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Approaches to Inclusive Research in Education: Opportunities and Challenges

Round Table Discussion Feedback

Group One

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The following is a summary of the discussion among the group in relation to the following:

Issues of Commonality

The group found that we had the following research issues in common:

- The Voice – all members of the group were aiming to obtain the individual's personal view within our research topics.
- Sensitive nature - All the research topics were of a sensitive nature which left a lot of responsibility on the researcher in relation to the ethics of the study.

Challenges

All members of the group found it difficult to gain access to our samples due the sensitivity of the topic. The group agreed it was important to obtain the 'goodwill' of the gatekeepers in the areas of research we were examining. Moreover, we discussed the difficulties that we encountered in compiling questionnaires and the various formats that were available to us. Some members pointed out, that piloting their questionnaire initially, gave them an insight into some of the problems they needed to address in relation to their type of questions. Following on

from this debate we referred to the type of questionnaire we, as individuals adapted to our different research studies.

Researcher as insider/outsider

Some members of the group found it easier to gain access to their sample by being the outsider. For others it was the opposite. Thus, this issue can vary with researchers depending on their topic and their approach. This aspect of research was prevalent in relation to individuals undertaking qualitative research methods. Members, for example whose research involved interviews related to the problem of being the insider/outsider.

Summary

In summarising the group discussion, all members agreed that it was good to listen to how other researchers approached their studies. Some of us, despite the different topics had/were encountering the same problems. We all agreed that this was a worthwhile exercise.