



## **CHALLENGES FACING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE LEARNING PROCESS DURING THE COVID-19 PERIOD: A STUDY FOCUSED ON ZAHIRA PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTTALAM**

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### **Abstract**

It is broadly observable that with the emergence of education as a new trend in the online learning system for the Covid-19 period, the Education of students with special needs is also carried out through online learning. However it is notable that the students with special needs are currently facing a number of difficulties and challenges in online Education system more than they faced challenges during their on class Education activities. Therefore, the study aims to identify the challenges faced by these children during the period of Covid - 19, make out how Education is being implemented for these students on the basis of persistent Education, and to find out the expectations of teachers who educate to these children. The study is designed as qualitative method and the primary data were collected from interviews with 20 parents of children with special needs and 6 teachers of these students. Research articles, texts, journals, website etc. were used to collect secondary data. Anatomical design has been used to illustrate this study, and MS Excel software has been used to analyze research data according to an inductive approach. One of the key findings of this study is that persistent learning is a major challenge from pre- school to university education, and the increasing exposure of students with special needs to environmental, psychological, economic, and technical issues has been found to be a major contribution to the learning activity of students and teachers. The study also focuses on explaining the ideas and expectations of parents and teachers of these students with special needs in the learning process.

**Keywords:** Covid - 19, Special needs students, Online education, Puttalam/ Zahira Primary School

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