



➤ What is Special education?

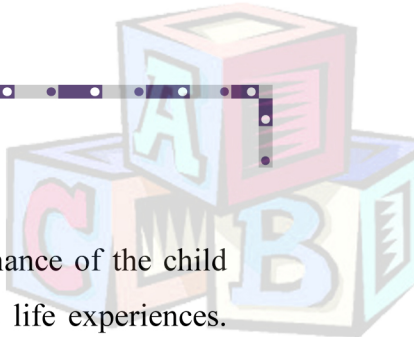
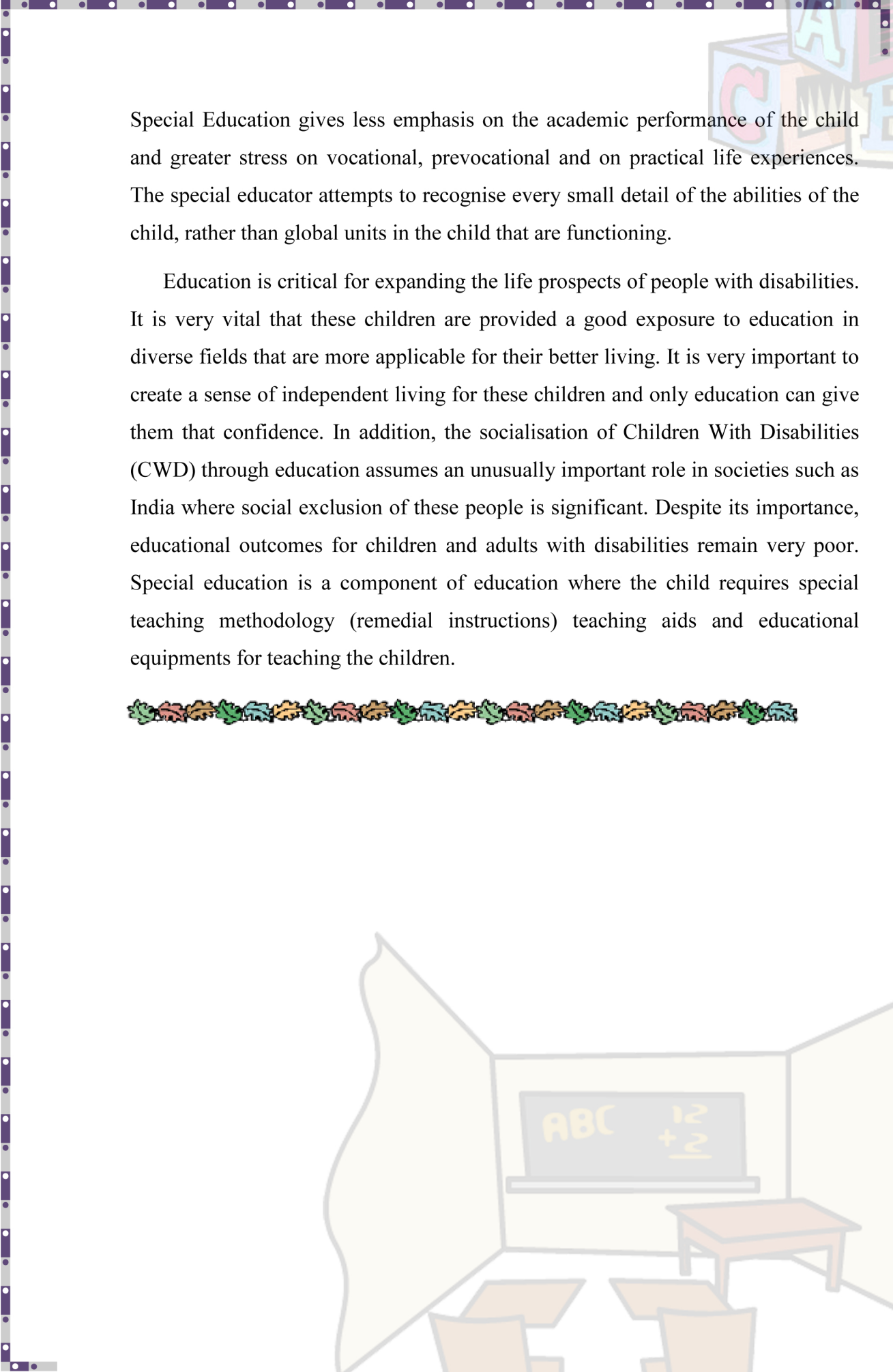
Education is a powerful tool in bringing social change and in creating progressive thinking in the minds of the people. Special education is a sub system of regular education; it is one of the ways of providing the same learning experience to children who are unable to enjoy that through the regular education methods.

Special education refers to specially designed set of instruction which meets the unique needs of an exceptional child. It involves the use of special materials, teaching techniques/equipments and other facilities

Special education provides the alternative system of education for children with various disabilities through various specialised and individualised educational plans. The broad aim of special education is to fully develop the hidden potential of a student and to make the person, self reliant and independent individual. Typically students are grouped depending upon their abilities and the level of mental functioning and not according to their type of disability or chronological age. This helps to guide the special educator in formulating instructional programmes suited to their individual needs.

The term disability encompasses a wide range of impairments, such as:

- ❖ Autism
 - ❖ Deaf-blindness
 - ❖ Deafness
 - ❖ Developmental delay
 - ❖ Emotional disturbance
 - ❖ Hearing impairment
 - ❖ Intellectual disability
 - ❖ Multiple disabilities- Cerebral palsy
 - ❖ Orthopaedic impairment
 - ❖ Other health impairment
 - ❖ Specific learning disability
 - ❖ Speech or language impairment
 - ❖ Traumatic brain injury
 - ❖ Visual impairment
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Special Education gives less emphasis on the academic performance of the child and greater stress on vocational, prevocational and on practical life experiences. The special educator attempts to recognise every small detail of the abilities of the child, rather than global units in the child that are functioning.

Education is critical for expanding the life prospects of people with disabilities. It is very vital that these children are provided a good exposure to education in diverse fields that are more applicable for their better living. It is very important to create a sense of independent living for these children and only education can give them that confidence. In addition, the socialisation of Children With Disabilities (CWD) through education assumes an unusually important role in societies such as India where social exclusion of these people is significant. Despite its importance, educational outcomes for children and adults with disabilities remain very poor. Special education is a component of education where the child requires special teaching methodology (remedial instructions) teaching aids and educational equipments for teaching the children.

