

Introduction

Inclusive education is an effective way to provide equitable learning opportunities for all children and to help them develop the skills they need to thrive and to embrace diversity. Inclusive education is not difficult to implement, and it is possible to create more inclusive schools without spending large amounts of money, by attending to the special needs of children, and gradually improving school infrastructure with the help of parents/guardians.

The Ministry of Education, together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has implemented a project to promote inclusive education in a total of 12 schools, four in each of the three educational zones of Piliyandala, Kurunegala, and Nikaweratiya, from 2019 to 2024. Through this project, many good practices have been generated by the enthusiasm and ingenuity of teachers, IE coordinators, principals, and parents/guardians. The articles in this booklet are compiled by visiting schools and interviewing the people involved to see how schools have changed over the course of the project. These are true stories and full of hints to move closer to a more inclusive school.

We sincerely hope that your school will take one step forward and join them.