Cass School of Education and Communities – MA Special Educational Needs

APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF A RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING HUMAN

PARTICIPANTS

Students to complete this form as part of the submission of their final research project.

This form is to be used for all taught undergraduate and masters level programmes in the Cass School of Education and Communities. If necessary, please continue your answers on a separate sheet of paper: indicate clearly which question the continuation sheet relates to and ensure that it is securely fastened to the report form.

\* Before completing this application please familiarise yourself with ‘Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research published by BERA ([https://www.bera.ac.uk/researchers-resources/publications/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2011](about:blank)) or for social workers use The Joint University Council Social Work Education Committee Research Ethics guidelines [http://www.juc.ac.uk/swec-research-code.html](about:blank)

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| 1. Your Programme: MA . Special Education Needs  Module code: ET7746  Title of module: SEN Research Methodologies and Dissertation  Title of research project: A Review of The Educational methods for SEN Pupils in Nigeria. |
| 2. |
| 3. Number of participants: 6  Nature of participants: This research seeks to interview one Principal, Two Teachers , two Teaching Assistants and two Parents. |
| 4. Research (starting date): April 2020 to (finishing date):September 2020 |
| 5. Aim(s) of the research - summary /abstract  Children with special needs have a long history of marginalisation in Nigeria (Obiakor, 1998). Due to strong cultural beliefs, children with special needs have been stigmatised (Garuba, 2003). This greatly limits their quality of life and makes it almost impossible to integrate freely in society. I believe this is an important area to investigate as it is still a relevant problem today (Obiakor, 1998). Understanding the reasons behind the treatment of SEN children in Nigeria will help in providing solutions to the problem.  The following questions are of concern:  -what are the current standards of SEN education in Nigeria?   * What are the current Societal views on disability in Nigeria? * What can be done to increase awareness for SEN learners?   This overview will provide a robust outlook of SEN education in Nigeria and provide guidance towards the improvement of the cultural and educational situation. |

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| 6. Methodology:    The aim of this research is to understand the current state of SEN education in Nigeria and what can be done to improve the conditions. A qualitative approach is useful here, as it is important to gain an ethnographic knowledge of the beliefs and social structure within the general community group. This creates a base framework that can further be assessed in its subgroups. Being a far less controlled approach compared to a purely quantitative study, there will be a greater degree likelihood of personal interpretation driving the final analysis. This will have to be considered when final evaluations are presented.  The journey of SEN education in the UK will also be a standard of comparison. Evaluating over time the changes in education and social perception might give an insight into similarities, if any, in the Nigerian community.  6.1 Methods:    Data will primarily be gathered from online interviews but the majority of the information will be provided from previous research or archived data. If the data is lacking, custom online surveys could be used to reach a greater number of people.  6.2 The sample/participants:    The sample here will include   * school teachers or administrators * local government officials * Parents of disabled children in the UK and Nigeria   Nigeria has a very diverse ethnic population, so the sample analysed will at least have to cover multiple parts of the country, rather than one  6.3 If you are using copyrighted/pre-validated questionnaires, tests or other stimuli that you have not written or made yourself, are these questionnaires and tests suitable for the age group of your participants?    NA  6.4 Method of Data Analysis:    Historical analysis will be used here to track the changes of SEN overtime. This will be done in both the UK and Nigeria to see if similarities exist.  Interviews will be carried out with parents/carers, teachers and government officials through WhatsApp audio or skype which will be recorded. Then the audio will be played back and typed out as transcript.  The historical data review, coupled with interviews, should provide a good knowledge base for a proposed ethnographic nature of the Nigerian population. |

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| 7. Please outline the potential risks and benefits to participant(s) in this research:   * What is the nature of the risk(s)?   As Creswell(2013) states that for a researcher to achieve purpose, it is of utmost importance to recognize the problems or issues that may emerge in the course of the research. Government officials might be contacted, and their provided information will have to be accurate and consensual.  Some parents or carers might not feel comfortable revealing that they have children with special needs. It is important that any information they divulge is strictly confidential, as the topic still bears stigma today. The teachers might feel uncomfortable exposing the strategies adopted by the school to manage this group of children. Leading to another risk of parents or carers not wanting to share their thoughts and opinions as to whether or not they are happy with the strategies used by the school.  (b) What precautions will be taken to minimise the risks to participant(s)?  Punch(2016) says for a researcher looking to collect data from their participants, it is important to respect the site of the research as well as following all issues that may come up at the time of the research, for example time. For this research, the precautions to be used are the ones laid out in the Ethics guidelines of the university of East London and EthicaI Guidelines for Educational Research by BERA(2018). I will avoid any question or action that will put participants at risk by respecting their views all the time. Also, l will create an informed consent form for the participants to sign before starting the research. According to Holliday(2016) providing participants a consent form shows that participants rights have been protected during data collection. Government officials will be anonymous to protect their privacy.  (c) What are the benefits of the research?  This research will benefit the participants because it is an opportunity for their voices to be heard. They are also contributing priceless knowledge to the research. Their children can benefit in the future from a society that doesn’t stigmatise them. This will also help the Education department(Special needs)to know the best strategies in this given part of the world and pass it on to future SEN students. |

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| 8.1 Fully informing participants about the research  According to Cohen et al.,(2011) informed consent offer participants an awareness of what the research is all about and also know about their rights and benefits of participating in the research. That is to say participants will get an informed consent with detailed information which they need to know,in other words letting them know that it is a voluntary participation and they have a right to withdraw at any time. This will be done by email and phone calls. Punch(2016), gate keepers are in a very strong position and cannot be overlooked in any research, bearing this in mind, the gate keeper will also be informed by email detailing all information about the research. Participants will be provided with the ethics form detailing all the information of the research.  8.2 Obtaining fully informed consent from participants  A consent form is required for the parents or guardians.  8.3 Engaging in withholding information, if relevant:  Participants will be informed that the data will be anonymous and unlinked to them. The core nature of the research will always be disclosed.  8.4 Right of withdrawal:  Cohen, et al.,(2011) recommended that a researcher in seeking informed consent, must ensure that the participants understand completely the implications of the research. That they have a right to opt out at anytime as it is voluntary.  8.5 Anonymity & confidentiality: (Please answer the following questions)  Will the data be gathered anonymously?    For the most part, yes. Surveys that are done online are more likely to be anonymous, but interviews will almost certainly not be anonymous. All information will be gathered confidentially.  If NO what steps will be taken to ensure confidentiality and protect the identity of participants?  Initials will be used to identify the subjects that are interviewed. Online surveys will have codes or initials as random identifiers. According to Punch (2016). Several tectonics have been developed to allow public access to data and information without confidentiality being breached for example, deletion of identifiers, that is deleting names, addresses or identification from data to protect participants.  The Data will not be held onto after the research is done. If the research progresses in a way that the data might be useful in the future, the participants will be notified of this on their invitation letters.  8.6 Protection of participants:  NA  8.7 Protection of the researcher:  NA  8.8 Debriefing participants:  Cohen (2011), says that one important thing about research is debriefing participants. That is to say researchers communicate their sincerity just like scientists in search of the truth and their own discomfort regardless, finding it necessary to resort to deception in order to lay open the truth. Participants can ask questions and can stop at any time they feel uncomfortable. |

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| 9. (a) Will the participants be paid? NO  (b) If yes, please give the amount: £    (c) If yes, please give full details of the reason for the payment and  how the amount given in 9 (b) above has been calculated  (i.e. what expenses and time lost is it intended to cover): |

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| * If your programme involves contact with children or vulnerable adults, either direct or indirect (including observational), please confirm that you have the relevant clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (previously known as the Criminal Records Bureau) prior to the commencement of the study.     YES  If yes, DBS number: C5767697174 |
| 12. DECLARATION  I undertake to abide by accepted ethical principles and appropriate  code(s) of practice in carrying out this research project.  Personal data will be treated in the strictest confidence and not passed  on to others without the written consent of the subject(s) involved  in the research.  The nature of the investigation and any possible risks will be fully  explained to intending participants, and they will be informed that:  (a) they are in no way obliged to volunteer if there is any  personal reason (which they are under no obligation  to divulge) why they should not participate in the project);  and  (b) they may withdraw from the programme at any time,  without disadvantage to themselves and without  being obliged to give any reason.  NAME OF APPLICANT/RESEARCHER:    Signature of applicant/researcher: \_\_\_EBT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date: 13/04/2020  NAME OF SUPERVISOR: \_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature of supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date: \_\_\_22/5/20\_\_\_\_\_\_  NAME OF ONE OTHER  ACADEMIC TUTOR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature:  Date: 26/05/2020 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

Cass School of Education and Communities

Stratford Campus

Water Lane

London

E15 4LZ

07/06/20

Dear Participant,

I am a post-graduate student at the University of East London studying for an MA in Special Educational Needs. In order to fulfil the requirements of my degree course, I am required to undertake a research project in the field of Special Educational Needs. To enable me to do this, I am hoping that you will kindly allow me to conduct this research using your school. The title of my research is, a Review of The Educational Methods for SEN Pupils in Nigeria.

The aim of this research is to understand the current SEN educational system in Nigeria and its feasible improvements. Overall, findings from this research will contribute to my knowledge and understanding of how to support SEN pupils in Nigeria.

With your permission, I would like to gather data through a semi-structured interview also recorded to be able to get the interview in detail. It will be a one-hour slot maximum at your convenience.

Data given by practitioners will always be kept securely. Voice recordings and transcripts of interviews will be transferred to a personal password-protected laptop to ensure unauthorized persons do not gain access to it. Also, pseudonyms will be used and referred to during the analysis of the data and write up of the research to ensure anonymity. The name ofyour school, your staff and yours will not be mentioned*.* identity or any form of description that will enable a third party to identify it, will not feature in the write up.

I hope that you will be happy to grant permission for the practitioners to participate in this research study. A similar consent form will be given to the practitioners to obtain permission for their participation in the research. I would also like to emphasise that the research is strictly for educational purpose only and participation is voluntary. However, if you have any questions regarding the research study, please do not hesitate to contact me. Finally, if you are happy for me to proceed with this research please email me to confirm complete the consent form below. I will arrange to collect the consent form and contact you to arrange a convenient time to carry out the research.

I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

*Please keep this top section for your records*

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For the attention of – University of East London

RE: *A Review of The Educational Methods for SEN pupils in Nigeria.*

I give my consent for practitioners to be invited to participate in the above stated research. I understand that I have the right to withdraw the practitioners from the research at any time during data collection.

Signed………………………………………………… Date…………………

PRINT NAME:

Water Lane

London

E15 4LZ

08/06/20

A Review of The Educational methods for SEN Pupils in Nigeria.

You will remember from our conversation that:

* Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time during the research. Should you choose to withdraw from the programme you may do so without disadvantage to yourself and without any obligation to give a reason. Please note that your data can be withdrawn up to the point of data analysis – after this point it may not be possible since the data will have been anonymised.
* Data given by you will be kept securely at all times. Voice recordings and transcripts of interviews will be transferred to a personal password-protected laptop to ensure unauthorized persons do not gain access to it. Also, pseudonyms will be used instead of names, and referred to during the analysis of the data and write up of research to ensure anonymity.
* When I have received notification that I have been awarded the MA Special Educational Needs, all the data and consent forms will be securely destroyed.

Finally if you would like to receive a summary of the findings from my study I am happy to meet with you or provide brief written feedback.

Thank you again for your time and co-operation.