

Differentiated Instruction in Mixed-Ability Classrooms: Experiences of Special Education Teachers

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E d i t o r

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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph discussing the significance of DI (p. 13), you cite Tomlinson et al. (2003) multiple times. Consider summarizing the main points in a single citation and including additional recent studies to provide a more comprehensive literature review.

In the coding phase description (p. 15), you mention that coding was conducted manually. Explain why manual coding was chosen over software-based methods, and discuss how you ensured the reliability and validity of your coding process.

The demographic breakdown (p. 15) should include more context. For example, explain how the demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender, years of experience) might influence the teachers' perspectives on DI.

The theme "Resource Limitations" (p. 16) mentions inadequate materials and lack of training. Provide specific examples or quotes from participants that illustrate these points more vividly.

The subcategory "Student Diversity" (p. 16) should include examples of how teachers addressed specific types of diversity (e.g., language barriers, behavioral issues) within their classrooms.

The theme "Assessment Difficulties" (p. 16) needs more elaboration. Discuss specific challenges in individualized assessments and any strategies teachers used to overcome these challenges.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement "The theoretical underpinnings of DI are grounded in constructivist and socio-cultural theories" (p. 13) should be expanded. Provide more detail on how these theories specifically support the principles of DI and cite key scholars in these fields.

The sentence "Participants were selected through purposive sampling to ensure they had significant experience with DI" (p. 14) lacks detail. Specify the criteria used for selecting participants and justify why purposive sampling was the most appropriate method.

Clarify how the interviews were conducted "either in person or via video conferencing" (p. 14). Discuss any potential biases or differences in data quality between these two modes of data collection.

The paragraph discussing resource limitations (p. 18) should compare your findings with a broader range of literature. Discuss any differences or similarities with other studies on DI and resource constraints.

Expand the section on practical implications (p. 19). Provide specific recommendations for policymakers or school administrators on how to support teachers in implementing DI effectively.

The limitations section (p. 19) should be more detailed. Discuss how the small sample size and reliance on self-reported data might have impacted the study's findings and suggest ways future research could address these issues.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.