Informal Science Education for SEN Students in Korea: A Case of Hope Science Fair by Daegu University

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In spite of long history of special education in Korea, science has been an overlooked subject within a special education context. It was also reported to be one of the disliked subjects for special educators. Since there is not enough teaching material for SEN students, they cannot experience really joy of doing science. Informal science education which is held out of schools can be a good alternative to support special education school curriculum. Daegu University, which was founded by a pastor who loved the blind in 1956 and has leaded special education and rehabilitation science in Korea, has opened the Hope Science Fair as an informal science education for SEN students since 2006. The first fair was for the visually impaired students, and then this science fair has been continued for last twelve years covering various disabilities areas. The Hope Science Fair consists of science magic show, science drama and hands-on activities, which were carefully designed and developed considering students disabilities, and mental and emotional status. In order to have a successful fair, a group of professors and students visited special education schools for various disability areas, studied disabilities, and developed teaching materials for SEN students. It has always been challenging for them to develop suitable materials for SEN students, their struggle for the fair has been continued up to now. In this presentation, we would like to share our twelve years journey of informal science education for SEN students focusing on the Hope Science Fair.