

Preventing Social Exclusion of the Disabled Caused by Social, Attitudinal, and Financial Barriers

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Introduction

The United Nations (UN) describes social exclusion as a “state in which individuals are unable to participate fully in economic, social, political and cultural life, as well as the process leading to and sustaining such state”. People who suffer from poverty have a higher chance of being exposed to social exclusion. According to Europa, about 28.7% of people with disabilities in Europe experienced poverty or social exclusion. Social exclusion may include unemployment, low income, high crime rate, and bad health. It also includes not being able to participate in the same social state as others.



Person with disability is challenged to go up the stairs

People with disability are exposed to more social exclusion and are challenged in many different areas than those who do not have. These areas include attitudinal, communication, physical, policy, programmatic, transportation, and social. The most common challenge in everyday life for people with disabilities is stairs or curbs.

To guarantee all people’s rights like written in the 7th Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted in 2006 by the UN.

CRPD was adapted immediately by 165 states. However, only 45 countries have come up with anti-discrimination and disability-specific laws according to a World Report on Disability by the World Health Organization (WHO).

To prevent the social exclusion of people with disability caused by various barriers, it is evident for nations to assemble and provide solutions to the existing issues.

Background

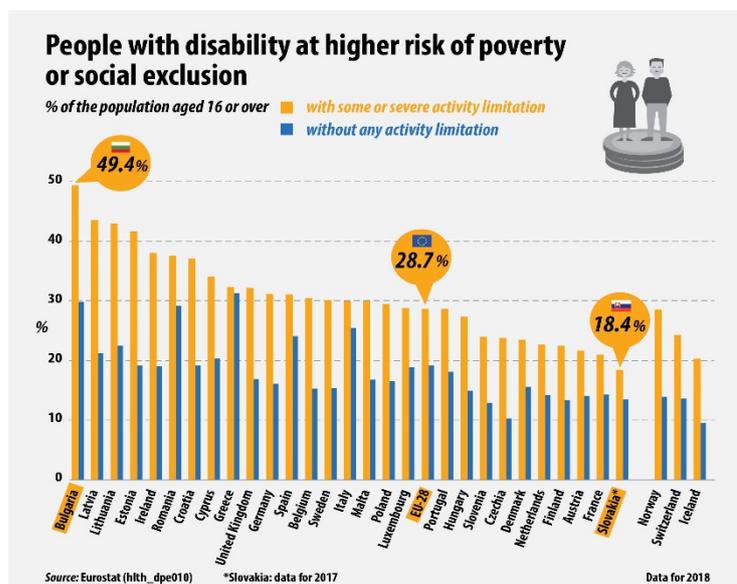
A 17-year-old boy, who had lost his sight 7 years ago in Africa was saved from poverty due to United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) education program. However, this was not the case for most of the people with disabilities. The UNICEF reported in 2012 that almost 10% people in Africa grow up with disabilities and received fewer education

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and social exclusion compared with people without limits. In Madagascar, UNICEF reports, that only 11% of children with disability were able to attend school, but most dropped out due to frequent social exclusion occurrence in the community.

The social exclusion of people with disabilities is not only a problem in developing nations. In 2018, the European Union reported that the population with a disability at risk of poverty and social exclusion is about 28.7%, almost twice compared to the population without disabilities. Another report by the World Bank states that about 20% of the people in poverty worldwide contains disability and are the most disadvantaged in their community.

There had been many processes by governments to prevent the social exclusion of people with disability caused by different factors. However, there has not been a known case where a nation had succeeded in preventing a social exclusion through anti-discrimination/disability specific laws or actions.



Rate of people with disability in risk of poverty in Europe

Problems Raised

Globalization and Economy

The globalization of the disability culture helped people with disabilities to get the right medical treatments and support. More people were able to access technologies such as hearing devices.

However, globalization has not only benefited the disable people, but also increased inequality. People in developing nations are less likely to receive proper treatment compared to people in developed countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 35%-50% of the people with mental disorders living in developing countries received no treatment in 2017.

80% of the people with disability in the world live in developing countries.

Globalization of the disability culture has proven to be only helpful in communities with developed economy and has not been helpful to 80% of the population with disability. The globalization has already occurred, and this cannot be changed. To prevent social exclusion of people with disabilities, government must work together to first solve the issue of inequality due to economical differences.

Societal Views

According to a research performed by Scope.org, one in three people with disability recognizes prejudice against them. Jessica Grono, a journalist who has cerebral palsy, describes specifically of the prejudices and barriers people face when they sit on a wheelchair. These

shows how society has lots of prejudice and negative views on disability.



People with wheelchair feels a gap in between them and others

Social exclusion and negative societal views are very closely related. People who feel prejudice against them usually experience social exclusion. For example, people with disability in the United States are afraid that they would not get the right treatments when they are affected COVID-19 virus. It is because they have experienced previously the negative attitudes towards them. A report by WHO also shows that people with disability finds health care workers to be four time as likely to be treated badly compared to people without disability.

If societal views towards people with disability does not change, preventing social exclusion on people with disabilities would be very difficult. Thus, it is necessary for member states to come up with a solution to change the societal views towards people with disability.

International Actions

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

In 2006, the United Nations adapted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The CRPD included basic human rights that people with disability also have, universally declaring that people with disability are no different that those without disability. 165 member states had agreed and adapted the CRPD on the day it was declared. The articles included are like the UDHR. Adding on to these articles, it also includes articles specifically for women and children with disability, cooperation between nations and parties, national implementation and monitoring, and many others that specifically describes various situations that people with disability would encounter in everyday life.

Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network

In December 2015, a group of people who wished to act upon the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of not leaving anyone behind and on the principles of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), came together in London to raise the awareness of the disability in the international community. The purpose of the GLAD Network is to support donors, organizations, private sectors, foundations, and other contributors to work together to enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities.



WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021

In the 67th World Health Assembly, the member states adopted a resolution that is based on CRPD to enhance the quality of life of the people with disabilities around the world. The

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WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021 addresses the issue of poor health care system for the people with disabilities compared to people without disabilities. The objectives of the action plan include removing barriers and better access to health services, extending and strengthening supports, strengthening and supporting research on services on disability. The plan urges many member states to implement and adapt the proposed actions

Positions of Key Nations and Organizations

Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs)

In LEDCs, there are higher percentage of population with disability due to poverty and most of the population have not gotten any adequate treatments. According to the World Health Organization, 76% to 85% of the LEDCs has not received adequate treatments for people with disabilities. The main reason that causes this is due to lack of finance. For people to get adequate treatment, the cost should be paid. However, due to poverty, many people with disabilities in LEDCs are not able to receive adequate treatments.

China

China is a country with a high rate of people with disabilities in a population. In 2010, more than 85 million people were identified as people with disabilities. One of the characteristics of people with disabilities living in China is that they are not visible in many of the public areas.

There are laws in China made specifically for helping, protecting, and including people with disabilities in the society, however, this occurs due to legal recognition of only 38% of the people with disabilities. These legally recognized people are later ranked by severity, which causes the living allowances, access to medical services, and many various benefits for people with disabilities to vary. Those who have not been recognized is in a more severe situation. They are rejected from many jobs for they do not meet the standard and the companies cannot receive the legal incentives by hiring them. Although China has one of the world's best laws regarding disability rights, people with disabilities living in China are still suffering from various societal exclusions.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) works and bring governments together to help and decrease the social exclusion of people with disabilities. The WHO celebrates the International Day of persons with Disabilities and help strengthen the disability inclusion through collaborating with other organizations and governments.

They support the member states and organizations in implementing the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and collects data on disability to help the people with disabilities more efficiently.

Possible Solutions

Raising Awareness

Raising awareness seems to be the most basic form of solution, however, it is the most effective. In a research conducted by Scope.org, less people without disability realize that there is

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social exclusion towards people with disability. It has been proven by research that people tend to not realize the exclusion if the exclusion is not faced towards them. Thus, raising public awareness would help more people into participating in preventing social exclusion caused by attitudinal barriers.

Education

Many studies revealed that the education has a significant effect on social life. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 90% of the children with disabilities in developing countries do not receive education. Another study by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the average literacy rate for adults with disabilities was low as 3%. Recommending the governments to cooperate with UNOs and NGOs to help the increase in literacy rate amongst the people with disabilities is necessary for it would help the people with disabilities to gain more chance in work and in society.

Researchers had acknowledged that the cultural consciousness of how people treat and interact with others are affected from the education received at a young age. Thus, teaching children the importance of social inclusion of people with disabilities and having them acknowledge the difference between those with disabilities and those without disabilities is crucial in order to lower the wall between them.

Glossary

Social Exclusion: a state where an individual is unable to participate in economic, social, political, or cultural life which includes unemployment and low income.

Disability: a condition that limits person's activity, movement, or senses. Depression is also a type of disability.

Globalization: process of having an international influence which increases interaction and trade between nations.

Migrants: people who move voluntarily to seek better economic opportunities.

Refugees: people who move involuntarily due to natural disasters or civil war.

Timeline

1817- The first school for children with disability is established: The American School for the Deaf.

1939- Nazi Germany starts to murder people with disabilities, which is estimated to be about 275,000 deaths.

1950- First international movement regarding the rights of people with disabilities through expanding the laws.

1960- The first official Paralympic Games is held.

1970- England passes the world's first act that recognizes the rights of people with disabilities.

1981- The United Nations declares the first International Day of People with Disability.

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2006- The United Nations General Assembly adapts the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2004- The first Disability Pride Parade is held.

2016- First Toolkit on Disability is launched officially.



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