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**THE ROAD TO EMPOWERMENT:
Facilitating the Participation of Parents
of Children with Special Needs in Malaysia**

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ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

This study involves the design, development and evaluation of a parent training curriculum for parents of children with special needs in Malaysia. The objective of this programme was to empower parents through meaningful participation in the process of content identification, implementation and evaluation of the entire programme. The study was conducted at Bethany Home, a centre for children and adults with special needs, situated in a rural town of West Malaysia with an estimated population of 40,000 people mostly of a lower socio economic status. The study was prompted by a need for active parent participation. The researcher is a former director of the centre.

The analysis of the data suggests that information sharing through participation is the road to empowerment for parents of children with special needs in a rural setting. As a result of the programme, teacher-parent interaction has improved and the setting up of a network for parents is imminent.

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Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness.

Philippians 2:5-7