

# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS WITH A FOCUS ON CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Despite considerable progress in many countries in Asia, educational exclusion of disabled children, both from mainstream schooling and from quality education, and often from any education at all, is still common across the region. There is still much progress to be made in the field of quality inclusive education for children with special needs due to disability, learning difficulties or other disadvantages, as well as in terms of promoting social integration and decreasing stigma associated with disability. Educational segregation tends to compound the wider social exclusion suffered by people with special needs.

In 2018, the World Bank and other co-funding partners are investing USD 3.8 billion in developing education in the developing world. Globally, more than 740 projects are this year being implemented in the secondary education sector with a further 280 projects being implemented in the primary education sector. UNESCO's Education for All strategies continue to support developing countries' national policies on early childhood and life-long learning education. According to study by the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in 19 countries, the education gap

between children with and without disabilities has enlarged dramatically over recent decades. Less than half of children with disabilities finish primary school, and three in ten are never even enrolled in school. In other words, children with disabilities are being left behind (World Bank, 2017).

Lack of understanding about needs of children with disabilities, a shortage of trained teachers, support staff and carers, a lack of adequate facilities, classroom support and learning resources are barriers that limit the access to education for children with disabilities.

Quality Education, calls for inclusive and equitable quality education with the aim of ensuring equal access to all levels of education for the vulnerable, including disabled children. Building a stronger knowledge base on initiatives that work should be seen as one of the top priorities for coming years. In the meantime, countries around the world should design and implement inclusive education for all.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### What AIT offers



A roster of specialists working on Special Educational Needs.



A broad portfolio of professional development courses for teachers and education managers.



Access to key resources in Thailand and neighboring countries.



**AIT**  
Asian Institute of Technology



**AIT Extension**  
Executive & Professional Education

# Projects



The flagship program is Special Olympics Young Athletes Impact Evaluation Project (2017-2019). This project is carried out in four countries: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Thailand. Young Athletes (YA) is a sport and play program to prepare young children with intellectual disability (ID) to participate in sport activities when they grow up. The aim of this research is to validate YA activities and determine the impact made on the child and basic sport skills, social skills and skills for daily living. The research also studies social factors at school, home, and family level that enable children with ID to socialize with others and be accepted in their communities. The research examines impact at school, home, and community levels.



AIT Extension worked for Special Olympics (SO), Thailand in evaluating progress of Community Health Project. The project aimed to monitor and assess health conditions of children with higher leaning ability to able SO (Thailand) to develop YA in the future.



AIT Extension served as one of the academic sub-committee of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on ID Children organized by International Association for Scientific Study of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IASSIDD) in November 2017.



Since 2014, we have collaborated with the Jatiyo Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) (National Institute for Service to Persons with Disabilities), under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Under this World Bank project, AIT Extension have trained 150 officers, therapists, and clinicians to improve service delivery to persons with disabilities and to enhance quality of services of District Centers for Service to Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh.

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