

Readiness of Faith-Based Community towards Adopting Special Education Program

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Abstract

In the increasing number of students with special needs, it was reported that less than 3% of Adventist schools have direct provision of special services and only 6% of Adventist schools reported access to Adventist Special Education Services in the United States. In the Philippines, there is no concrete special education program in all Adventist schools. This study focused on the exploration of the readiness towards adopting special education program that dug into the subject of administration, facilities, teaching, funding, the challenges and solutions that might be faced in Faith-Based Community (FBC). The researchers employed multi-method and purposive sampling. The respondents were the administrators, teachers, and finance personnel of Faith-Based Community and the participants were chosen based on the criteria set by the researchers. For the quantitative, the data were gathered through survey questionnaires and checklist which revealed that FBC is not ready in terms of facilities and personnel who are equipped in handling the program. Thematic analysis was utilized in collecting qualitative data through in-depth interview. The researchers found out that the challenges towards adopting special education program that the participants mentioned are: lack of qualified teachers, community awareness, scarcity of training, classroom management, administrative support, lack of facilities and curriculum. While, the solutions that popped out to address these challenges are Individualized Education Program, comprehensive seminars or trainings, provision of facilities, fund allocation, supportive administrators and spirit-filled personnel. Based on the findings, the community is ready to adopt the program but the knowledge about the program is limited. Moreover, the researchers recommend that the community needs more involvement in seminars and trainings related to special education.

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