promote the collaboration of individual social (Bellamy et al., 2013) and special educators who, working together, might promote inclusivity even more effectively (Weiss, Cook and Eren, 2020). In this respect, it can be said that it is the capacity for the various supporting professions to communicate with each other that builds a transdisciplinary approach (i.e. inter-professionalism), which in turn is the basic prerequisite for successful IE (Rausch, Bold and Strain, 2020).

The ‘good all-round teaching’ approach is supported by the results of one of the studies we analyzed (Anglim et al., 2018). This research provides clear confirmation that teachers with higher self-efficacy tend to adapt more readily to working with the individual needs of learners, with educator creativity also playing an important role. Schoolteachers need to trust that they are adept at teaching all children, an attitude also supported by being open to new trends in inclusive education (Florian, 2014) as well as continually seeking effective new approaches for their work. Last but not least, building relationships in the class collective among all actors involved is of fundamental importance. The support-group leaders in research conducted in Scotland (Mowat, 2019), as well as physical education teachers in an Australian study (Overton et al., 2017), identified good relations between teachers and children, as well as among pupils themselves, as an essential component of the educational process.

The selected research studies are characterized by diverse methodological approaches. In most cases, the authors tended towards qualitative design, although mixed or purely quantitative designs are also represented. The predominant research methods are interviews (semi-structured, unstructured), in-depth interviews, focus groups, and observations; some authors also used questionnaires and document analysis. The most common data processing method was shown to be interpretive phenomenological analysis, with open coding and narrative methodologies less often represented. The analyzed research studies do not provide empirically obtained data that could form a concrete comprehensive theory of IE. Research in the field of IE is too fragmented and lacks a theoretical basis to frame the topic.

The studies we analyze clearly show that inclusion is almost always a phenomenon that is perceived as beneficial and important for the future of education (Alborno, 2017), for the preservation and development of social justice (Hawkins, 2014; Wymer and Rundle-Thiele, 2017), as well as the effective overall functioning of school systems (Christensen et al., 2007; Ghosh and Galczynski, 2014). Regardless of whether inclusion concerns people with disabilities or other social groups, it is clear that a plan to overcome the four basic types of barriers

¹ IE as “Education for All” involves not only the placement of pupils with special educational needs in the local school but also the conditions of social life in the school community as well as teaching and learning in the school. Inclusion then concerns how teaching is organized, the activities of teachers and students (support, involvement and participation) and the benefits of such teaching and learning (Haug, 2003).

mentioned above will require new tools for change as well as functional inclusive measures. Based on our review, we can recommend that the following steps be implemented:

- It is essential to provide effective and systematic training as well as material assistance for teachers as well as teaching assistants.
- It is necessary to devote attention not only to proclamatory documents but also to the support of specific school practices in terms of material, methodological and organizational functions.
- Despite the institution of various systemic measures, the quality of the teacher and the need for care for the individual pupil in a specific environment must still take top priority, which requires the preventive support of quality prosocial relationships among all actors in the educational process.
- It is necessary to support not only teachers but also all other actors in education towards specific pro-inclusive measures.
- Regular dialogue must take place among all professions involved in the process of inclusion in the school to ensure maximum cooperation. Individual actors should not feel that they are in competition with or against each other but should strive to create an environment that generates cooperation opportunities.
- It is essential to conduct long-term and systematic research in order to understand both barriers to IE as well as positive examples of inclusion in practice. The fact that there is no empirically-based unified theory of barriers to inclusion in the school environment significantly complicates the coordination and effectiveness of individual measures and interventions.
- It is necessary to institutionalize research in the field of inclusion in order not only to monitor the overall quality of education policies but also to evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of individual approaches and support programs as well as to communicate that information at the international, national and institutional level.

CONCLUSION

In our review study, we have attempted to collect and compare findings on barriers to IE as well as other related issues. Equal and quality education should thus be guaranteed by the school system, which should facilitate the maximization of the full potential of all (Gordon, 2013).

In all the analyzed texts, we have found the general concurrence that inclusion is both supported in legislation (UNESCO, 1994; Alborn, 2017), and that teachers perceive it as something they should engage in. At the same time, however, the texts we reviewed articulate the view that schools and teachers do

not have the support, education, competencies as well as other tools to effectively institute IE. Another widely discussed issue is the frequently reported scepticism of parents of the majority of society (Alborn, 2017) regarding the phenomenon of inclusion. It remains a major challenge to education systems as well as to individual schools to positively affect this social and cultural climate, as shifts in attitude over time will have a great influence on the successes and possibilities that real inclusion could bring. Four key types of barriers impeding successful IE can be identified as:

- Systemic - systemic barriers (Tannenbergerová et al., 2018) can be seen in terms of the inconsistencies between legislation and practice. The publicly declared values associated with international documents such as the Salamanca Statement form isolated elements with which other legally understood measures are not yet sufficiently linked.
- Personnel - barriers in the area of personnel can be seen mainly in the unpreparedness of teachers and other actors in education for a truly inclusive approach in IE. This barrier is relatively easy to remove through quality education with sufficient funding.
- Transdisciplinary - IE is simply not institutable at the level of a single profession but requires the broad cooperation of a large number of various types of specialists. Ensuring both their presence in schools and mutual cooperation can be perceived as a primary task.
- Methodological - as our review shows, while the theme of barriers to inclusion has been well researched in various local contexts, a lack of research grounded in broader concepts and theories persists. More generalizable results would allow the development of clear strategical frameworks, which in turn could foster the advancement of more effective measures to alleviate personnel and systemic barriers to school inclusion in the contemporary context (Booth, Ainscow and Vaughan, 2011; Symeonidou, 2017).

These four principles can be seen as the key concepts that emerge from this review study. By limiting them to the primary school setting, their clear relevance to that setting can be perceived. At the same time, we can assume that other school levels responding to IE may face similar issues that would be specific to the particular level of education (Buyse, Wesley and Keyes, 1998; Dymond et al., 2013; O'Brien, 2020).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This article was researched and written with funding support from the project Roads to the Inclusive School of the 21st Century: An Ethnographic Approach - GA19-13038S, supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic.

REFERENCES

- Alborn, N. E. (2017) 'The 'Yes ... But' dilemma: implementing inclusive education in Emirati Primary Schools', *British Journal of Special Education*, Vol. 44, No.1, pp. 26–45. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8578.12157>
- Alderton, J. and Gifford, S. (2018) 'Teaching mathematics to lower attainers: dilemmas and discourses', *Research in Mathematics Education*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 53–69. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14794802.2017.1422010>

- Anglim, J., Prendeville, P. and Kinsella, W. (2018) 'The self-efficacy of primary teachers in supporting the inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder', *Educational Psychology in Practice*, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 73–88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02667363.2017.1391750>
- Armstrong, D. and Cairnduff, A. (2012) 'Inclusion in higher education: issues in university-school partnership', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 16, No. 9, pp. 917–928. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2011.636235>
- Baird, B. N. and Mollen, D. (2018) *The Internship, Practicum, and Field Placement Handbook: A Guide for the Helping Professions*, 8th edition, New York: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351067850>
- Barton, L. (1986) 'The Politics of Special Educational Needs', *Disability, Handicap & Society*, vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 273–290. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02674648666780291>
- Baxter, L. and Meyers, N. (2020) 'Learning from high-attending urban Indigenous students: a case study', *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, Vol. 50, No. 2, pp. 348–358. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jic.2020.6>
- Bellamy, J. L., Mullen, E. J., Satterfield, J. M., Newhouse, R. P., Ferguson, M., Brownson, R. C. and Spring, B. (2013) 'Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Education in Social Work: A Transdisciplinary Approach', *Research on Social Work Practice*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 426–436. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731513480528>
- Booth, T., Ainscow, M. and Vaughan, M. (2011) *Index for Inclusion. Developing Learning and Participation in Schools*, [Online], Available: [http://Lst-liep.liep-Unesco.Org/Cgi-Bin/Wwwi32.Exe/In=epidoc1.in/?T2000=020966/\(100\)](http://Lst-liep.liep-Unesco.Org/Cgi-Bin/Wwwi32.Exe/In=epidoc1.in/?T2000=020966/(100)) [30 Mar 2021]
- Bossaert, G., Colpin, H., Pijl, S. J. and Petry, K. (2013) 'Truly included? A literature study focusing on the social dimension of inclusion in education', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 60–79. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2011.580464>
- Brown, L. (2020) *N.B. taking a closer look at inclusion policy for public schools*, [Online], Available: <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/n-b-taking-a-closer-look-at-inclusion-policy-for-public-schools-1.4827720> [29 Mar 2021].
- Buyse, V., Wesley, P. W. and Keyes, L. (1998) 'Implementing early childhood inclusion: Barrier and support factors', *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 169–184. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0885-2006\(99\)80031-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0885-2006(99)80031-3)
- Cara, M. (2013) 'Academic and Social Outcomes of Children with SEN in the General Education Classroom', *Journal of Education and Social Research*, Vol. 3, No. 7, pp. 90–99. <https://doi.org/10.5901/jesr.2013.v3n7p90>
- Choi, A. (2018) *Emotional well-being of children and adolescents: Recent trends and relevant factors*, Paris: OECD. <https://doi.org/10.1787/41576fb2-en>
- Christensen, L. J., Peirce, E., Hartman, L. P., Hoffman, W. M. and Carrier, J. (2007) 'Ethics, CSR, and Sustainability Education in the 'Financial Times' Top 50 Global Business Schools: Baseline Data and Future Research Directions', *Journal of Business Ethics*, Vol. 73, No. 4, pp. 347–368. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-006-9211-5>
- Clough, P. (1998) 'Balancing Acts: Policy agenda for teacher education and special educational needs', *Journal of Education for Teaching*, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 63–71. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02607479819926>
- Cologon, K. (2013) *Inclusion in education: towards equality for students with disability*, [Online], Available: <https://apo.org.au/node/36129> [30 Mar 2021].
- Cradden, J. (2021) *Soft barriers: Why some schools shut their gates to special needs students*, [Online], Available: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/soft-barriers-why-some-schools-shut-their-gates-to-special-needs-students-1.3489203> [30 Mar 2021].
- Daly, A., Parker, S., Sherpa, S. and Regmi, U. (2020) 'Federalisation and education in Nepal: contemporary reflections on working through change', *Education 3-13*, Vol. 48, No. 2, pp. 163–173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004279.2019.1599408>
- Darrow, A. A. (2009) 'Barriers to effective inclusion and strategies to overcome them. General Music Today', Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 29–31. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1048371309333145>
- Davies, J. D., Garner, P. and Lee, J., (1998) *Managing special needs in mainstream schools: the role of the SENCO*, London: David Fulton.
- Dymond, S. K., Chun, E. J., Kim, R. K. and Renzaglia, A. (2013) 'A Validation of Elements, Methods, and Barriers to Inclusive High School Service-Learning Programs', *Remedial and Special Education*, Vol. 34, No. 5, pp. 293–304. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0741932513479831>
- Ebuenyi, I. D., Rottenburg, E. S., Bunders-Aelen, J. F. G. and Regeer, B. J. (2020) 'Challenges of inclusion: a qualitative study exploring barriers and pathways to inclusion of persons with mental disabilities in technical and vocational education and training programmes in East Africa', *Disability and Rehabilitation*, Vol. 42, No. 4, pp. 536–544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2018.1503729>
- Eisenberg, M. E., Gower, A. L., Brown, C., Nam, Y.-S. and Ramirez, M. R. (2021) 'School-Based Diversity Education Activities and Bias-Based Bullying Among Secondary School Students', *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, pp. 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605211025016>
- Felder, F. (2021) 'Recognition in Special Needs Education, Inclusive Education and Disability Studies', in Siep, L. Ikäheimo, H. and Quante M. (ed.) *Handbuch Anerkennung*, pp. 361–368, Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-19558-8_58
- Florian, L. (2014) 'What counts as evidence of inclusive education?', *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 286–294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2014.933551>
- Florian, L. (2019) 'On the necessary co-existence of special and inclusive education', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 23, No. 7–8, pp. 691–704. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2019.1622801>
- Ghosh, R. and Galczynski, M. (2014) *Redefining multicultural education: Inclusion and the right to be different*, Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Gilmour, A. F. (2018) *Has Inclusion Gone Too Far?*, [Online], Available: <https://www.educationnext.org/has-inclusion-gone-too-far-weighing-effects-students-with-disabilities-peers-teachers/> [29 Mar 2021].
- Glass, R. D. (2001) 'On Paulo Freire's Philosophy of Praxis and the Foundations of Liberation Education', *Educational Researcher*, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 15–25. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X030002015>
- Gordon, J.-S. (2013) 'Is Inclusive Education a Human Right?', *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, Vol. 41, No. 4, pp. 754–767. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jlme.12087>
- Hankebo, T. (2018) 'Being a Deaf and a Teacher: Exploring the Experiences of Deaf Teachers in Inclusive Classrooms', *International Journal of Instruction*, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 477–490. <https://doi.org/10.12973/iji.2018.11333a>
- Hardy, I. and Woodcock, S. (2015) 'Inclusive education policies: discourses of difference, diversity and deficit', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 141–164. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2014.908965>
- Haug, P. (2003) 'Qualifying Teachers for the School for All', in Nes, I. K. Stromstad, M. and Booth, T. (ed.) *The Challenge of Inclusion: Reforming Teacher Education*, pp. 97–115. London: Routledge.
- Haug, P. (2017) 'Understanding inclusive education: ideals and reality', *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 206–217. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15017419.2016.1224778>

- Hawkins, K. (2014) 'Teaching for social justice, social responsibility and social inclusion: a respectful pedagogy for twenty-first century early childhood education', *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*, Vol. 22, No. 5, pp. 723–738. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1350293X.2014.969085>
- Hayes, A. M., and Bulat, J., (2017) *Disabilities Inclusive Education Systems and Policies Guide for Low- and Middle-Income Countries*. RTI Press Publication No. OP-0043-1707. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI Press. <https://doi.org/10.3768/rtipress.2017.op.0043.1707>
- Hodges, A., Joosten, A., Bourke-Taylor, H. and Cordier, R. (2020) 'School participation: The shared perspectives of parents and educators of primary school students on the autism spectrum', *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, Vol. 97, 103550. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2019.103550>
- Hunt, P. and Goetz, L. (1997) 'Research on Inclusive Educational Programs, Practices, and Outcomes for Students with Severe Disabilities', *The Journal of Special Education*, Vol. 31, No. 1, pp. 3–29. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002246699703100102>
- Idol, L. (2006) 'Toward Inclusion of Special Education Students in General Education: A Program Evaluation of Eight Schools', *Remedial and Special Education*, Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 77–94. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07419325060270020601>
- Imasaka, T., Lee, P. L., Anderson, A., Wong, C., Moore, D., Furlonger, B. and Bussaca, M. (2020) 'Improving Compliance in Primary School Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder', *Journal of Behavioral Education*, Vol. 29, pp. 763–786. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10864-019-09346-5>
- Jack, A. A., and Manoeli, S. (2020) 'Access ain't Inclusion'. [Online]. Available: <https://racialequity.atlanticfellows.org/rbb/episode4-anthony-jack> [29 Mar 2021].
- Keon, D. M. (2020) 'Soft barriers' – The impact of school ethos and culture on the inclusion of students with special educational needs in mainstream schools in Ireland', *Improving Schools*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 159–174. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1365480219898897>
- Kerins, P., Casserly, A. M., Deacy, E., Harvey, D., McDonagh, D. and Tiernan, B. (2018) 'The professional development needs of special needs assistants in Irish post-primary schools', *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 31–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2017.1297572>
- Ketterer, R. F., Price, R. H., and Politser, P. E. (1980). The action research paradigm, in Price, R. H. and Polister, P. E. (ed.) *Evaluation and action in the social environment*, pp. 1-15, New York: Academic Press.
- Kreitz-Sandberg, S. (2015) 'As an Educator You Have to Fix Many Things on Your Own. Teachers Perspectives on Organizing Inclusions in Various Welfare Contexts', in Jacobsen G. H. (ed.) *Rights of Children in the Nordic Welfare States*, pp. 145–167. København: NSU Press.
- Liasidou, A. and Symeou, L. (2018) 'Neoliberal versus social justice reforms in education policy and practice: discourses, politics and disability rights in education', *Critical Studies in Education*, Vol. 59, No. 2, pp. 149–166. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17508487.2016.1186102>
- Lindner, K.-T. and Schwab, S. (2020) 'Differentiation and individualisation in inclusive education: a systematic review and narrative synthesis', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, pp. 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2020.1813450>
- Lloyd, C. (2008) 'Removing barriers to achievement: A strategy for inclusion or exclusion?', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 221–236. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603110600871413>
- Martos-García, D. and Monforte, J. (2019) 'Haz lo que puedas'. Un estudio de caso sobre diversidad funcional y Educación Física', *Agora para la Educación Física y el Deporte*, Vol. 21, pp. 52–73. <https://doi.org/10.24197/aefd.0.2019.52-73>
- Materchera, E. K. (2020) 'Inclusive education: why it poses a dilemma to some teachers', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 24, No. 7, pp. 771–786. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2018.1492640>
- Mestenhauer, J. A., and Ellingboe, B. J. (2005) 'Leadership knowledge and international education', *International Educator*, Vol. 14, No. 6, pp. 36–43.
- Miles, S., Westbrook, J. and Croft, A. (2018) 'Inclusions and Exclusions in Rural Tanzanian Primary Schools: Material Barriers, Teacher Agency and Disability Equality', *Social Inclusion*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 73–81. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v6i1.1203>
- Mitchell, D. and Sutherland D. (2014) *What Really Works in Special and Inclusive Education: Using Evidence-Based Teaching Strategies*, London: Routledge
- Mowat, J. G. (2019) 'Supporting the socio-emotional aspects of the primary–secondary transition for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs: Affordances and constraints', *Improving Schools*, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 4–28. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1542305018817850>
- Mukhopadhyay, S., Mangope, B. and Moorad, F. (2019) 'Voices of the voiceless: Inclusion of learners with special education needs in Botswana primary schools', *Exceptionality*, Vol. 27, No. 3, pp. 232–246. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09362835.2018.1470446>
- Murphy, P. (2015) 'The Biggest Barriers to Inclusive Education | Think Inclusive', [Online]. Available: <https://www.thinkinclusive.us/barriers-to-inclusive-education/> [29 Mar 2021].
- Ndhlovu, S. and Varea, V. (2018) 'Primary school play grounds as spaces of inclusion/exclusion in New South Wales, Australia', *Education 3-13*, Vol. 46, No. 5, pp. 494–505. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004279.2016.1273251>
- Nilholm, C. (2021) 'Research about inclusive education in 2020 – How can we improve our theories in order to change practice?', *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, Vol. 36, No. 3, pp. 358–370. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2020.1754547>
- O'Brien, K. H. (2020) 'Overcoming Knowledge Barriers for Inclusion of School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists in the Management of Students with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury', *Seminars in Speech and Language*, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 195–208. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0040-1701687>
- OECD (1999) *Inclusive Education at Work: Students with Disabilities in Mainstream Schools*, Paris: OECD. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264180383-en>
- OECD (2017) *PISA 2015 Results (Volume III): Students' Well-Being*, Paris: OECD. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264273856-en>
- OECD (2018) *Trends shaping education spotlight 14 - Good vibrations: Students' well-being*, [Online]. Available: <http://www.oecd.org/education/ceri/Spotlight-14-Good-Vibrations-Students'-Well-being.pdf> [21 Oct 2020].
- Overton, H., Wrench, A. and Garrett, R. (2017) 'Pedagogies for inclusion of junior primary students with disabilities in PE', *Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy*, Vol. 22, No. 4, pp. 414–426. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17408989.2016.1176134>
- Parey, B. (2022) 'Accommodations for the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools in Trinidad: a mixed methods approach', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 26, No. 6, pp. 559–575. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2019.1701719>
- Paseka, A. and Schwab, S. (2020) 'Parents' attitudes towards inclusive education and their perceptions of inclusive teaching practices and resources', *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 254–272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2019.1665232>
- Powell, J. J. (2015) *Barriers to inclusion: Special education in the United States and Germany*, New York: Routledge.

- Prince, E. J. and Hadwin, J. (2013) 'The role of a sense of school belonging in understanding the effectiveness of inclusion of children with special educational needs', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 17, No. 3, pp. 238–262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2012.676081>
- Qu, X. (2019) 'Rethinking norms and collectivism in China's inclusive education – moving teachers' understanding beyond integration', *Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 353–361. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-3802.12454>
- Quibell, T., Charlton, J. and Law, J. (2017) 'Wilderness Schooling: A controlled trial of the impact of an outdoor education programme on attainment outcomes in primary school pupils', *British Educational Research Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 572–587. <https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3273>
- Rafferty, Y., Boettcher, C. and Griffin, K. W. (2001) 'Benefits and Risks of Reverse Inclusion for Preschoolers With and Without Disabilities: Parents' Perspectives', *Journal of Early Intervention*, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 266–286. <https://doi.org/10.1177/105381510102400403>
- Raffo, C. and Gunter, H. (2008) 'Leading schools to promote social inclusion: developing a conceptual framework for analysing research, policy and practice', *Journal of Education Policy*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 397–414. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02680930801923799>
- Ramberg, J., and Watkins, A. (2020) 'Exploring inclusive education across Europe: some insights from the European Agency Statistics on Inclusive Education', *FIRE: Forum for International Research in Education*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 85–101. <https://doi.org/10.32865/fire202061172>
- Rausch, A., Bold, E. and Strain, P. (2021) 'The More the Merrier: Using Collaborative Transdisciplinary Services to Maximize Inclusion and Child Outcomes', *Young Exceptional Children*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 59–69. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1096250620922206>
- Riley, K. A. (2017) *Place, belonging and school leadership: Researching to make the difference*, London: Bloomsbury.
- Sánchez, P. A., Rodríguez, R. D. H., García, S. A. and García, C. M. C. (2019) 'Escuchar las voces del alumnado para construir la inclusión y la equidad educativa: diseño y validación de un cuestionario', *Multidisciplinary Journal of Educational Research*, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 258–292. <https://doi.org/10.17583/remie.2019.4613>
- Sánchez, S., Rodríguez, H. and Sandoval, M. (2019) 'Descriptive analysis of School Inclusion through Index for Inclusion', *Psychology, Society and Education*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.25115/psye.v10i1.653>
- Schuelka, M. J., Braun, A. M., and Johnstone, C. J. (2020) 'Beyond Access and Barriers: Inclusive Education and Systems Change', *FIRE: Forum for International Research in Education*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.32865/fire202061198>
- Smith, M. D. and Broomhead, K. E. (2019) 'Time, expertise and status: barriers faced by mainstream primary school SENCOs in the pursuit of providing effective provision for children with SEND', *Support for Learning*, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 54–70. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9604.12237>
- Soto-Chodiman, R., Pooley, J. A., Cohen, L. and Taylor, M. F. (2012) 'Students With ASD in Mainstream Primary Education Settings: Teachers' Experiences in Western Australian Classrooms', *Australasian Journal of Special Education*, Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 97–111. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jse.2012.10>
- Suc, L., Bukovec, B. and Karpljuk, D. (2017) 'The role of inter-professional collaboration in developing inclusive education: experiences of teachers and occupational therapists in Slovenia', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 21, No. 9, pp. 938–955. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2017.1325073>
- Symeonidou, S. (2017) 'Initial teacher education for inclusion: a review of the literature', *Disability & Society*, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 401–422. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2017.1298992>
- Tso, M. and Strnadová, I. (2017) 'Students with autism transitioning from primary to secondary schools: parents' perspectives and experiences', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 389–403. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2016.1197324>
- UN (2006) *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*, [Online], Available: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html> [30 Mar 2021].
- UNESCO (1994) *The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education*, [Online], Available: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000098427> [30 Mar 2021].
- UNESCO (2000) *The Dakar framework for action: education for all, meeting our collective commitments*, [Online], Available: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000121147> [30 Mar 2021].
- UNICEF (1989) *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, [Online], Available: <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention> [30 Mar 2021].
- Vallaba Doss, C. A., Sadath, S., R M, P. and S., M. (2020) 'Teachers' Knowledge about Learning Disabilities Regarding Information Education Communication (IEC) Package at Selected Schools, South India', *International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 3389–3396.
- Walsh, P., Owen, P. A., Mustafa, N. and Beech, R. (2020) 'Learning and teaching approaches promoting resilience in student nurses: An integrated review of the literature', *Nurse Education in Practice*, Vol. 45, 102748. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nepr.2020.102748>
- Weiss, D., Cook, B. and Eren, R. (2020) 'Transdisciplinary Approach Practicum for Speech-Language Pathology and Special Education Graduate Students', *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Vol. 50, No. 10, pp. 3661–3678. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04413-7>
- Whitley, J. and Hollweck, T. (2020) 'Inclusion and equity in education: Current policy reform in Nova Scotia, Canada', *PROSPECTS*, Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 297–312. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11125-020-09503-z>
- Woodruff, G. (2020) 'Why it matters to support our students: The vision of Josef A. Mestenhauser', *Socialni Pedagogika*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 43.
- Wymer, W. and Rundle-Thiele, S. R. (2017) 'Inclusion of ethics, social responsibility, and sustainability in business school curricula: a benchmark study', *International Review on Public and Nonprofit Marketing*, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 19–34. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12208-016-0153-z>
- Zuber-Skerritt, O. (2001) 'Action learning and action research: paradigm, praxis and programs', in Sankara, S., Dick, B. and Passfield, R. (ed.) *Effective change management through action research and learning: Concepts, perspectives, processes and applications*, pp. 1–20, Lismore: Southern Cross University Press.

Article Title	Authors	Journal Title	Theme	Empirical / Theoretical	Sample	Methods	Research location
The Role of Inter-Professional Collaboration in Developing Inclusive Education: Experiences of Teachers and Occupational Therapists in Slovenia	Lea Suc, Boris Bukovec & Damir Karpljuk	International Journal of Inclusive Education	Interdisciplinary cooperation of teachers and occupational therapists as a prerequisite for inclusion.	qualitative study	9 therapists; 36 teachers	focus group, interviews	Slovenia
Descriptive analysis of School Inclusion Through the Index for Inclusion	Sergio Sánchez , Henar Rodríguez & y Marta Sandoval	Psychology, Society, & Education	Index of the development of inclusion in learning and cooperation in schools.	qualitative study	430 teachers; 112 schools	questionnaire	Spain
The “Yes ... But” Dilemma: Implementing Inclusive Education in Emirati Primary Schools	Nadera Emran Alborna	British Journal of Special Education	What is the current status of the program “school for all” what barriers does this inclusive approach face?	multiple case studies	.	semi-structured interviews, observations, worksheets, individual educational plans, lesson plans, flyers for school events	United Arab Emirates
Rethinking Norms and Collectivism in China’s Inclusive Education – Moving Teachers’ Understanding Beyond Integration	Qu Xiao	Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs	Possible causes of the interpretation by teachers of inclusion as merely physical integration to offer a deeper understanding of how to advance inclusive education.	qualitative study	37 teachers	semi-structured interviews	China
Primary School Playgrounds as Spaces of Inclusion/ Exclusion in New South Wales, Australia	Sithembile Ndhlovu & Valeria Varea	Education	The aim was to analyze the role of playgrounds in the process of integration and inclusion.	qualitative study	2 school playgrounds	unstructured interactive interviews	Australia
Inclusions and Exclusions in Rural Tanzanian Primary Schools: Material Barriers, Teacher Agency and Disability Equality	Susie Miles, Jo Westbrook & Alison Croft	Social Inclusion	Exploration of the current international policy context of inclusive education and its implementation by ordinary primary school teachers in mainstream schools in Tanzania.	qualitative study	15 teachers	in-depth interviews + observations of videos of lessons	Tanzania
The Professional Development Needs of Special Needs Assistants in Irish Post-Primary Schools	Pauline Kerins et al.	European Journal of Special Needs Education	This research examines the professional development (CPD) needs of special need assistant (SNAs) in Irish post-primary schools.	quantitative survey design	50 post-primary schools; process of stratified random sampling. 109 respondents, including 90 special need assistant (SNAs) and 19 principals.	2 self-completion questionnaires: (principal questionnaire, special needs assistant questionnaire), SPSS; content analysis for a structured analysis of data from open-ended questions.	Ireland
Pedagogies for Inclusion of Junior Primary Students with Disabilities in PE	Hannah Overton, Alison Wrench & Rbyne Garrett	Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy	Inclusion of pupils with disabilities into physical education classes (research question: What pedagogies do teachers draw upon to include junior primary students with disabilities in PE?)	qualitative study	3 teachers	semi-structured interviews, observations	Australia
The Self-Efficacy of Primary Teachers in Supporting the Inclusion of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder	Johanna Anglim, Paula Prendeville & William Kinsella	Educational Psychology in Practice	Perceptions of teachers at the 1st level regarding their own self-confidence and advancement in terms of the inclusion of pupils with ASD.	qualitative study	6 teachers of 1st level	analysis of semi-structured interviews, interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA)	Ireland

Article Title	Authors	Journal Title	Theme	Empirical / Theoretical	Sample	Methods	Research location
Supporting the Socio-Emotional Aspects of the Primary-Secondary Transition for Pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs: Affordances and Constraints	Joan Gaynor Mowat	Improving Schools	The benefits and challenges of the group-work approach used by pupils with social, emotional, and behavioral needs (SEBN) in the process of transition from primary to secondary school.	qualitative evaluative, mixed-methods case study	26 support-group leaders	focus group discussions, Likert-type scale questionnaire	Scotland, UK
Soft Barriers' – The Impact of School Ethos and Culture on the Inclusion of Students with Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools in Ireland	David McKeon	Improving Schools	Examining the impact of school ethos and the culture of access to inclusive practices in regular schools in Ireland.	small-scale qualitative research study	34 schools in total: initial questionnaire - principals (n = 19), special education teachers (n = 19) and guidance counsellors (n = 9); semi-structured interview - principals (n = 5), teachers (n = 8) and guidance counsellors (n = 4)	initial questionnaire (n = 47), semi-structured interviews (n = 17)	Ireland
School Participation: The Shared Perspectives of Parents and Educators of Primary School Students on the Autism Spectrum	Amy Hodges, Annette Joostena, Helen Bourke-Taylor & Reinie Cordiera	Research in Developmental Disabilities	School participation of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in primary schools - the perspectives of parents and teachers	qualitative thematic analysis	15 parents + 11 educators (including teachers, deputy principals and learning support coordinators) all with experience with primary school pupils with ASD	focus group (n = 4) = aprx. 90 min. each (5 questions for parents; 5 questions for pedagogues8)	Australia
Inclusive Education: Why It Poses a Dilemma to Some Teachers	Ellen Kakhuta Materechera	International Journal of Inclusive Education	Exploring the perceptions of selected teachers regarding inclusive education in regular elementary schools	mixed methods approach (qualitative and quantitative) and a convergent parallel design	9 teachers of 1st level + 59 teachers	in-depth interview with teachers (n = 9); questionnaires filled in by teachers (n = 59)	South Africa
Federalisation and Education in Nepal: Contemporary Reflections on Working through Change	Angela Daly, Sara Parker, Samden Sherpa & Umesh Regmi	International Journal of Primary, Elementary and Early Years Education	Research on changes, opportunities and barriers to education in the newly federalized Nepal since 2019.	qualitative study (thematic analysis)	key stakeholders (n = 10): academics (n = 3), education leaders in NGOs (n = 4) and head teachers (n = 3)	semi-structured interviews	Nepal
Accommodations for the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Regular Schools in Trinidad: A Mixed Methods Approach	Bephyer Parey	International Journal of Inclusive Education	Including children with disabilities into mainstream schools in Trinidad.	multiphase mixed methods design	Phase 1: Parental representatives and advocates for each disability. Physical: 3 + 1, mental: 2 + 2, intellectual: 5 + 2, sensory: 3 + 2. total: 13 parents + 7 advocates. (interview); Phase 3: questionnaire 142 primary and 67 secondary schools (questionnaire) - principals, advocates, senior teachers	1st phase: one-item interview with parents, advocates to identify forms of support necessary for children with disabilities; 2nd phase: questionnaire creation; 3rd quantitative phase of questionnaire implementation (by phone) - 142 primary schools, 67 secondary schools (principals, assistant principals, senior teachers interviewed teachers); 3rd qualitative phase: interview on legislation with 2 officials from the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services	Trinidad

Article Title	Authors	Journal Title	Theme	Empirical / Theoretical	Sample	Methods	Research location
Challenges of inclusion: a qualitative study exploring barriers and pathways to inclusion of persons with mental disabilities in technical and vocational education and training programmes in East Africa	Ikenna D. Ebuenyi, Esther S. Rottenburg, Joske F. G. Bunders-Aelen & Barbara J. Regeer	Disability and Rehabilitation	To research challenges and support of the inclusion of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities in technical and vocational education and training programmes in four East African countries.	explorative, qualitative study	10 technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and disabled persons organisations (DPO) coordinators	10 in-depth interviews (6 men and 4 women) via Skype lasting 45-90 minutes; subsequent focus group with other participants to confirm the codes resulting from the interviews and the interview analysis.	Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
Teachers' Knowledge about Learning Disabilities Regarding Information Education Communication (IEC) Package at Selected Schools, South India	Christopher Amalraj Vallaba Doss, Syed Mohamed Sadath, R.M.Palanivel, Muhil Sakthivel	International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research	A study evaluating the effectiveness of the IEC package on teachers' knowledge of learning disabilities in selected schools. IEC = Information, Education and Communication package	qualitative study	60 teachers in a study group and in a control group (60 minutes) from 4 schools. A questionnaire for both groups was used to obtain demographic variables. Subsequently the study group completed a 30 minute IEC package, following which both groups took a post-test.	mixed quantitative design. Experimental and control studies. Data analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics - Chi square test. Student's Paired t test, Student Unpaired t test and ANOVA.	South India
Learning from High-Attending Urban Indigenous Students: A Case Study	Lindy Baxter, Noel Meyers	The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education	What are the factors of indigenous aborigines living in the capital city influencing strong school attendance (over 90% attendance)	case study	Indigenous students filled out an online questionnaire, with answers showing 40% of them maintain a high attendance (over 90%). 45 indigenous aboriginal pupils surveyed from Melbourne, capital of Victoria, AUS.	descriptive statistics and frequency of responses to identify the desired cohorts of students.	Australia
Voices of the Voiceless: Inclusion of Learners with Special Education Needs in Botswana Primary Schools	Sourav Mukhopadhyay, Boitumelo Mangope & Fazlur Moorad	A Special Education Journal	Experiences with the integration of pupils with SEN in primary schools in Botswana.	qualitative study	6 primary schools, 36 primary school pupils with SEN and 36 primary school pupils without SEN, discussions in 6 + 6 focus groups, age of participants 8-14 years	focus group (12x). Open coding in ATLAS.ti, supercodes created, assembled by all researchers	Botswana
Improving Compliance in Primary School Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder	Tsuyoshi Imasaka, Pei Ling Lee, Angelika Anderson, Angelika Anderson, et al.	Journal of Behavioral Education	Compliance with guidelines regarding students with autism spectrum disorder. Research of the effects of self-control intervention in two 8-year-old boys with ASD and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.	qualitative study	Two eight-year-old boys with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder enrolled in the general education system, either in a private or Catholic school, in 1st or 2nd grade.	classrooms observation; consultations with classroom teachers; focus on writing, reading, counting	Australia
Escuchar las Voces del Alumnado para Construir la Inclusión y la Equidad Educativa: Diseño y Validación de un Cuestionario (Listening to Student Voices to Build Inclusion and Educational Equity: The Design and Validation of a Questionnaire)	Pilar Arnaiz Sánchez, Remedios De Haro Rodríguez, Salvador Alcaraz García & Carmen María Caballero García	Multidisciplinary Journal of Educational Research	Reporting of elementary school pupils on whether inclusion and equal education for all have a role to play and enrich their school	qualitative study	questionnaire completed by 2,649 pupils	reliable questionnaire designed by 9 experts	Spain

Article Title	Authors	Journal Title	Theme	Empirical / Theoretical	Sample	Methods	Research location
'Do what you can'. A case study on Disability and Physical Education / 'Haz lo que puedas'. Un estudio de caso sobre diversidad funcional y Educación Física	Daniel Martos-García & Javier Monforte	Ágora para la Educación Física y el Deporte (Agora for Physical Education and Sport)	Life story of a wheelchair (congenital myopathy) sports graduate. Path of studies and perception across the study years in primary school, secondary school, university); very pro-inclusive, promoting inclusion and warning against fear of it based on this case.	qualitative study	4 narrative in-depth interviews with one respondent (each a total 120 minutes; years 2006, 2010, 2016)	narrative analysis; semi-structured interviews	Spain
Time, Expertise and Status: Barriers Faced by Mainstream Primary School SENCOs in the Pursuit of Providing Effective Provision for Children with SEND	Mia D. Smith & Karen Broomhead	Support for Learning	Barriers in the work of special pedagogues at primary schools.	qualitative study	15 special needs pedagogues	IPA, semi-structured interviews	United Kingdom
Teaching Mathematics to Lower Attainers: Dilemmas and Discourses	Julie Alderton & Sue Gifford	Research in Mathematics Education	Teaching mathematics to weaker students.	qualitative study	3 teachers	observations, unstructured interviews	United Kingdom
Wilderness Schooling: A Controlled Trial of the Impact of an Outdoor Education Programme on Attainment Outcomes in Primary School Pupils	Toby Quibell, Jeanne Charlton & James Law	British Educational Research Journal	Educational impact of a curriculum based outdoor educational program.	qualitative study	440 pupils	testing	United Kingdom
Students with Autism Transitioning from Primary to Secondary Schools: Parents' Perspectives and Experiences	Michelle Tso & Iva Strnadová	International Journal of Inclusive Education	Inclusion of children with autism transferring from primary to secondary school.	qualitative study	15 parents; 12 pupils	interviews	Australia
Being a Deaf and a Teacher: Exploring the Experiences of Deaf Teachers in Inclusive Classrooms	Teketel Agafari Hankebo	International Journal of Instruction	Communication and experience in teaching deaf and perception of teachers in the inclusive classroom. Communication and interaction of deaf teachers with conventional pupils.	qualitative study	7 teachers	semi-structured interviews, observations	Ethiopia