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Barrier and contemporary issues with reference to disability rights

Manoj Kumar and Jyoti

Abstract

Disability is an important community health problem specifically in developing countries like India. Almost everyone faces hardships and difficulties at one time or another. But for people with disabilities, barriers can be more common and have greater effect. According to World Health Organization (WHO) describes barriers as being more than just physical problems. Factors in a person's environment that, through their absence or presence, limit functioning and create disability. These include characteristics such as: a physical environment that is not accessible, lack of relevant assistive technology, negative attitudes of people towards disability and services, systems and policies that are either non-existent or that hinder the involvement of all people with a health condition in all areas of life. There are multiple barriers that can make it very difficult or even impossible for people with disabilities to function.

Keywords: Disability, India, issues, barriers

Introduction

Common Barriers to Participation Faced by Person with Disabilities

Almost everyone faces difficulties and hardships at one time or another. But for people with disabilities, barriers may occur more frequently and have a greater impact. The World Health Organization (WHO) describes barriers as more than just physical barriers. Here is the WHO definition of barriers:

“Factors in a person's environment that, through their absence or presence, limit functioning and create disability. These include aspects such as:

- A physical environment that is not accessible,
- Lack of relevant assistive technology (assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices),
- Negative attitudes of people towards disability,
- Services, systems and policies that are either non-existent or that hinder the involvement of all people with a health condition in all areas of life.

There are often many barriers that can make it extremely difficult or even impossible for people with disabilities to work. Here are the most common obstacles. Often, more than one obstacle occurs at a time

- Attitudinal
- Communication
- Physical
- Policy
- Programmatic
- Social
- Transportation
- Technological barriers

Attitudinal barriers

Attitudinal barriers are the most common barriers. For example, some people may not be aware that difficulties in accessing or getting to a place may prevent a person with a disability from participating in everyday life and normal daily activities. Examples of Attitudinal barriers include

- **Stereotyping:** People sometimes stereotype people with disabilities, assuming that they have a poor quality of life or are unhealthy because of their impairments.
- **Stigma, prejudice and discrimination:** Within society, these attitudes may come from people's views of disability—people may view disability as a personal tragedy that

needs to be fixed or prevented, as punishment for wrongdoing, or behaviour. As a sign of lack of ability to do. As is expected in the society.

In the present circumstances, society's understanding of disability is improving as we consider "disability" to occur when a person's functional needs are not addressed in his or her physical and social environments. By thinking of disability not as an individual defect or shortcoming, but as a social responsibility in which all people can be supported to live independent and fulfilling lives, it becomes easier to identify and address the challenges they face, including people with disabilities - experience.

Communication Barriers

Communication barriers are faced by people who have disabilities in hearing, speaking, reading, writing, and or understanding and who use different methods to communicate than people who do not have these disabilities. Examples of communication barriers include:

- Use of small and poor print or no large-print versions of material
- No Braille or versions for people who use screen readers.
- Auditory health messages may be inaccessible to people with hearing impairments, including
- Videos that do not include captioning, and
- Oral communications without accompanying manual interpretation (such as, American Sign Language).
- The use of technical language, long sentences and words with many syllables can be a significant barrier to understanding for people with cognitive impairment.

Physical barriers

Physical barriers are structural barriers in natural or man-made environments that prevent or block mobility (moving around the environment) or access. Examples of physical barriers include:

- Stairs and curbs that prevent a person with a mobility disability from entering a building or using a sidewalk;
- Mammography equipment that requires a woman with mobility impairment to stand.
- Absence of a weight scale that accommodates wheelchairs or others who have difficulty stepping up.

Policy Barriers

Policy barriers often relate to lack of awareness or implementation of existing laws and regulations that require programs and activities to be accessible to people with disabilities. Examples of policy barriers include:

- Eligible persons with disabilities are denied the opportunity to participate in or benefit from federally funded programs and plans, services or other benefits.
- Physical barriers result in preventing individuals with disabilities from accessing programs, services, benefits, or opportunities to participate.
- Not providing reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities so that they cannot perform the essential functions of the job for which they have applied or been hired to perform.

Programmatic Barriers

Programmatic barriers affect the effective implement of a public health or healthcare program for people with different types of impairments. Examples of programmatic

barriers include:

- Inconvenient scheduling;
- Lack of accessible equipment
- Insufficient time set aside for medical examination and procedures;
- Little or no communication with patients or participants
- Provider's attitudes, knowledge, and understanding of people with disabilities.

Social Barriers

Social barriers relate to the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, learn, work, and age – or social determinants of health – that may contribute to reduced functioning among people with disabilities. Here are examples of social barriers:

- People with disabilities have very little chance of getting employment. In 2012 the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was more than 1 in 10 (13.9%), compared to less than 1 in 10 (6.0%) for people without disabilities.
- Adults with disabilities ages 25 and older are less likely to complete high school than their peers without disabilities (23.5% compared to 11.1%). People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty compared to people without disabilities (21.6% compare to 12.8%).
- Children with disabilities are almost four times more likely to experience violence than children without disabilities.

Transportation barriers

Transportation barriers are caused by a lack of adequate transportation that interferes with a person's ability to be independent and function in society. Examples of transportation barriers include:

- Lack of access to accessible or convenient transportation for people who are not able to drive due to vision or cognitive impairment.
- Public transportation may be unavailable or at inconvenient distances or locations.

Technological barriers

Technology helps Persons with disabilities perform everyday tasks. Computers, the Internet, and self-service kiosks make it easier for people to interact and do something. However, technology can sometimes become a barrier that limit the lives of people with various disabilities. For example, lack of accessibility and availability of technology.

Conclusion

The barriers discussed are some of the common barriers that affect the life of a person with disability. Society's attitude towards disability, communication of the disabled person, physical accessibility, and policies for welfare, safety and opportunity, awareness, programs for appropriate service delivery, participation in society, transportation and technical assistance are essential for the independent life of a disabled person.

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