

Forum: Human Rights Committee 2

Issue: Ensuring the right to education for persons with disabilities

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Introduction

More than 1 billion people in this world today have a form of disability, which is 15% of the world's population. Around 2 percent of the population who are deaf around the world have access to education in sign language. A person with disabilities means that they have a mental or physical condition that does not allow them to do certain activities compared to those with no disabilities. These persons with disabilities are excluded and put as an outcast in most societies and aren't given the rights that they need such as a place for quality education. The discrimination that is sequenced throughout generations of disabilities is the fear of being different, not understanding or being able to remember or cultural views of those with disabilities. They are discriminated more on what they are not able to do instead of what they have and what they are capable of doing, Moreover, disabilities is further increased with lack of health care, living in poverty, the lack of support needed or service providers which may include an environment that does not have the following facilities that is able to accommodate those with disabilities.

To continue, disability may be thought as something you are immediately born with however there are various factors that can cause different disabilities such as age, poverty and lifestyle (primary socialisation). Poverty involves not having enough nutrients needed to grow, nor healthcare facilities or the money to pay for healthcare facilities, lack of clean water which can cause cholera, hygiene is also a major issue especially when living in areas of poverty as it can cause many different health conditions to the human body and finally the environment and working conditions as people in areas of poverty are more prone to dangerous lifestyles or working conditions that may cause harm especially when the person who works is below the age requirement.

Take as an example famous people with certain disabilities such as Stephen Hawking whose profession was an English Theoretical Physicist who won numerous appreciation awards such as "Honorary Fellow of Royal Society of Arts", "Presidential Medal of Freedom" and a member of "Pontifical Academy of Sciences". Stephen Hawking has a motor neuron disease which means the loss of ability to

control your muscles that would help us to move, speak, breathe and swallow. With this disability he is still admired by many scientists and physicists with many books and publications released under his name. Moreover, the most famous composer and musician Beethoven despite the fact that he was deaf was famous for his beautiful improvisations as he was taught to study the piano and had the help of Mozart to help him along the way of his career.

Definition of Key Terms

Disability

A disability is the physical or mental condition which can limit a person's movements this could include being deaf, blindness, paralysis and so on. With this it limits the person's ability to sense things such as hearing or being able to move as there is a limitation to a person's movements. They are normally categorized as handicap as said by law.

Prejudice

The formation of an opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience. Prejudice is used to refer to biased judgments towards someone due to either of their gender, age, ethnicity, language, nationality, race and religious beliefs.

Discrimination

This is when different person's whether to do with race, age, gender or ethnicity are treated unfairly and judged based on society rather than experience.

Inclusive Education

All students are allowed to attend the school as it is open to any students those with disabilities and those without disabilities. You must indent the definition of each term. These sources of education recognise each student's strengths and weaknesses which help them learn as it is divided into different sections of curriculums and strengths.

Civil rights

The rights of civilians to express their opinion on political, social rights and equality in various means such as gender equality, disability equality, to remove the discrimination of different races, ethnicities and religions.

Sign Language

This is the basis of communication that requires visual gestures and sign commonly used by deaf people.

Background Information

The rights of persons with disabilities have been an ongoing issue since the years of 1800. In these years persons with disabilities were seen in society as a person with a tragic life and were labelled to not be able to help or contribute to events of society whether economically or socially. Back then, they were used for industries of entertainment which includes exhibitions and circuses where they were to be put to be ridiculed by people as they were thought to be abnormal. Take as an example President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who was the first president who had a disability as he was diagnosed with polio at the age of 39 which proved him to be a great source of inspiration for those people with disabilities. On the other hand people still viewed him as abnormal due to his disability as his condition couldn't be cured.

History of the rights of persons with disabilities

In the year of 1800, those with disabilities were to be placed in asylums due to their difference in society as people thought they were different and were given food and shelter. Moreover, the first of those with disabilities were accumulated from injured veterans from the civil war. Those with disabilities were labelled abnormal and unfit to contribute to society unless if it was for a source of entertainment such as circuses or exhibitions. Persons with disabilities were additionally forced to go to asylums or institutions where they would spend the rest of their lives. This was so they were hidden and never found from the society that surrounded them. This process developed until injured veterans from the civil war that developed disabilities were provided rehabilitation for free as they served the nation.

Between the years of 1940 to 1950 during the period of World War II, veterans were relying heavily on rehabilitation centres provided by the government as those with disability issues were made to become more visible to the country's public as the citizens began to recognize the veterans who sacrificed their lives to secure the safety of their nation. However, even with this those with disabilities were not provided with access to public; bathrooms, transportation, phones and supermarkets/shops. Most buildings had stairs and so could not provide any source of entry for those with disabilities that wanted to be employed. This meant that those with disabilities that had talent, creativity and a hard work ethic were not given the opportunity to work. Further through the years during the civil rights movement, those with disabilities took it as an opportunity to ask and demand for equal treatment such as those with

minority groups. However, was not successful due to stereotypes and were once again sent to asylums or institutions.

Furthermore, throughout the years up until the year 2004 it was the first “Disability Pride Parade” which was located in Chicago. The expected number of people that were to attend the event was said to be 500 to 600 however along the parade around 2000 people attended to watch those break down the barriers between those with disabilities being put to label. In 2006 the “History of Disability Rights Enters Curricula” was passed which was the first bill that required students in K-12 public school systems to be taught about the history of those with disabilities rights movement, and this was passed due to having around twenty people with disabilities that were living in West Virginia.

This social progress continues to this day, when many articles are being written about Stephen Hawking who has a motor neuron disease: the loss of ability to control your muscles that would normally allow the body to move, speak, breathe, and swallow. Despite this disability, many scientists applaud his efforts. On the 28th of October in 2017 he released his PhD to the public where it was accessed by more than two million people within days of it being released. With this being said, the release of his PhD thesis from Cambridge University was so popular that when it was available to the public, it crashed Cambridge University’s website due to the overwhelming majority of people trying to access it. As is evident, despite people having disabilities the higher the level of education they have, the more they know or are able to help the society in terms of education, economy, rates of employment, and literacy rates.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

China

The approximate number of those with disabilities in China is 83 million meaning that about 6.3% of the country’s population has different disabilities. Children and the youth of today with disabilities face discrimination in schools. In this issue China is known to deny many children from such disabilities as they fail to provide them admission at times they may ask them to leave or may not provide the proper facilities. This report documents how mainstream schools deny many such children admission, ask them to leave, or fail to provide appropriate classroom accommodations to help them overcome barriers related to their disabilities. While children with mild disabilities are in mainstream schools where they continue to face challenges, children with more serious disabilities are excluded from the mainstream education system, and a significant number of those interviewed by Human Rights Watch receive no education at all. However, through the past developing years China has conducted projects to help community based rehabilitation and increase the training development of rehabilitation medicine and

services. Moreover, it aims to research on organizations and ways to manage rehabilitation centres so that it can be able to spread around China.

Russia

A child living with a disability in Russia has a significant chance of not receiving the quality education they deserve and to an extent no education at all. Moreover, Russia recognized that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the year of 2012 this means that the commitment was to remove the wall of discrimination between those with disabilities and to provide an environment and services for those with disabilities.

New Zealand

Around one out of five New Zealanders have a disability which is a great majority however New Zealand has ensured the rights of disabled students to attend local schools as said by their law which states that “people who have special educational needs (whether because of disability or otherwise) have the same rights to enroll and receive education schools as people who do not.” In the year 2008 there was a mid-term review which looked over the progress on the implementation of “education-related complaints on behalf of disabled students continue amongst the most frequent groups of complaints to the Human Rights Commission” which showed progress.

India

The Salient Feature of Persons With Disabilities Act 1995 allowed education to be free in an environment appropriate for a child with a disability up to the age of 18 years old. There are numerous problems faced for those with disabilities in India such as environmental problems which is the lack of proper care for those with disabilities such as rehabilitation centres. Moreover, environmental problems that include the structure of roads or buildings such as ramps, railings, frictional floors, accessible toilets and wash basins, access to pay phones. Additionally, most of the society in India does not relate a positive attitude as the people are not willing to accept or respect the disability of people. For in 2001 around 21.9 million people which is 2.13% of the country’s population had disabilities.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has very strict laws towards persons with disabilities to the rights of education. This includes that it is against the law for a school or an education service provider to treat those who are disabled harshly such as direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, discriminations involving disabilities to those who have them. An example of this would be harassment, which involves when the student has a disability that stops that from concentrating properly and if the teacher were to shout or shame the student, it is considered harsh and harassment as it is not the student’s fault.

Nyle DiMarco Foundation

Nyle DiMarco who is the founder of “Nyle DiMarco Foundation” has won “Man of the Year” award at The Virgin Holidays Attitude Awards on October 2017 for he is known for his positive attributions to increase public awareness and education to those who are deaf. As well as the fact that he is deaf, he has been on Dancing with the stars (which he won), is the first Deaf person to win on America's Next Top Model and has starred in the television show “Switched at Birth” and “Difficult People”. Moreover, he is the leading cast of “In the Can” which is an American Sign Language (ASL) film production. He has created a foundation that’s called “Nyle DiMarco Foundation” this involves having “a goal to make the world a better place for all Deaf people and their families” which also aims to be able to provide resources to “empower Deaf individuals to achieve their dreams.” With Nyle Dimarco being an activist for the deaf community, has increased the awareness with his life experiences which include his experience on the Next Top Model for most of the crew members wouldn't talk to him or try to learn ASL, he couldn't communicate with anyone and so felt left out. However, despite all this, he won the competition and won Dancing with the Stars when no one believed he would be able to as he couldn't hear the music. Continuously he has brought his fame through the use of spreading awareness about his foundation and those with disabilities especially in universities such as Iowa State University where he talked about the development of his career and foundation.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1982	World Program of Action on Disabled Persons
1989	Convention on the Rights of the Child
1994	Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
13th December, 2006	Adoption by the United Nations General Assembly
31st October & 3rd November, 2008	First Conference of States Parties
2nd to the 4th September, 2009	Second Conference of States Parties
23rd to the 27th February 2008	First session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- A/RES/30/3447
- A/RES/61/106
- A/RES/31/123
- "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill - 2016"

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on educational systems aimed to strengthen the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and diversity developments with personality and the creativity of those with disabilities in mind, whether it is their mental health and physical disabilities, which aims to enable those with disabilities to actively participate effectively in society. Moreover, the creation of a foundation to donate to those with disabilities and create educational systems and a society where they feel as if they don't have a disability which mentioned before in this research report as "Nyle DiMarco Foundation". Inclusive education has become a wider source of education nowadays as it allows every diverse student to be able to go to the school and be taught by teachers that will be able to help them. Moreover, it has created an environment for those who have disabilities to be able to feel socially accepted instead of being labelled as different. Additionally, it has created a beneficial access to the general curriculum where it enhances the skills of learning to all students. This attempt has deemed to be beneficial as it also increases the participation of parents, increases the rate of employment as parents can work while the child is at school increasing the benefits of the economy which may further lead to better school facilities and more.

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions could include public awareness with the use of more workshops, presentations, videos, flyers, newsletters, applications or pages on social media, campaigns, creation of organizations, and foundations to create schools specifically to educate those with a disability. Having schools teach sign language to all ages as a mandatory subject will be able to help society be more impacted towards helping and communicating with those with disabilities. However, this could also be done by having schools that accept those with disabilities to have classes for those so that they don't feel like they are different, as they are welcomed into society and most importantly their foundation of education. Creating proper facilities for those who have disabilities would be incredibly beneficial, such as elevators. ramps, short cuts to areas like theatres, heavy doors could have a button on the side for

those with disabilities to have the doors automatically open, having accessible washrooms such as sinks and toiletries, and if the school is large in size an indoor or outdoor transportation system.

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