



STIGMAS AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Today in Uzbekistan we face more stigmas of people with physical disabilities than mental or racial stigmas. In order to implement ideas such as building an inclusive society, or removing barriers to the lives of people with disabilities, we must first remove the stigmas that have arisen and passed down from generation to generation. We need to prevent people with disabilities from feeling ashamed of themselves or of a blood relative with a disability. Because the fact that people with disabilities are unable to adapt to social life for fear of the opinions of others is one of the most pressing issues today.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Stigma, People with Disabilities, UN, CRPD, Inclusive Society, Medical Model.

INTRODUCTION

The word stigma is derived from the Greek meaning (stamp, spot, mark) and is a widely used discriminatory term for people who are different from others, including people with disabilities. Stigma is often a result of a decline in people's self-esteem and the value they place on it. In other words, stigmas are a concept that causes people to be stigmatized, discredited, discriminated against and looked down upon. Because most people with disabilities have little contact with people with disabilities, their knowledge, misinformation, and misconceptions about them (stereotypes) that is based on stigmas.

There are now more than one billion people in the world, or about 15 percent of the world's population, who have some form of disability. Many people with disabilities





need medical and social care. However, all persons with disabilities have the same needs as others and therefore need access to basic medical and social services.

Article 25 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) states that "Persons with disabilities have the right to the highest level of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. They are the same level, quality, and level of free or cheap medical services provided to other individuals they should have access to health care due to their disability and should not be discriminated against in health insurance". However, the reality is that many countries do not provide quality services for people with disabilities.

Despite the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) promise of "Don't Leave Anyone Behind", disability is still only included as a priority topic for development policies and programs. However, the work being done on the issue of people with disabilities is very unsatisfactory in many countries, and this work is only part of the expected result to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Today, Uzbekistan has a population of 34 million, of which 780,000 are people with disabilities, according to the United Nations and the World Bank. However, according to the government, only 670,800 people are registered as disabled, which is important not only for the weak disability assessment system, but also for the national disability coverage system. According to other estimates, 2.7% of children have some form of disability and 1.3% have severe disability. Nearly one-third of young people with disabilities are unable to complete their degree programs, and about 77% of young people with severe disabilities and 91% of young people with severe disabilities may be unemployed. In addition, the education system separates children with disabilities, which increases their isolation. There is a lack of impartiality on the part of employers who do not want to employ people with disabilities, which further limits the ability of people with disabilities to find work and improve their skills. In general, the lack of information for people with disabilities remains a major problem and hinders the development of appropriate policies and programs for equal participation. It should also be noted that to date, no legislation has been adopted to discriminate against persons with disabilities.

The new version of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" addresses this issue and Article 6 of the Law states that -- Any exclusion, exclusion, restriction or preference for persons with disabilities, as well as the refusal to create conditions for the use of facilities and services by persons with disabilities, is prohibited.

People with disabilities have a limited understanding of all aspects of disability, especially the most serious physical disabilities. When asked their initial thoughts





about people with disabilities, some non-people with disabilities expressed a desire for compassion, empathy, and help. However, most of the responses were grounded, with only a handful expressing feelings of respect and equality. However, the lack of attention to such issues in Uzbekistan exacerbates the problem. To fully understand the importance of the above problem, here are a few examples from the lives of people with disabilities:

- More than one billion people worldwide have some form of disability, accounting for about 15 percent of the world's population. Between 110 and 190 million people with disabilities have severe functional impairments. The incidence of chronic diseases and technical development of the population is increasing day by day. The situation in Uzbekistan is no exception.
- People with disabilities are more prone to poverty than people without disabilities. Because they live in much worse conditions. Because of the additional costs of medical care or personal support, people with disabilities have the same income and are much poorer than people without disabilities.

Therefore, improving the lives of people with disabilities is one of the most pressing issues of the XXI century.

It can help improve the lives of people with disabilities in Uzbekistan in the following ways:

- Reforming the media to increase public awareness and awareness of the issue of disability;
- Expenditure on many programs for people with disabilities;
- Adopt a new national strategy and action plan to improve the lives of persons with disabilities;
- Improving the education of persons with disabilities, training and hiring qualified personnel;
- Provide adequate funding for living and education;
- To prevent the placement of stigmas in the minds of the younger generation;
- Introduce an inclusive society on a larger and wider scale.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I want to say that the removal of physical and barriers to people with disabilities is the responsibility not only of the state but also of every citizen, and to do this we need to remove stigmas from people with disabilities and call on the public to be equal instead.





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