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Problems of disabled children

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Abstract

Physically disabled or handicapped means limitation on a person's function, mobility. It is a substantial and long term condition affecting a part of person's body that limits his physical function and mobility. Behaviour and activities developed in childhood affect his action in the life ahead. When a person is disabled in the childhood, he faces so many barriers in his beginning age like- Physical Barriers, Barriers in Education, Accommodation Barriers, Communication Barriers and Funding Barriers etc. There are so many hurdles that he faces in his beginning age that hamper his life progress in many ways. The paper goes a long way with the discussion of the problems disabled Children face and how much they influence them in their carrier.

Keywords: Physically disabled, handicapped, barriers, behaviour, impairment, personality

Introduction

With discussion of the topic, 'Problems of Disabled Children, an idiom, 'Child is the Father of Man' comes in the memory as the paper highlights the problems of the children who are physically disabled. The idiom has been taken from William Wordsworth's poem "My Heart Leaps Up" that means 'Man is the product of habits and behaviour developed in youth. Behaviour and activities of a person developed in childhood go a long way in building his personality.

The poem goes as

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!
The child is father of the Man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each by natural piety.

Physically Handicapped Children

According to The Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Children with disabilities "include those who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis. The main purpose of CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity ^[1-5]. Handicapped person means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, "has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment, except that as it relates to employment or volunteer service the term handicapped person" It does not include any individual who is an alcoholic or drug abuser whose current use of alcohol or drugs prevents such individual from performing the duties of the job. Physically handicapped children are the children who suffer from any physical disability making it impracticable or impossible for them to benefit from or participate in a regular classroom program in the public schools and whose proper education requires modification of the regular classroom program.

Physically handicapped children refers to the children of sound mind and of legal school age who suffer from any disability making it impracticable or impossible for them to benefit from or participate in the normal classroom program of the public schools.

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Barriers before the Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalized people in the society. They can't function in the society as normal as a physically fit person play his role. There are so many barriers that check his physically function from participation.

Physical Barriers

There are so many physical barriers that the children with disability face like multi-storied buildings, means of transportation, toilets facilities and playgrounds, drinking water facilities that cannot be accessed by wheelchair users.

Barriers to Education

Children with disabled continue to encounter physical barrier to education services such as ramp facility, elevators in multi-level school buildings, inaccessible washrooms, inaccessible transportation means to go to school, and inaccessible libraries. Within the same time, they face similar problems in the life ahead.

Funding Barriers

In many countries poverty gap between people with and without disabilities exceeds 20%. Children with disabilities encounter with the cost of education if they wish to receive education in qualitative institutions. They hardly wear the accommodation fee as well as admission fee with other expenditures. Increasing costs in many field become barriers in their carrier.

Accommodation Barriers

Physically disabled children encounter with accommodation problems as in secondary and lower levels, facilities are not provided and some of the disabled children give up the dream of getting education in early age.

Communication and Information Barriers

Communication is the fundamental part of life. Without communication, it becomes hard to live. In the state of sorrow, we want to share our grief with other through communication. If we fail in doing so, it leads stress and agony that distract the attention from the real aim. There are some disabled children who can read the books or text books written in Braille, but all books are not available if they are, they become out of reach of the children with disabilities.

Attitudinal Barriers

Attitudinal barrier effects the physically disabled in a great measures. It has often come into view that there is negative attitude of people towards physically challenged persons. It gives a bad impact on them like participating in various activities. Stigma, prejudice, and discrimination are attitudinal barriers that are not expected from the society towards physically challenged children. They need support, inspiration and cooperation from all sides wherever they go so that they can forget the disability that is caused to them and work like normal children in the activities what are fit to them. If it is so, they (Physically challenged) can give better output than the normal children.

Intellectual Disabilities

Some children also face intellectual Disabilities. Intellectual disabilities (ID) relate to a person's ability to

learn and perform tasks of daily living at an expected level. In other words, a person with an intellectual disability has unusually low intelligence as measured by IQ Tests, behavioral observations, and other diagnostic tools. A person is generally considered to have an intellectual disability if their IQ score is 70 or under; the average IQ in the U.S. is around 100. Intellectual Disabilities are of four kinds: mild, moderate, severe and profound disability. It can also be difficult to properly test IQ in a person who is nonverbal, or who has limited ability to write or speak. Person with Intellectual Disabilities respond in an impulsive, stubborn, and aggressive manner. The Disabilities lead the person to self-injurious behaviour. Major causes of Intellectual Disabilities are fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FAST), Down syndrome, and Fragile X Syndrome ^[5, 6].

Efforts made for disabled children

Many efforts have been done by UNISEY, WHO, and various governments to improve the condition of physically challenged and prepare a better environment for them, still there are many barriers that prevent their active participation in many activities. Despite international commitments, children with disabilities remain largely invisible in research and programmes meant to build more equitable, inclusive societies, knowledge oriented, financial strengthening, and carrier oriented, children with disability are fail to take the active participation. This invisibility is both a cause and a consequence of their exclusion.

It is worth noting that children with disabilities work hard with firm devotion to accommodate themselves to an inaccessible world and show their talents in particular fields, but barriers mentioned earlier come before them that again exclude them from coming forward. But they are not problems that need to be fixed or changed. Disability has become a part of the diversity of human experience: Functional limitations manifest in the life cycle of every one of us. It should be removed from the mind of disabled and start functioning like a normal being. The extent to which children with disabilities are able to lead happy lives depends on our own willingness to confront barriers to change. This is duty to all members of society to cooperate, support and inspire them to make active participation wherever they get the chance. It would be considered a great humanity service. The society then will emerged would be considered would be counted as an adjustable and real workers society ^[7]. Children with disabilities are a highly diverse group with wide-ranging life experiences. They encounter with Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Loco Motor Impairment, Mental Retardation and Mental Illness and Learning Disabilities. They live in every community, and are born with or acquire distinct impairments that lead to functional difficulties– like seeing, walking, communicating, caring for oneself or making friends.

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