

Issues faced by disabled children in the school system

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The topic of the rights of disabled children is a widely debated topic throughout the world. The complications that they have to face; not only at homes but also at schools have managed to capture the attention of several international communities. To bring about a proper solution to this first we need to take a look at the issue that these children face at schools.

The major issue pointed out by almost everyone is the shortage of trained teachers in this field, specialized classes are held only in limited number of schools, in the first place. And among these schools, only a few has the convenience of proper resources and expertise teachers to utilize the resources. The main reason for this is the lack of opportunities to expertise in the field. A few months as a trainee is usually not sufficient to widen the horizons of this field throughout the country. Due to shortage of teachers, some disabled students are deprived of their right to gain education.

It is often said that ability becomes pointless without the recourses to prove it. If we take a closer look around our country, we can observe that schools with specialized classes face the problem of undersupply of proper resources. The various devices required for individual students are scarce. Consequently, the teachers are unable to help the students to fully reach their potentials. This is mainly due to financial barriers and also due to insufficient funds. In order to solve these issues, authorities need to provide the schools with maximum resources.

According to the laws about the rights of disabled children, they have to be provided with a certain type of classroom unlike the normal children. This includes fitting classroom structures and designs. However, is this being executed in all the schools? The space allocated for the activities of disabled students are limited. Moreover, there is not even a

therapy room in most schools. Such problems faced by students may not easily be apprehended by us but it is up to us to solve it.

A common difficulty faced by the disabled students is being bullied by the normal kids. This can really be disturbing as well as traumatizing for these students. Not only will this affect the mental conditions of the kids but it might also ignite a fear of coming to school which can last for a lifetime. Frequently cases about calling nicknames and several cases of physical abuse have been reported in schools. New laws need to be made and enforced to protect the rights of these students to provide them with a peaceful atmosphere.

Since time in remembrance, our community has reckoned disabled kids as balls and chains. Gradually, this has changed, however, not completely so. Even today, these kids are isolated and sneered at. These incidents have led these children to believe that they are not worthy. It is the same in schools as well. These lowered self esteems are not usually taken into account. Consequently, it begins to show its effects on every activity of the child. School systems indirectly contribute to these lowered self esteems.

School system is not only composed of learning from books. It also comprises of several extracurricular activities, believed to provide students with all-rounded education. For disabled students, this opportunity is sadly not available. Proper extracurricular facilities for the disabled students are not available in many schools. Due to this, these students have no option of getting involved in any of the after school activities. This can also cause students to believe the inequality among them and the other 'normal' students.

Disabled students do not only refer to the physically handicapped students, According to the rights of the disabled students the gifted students also falls in the same category. These gifted students should also be provided with suitable education materials and recourses. Their potential is higher than the normal students, hence needs to be taught according to that, Nevertheless, this does not take place in schools. In most schools, they are treated the same as the normal, which act as a hitch in their path of success.

It is extremely important for the disabled students to believe that there is no inequality among them and other students when it comes to education. However, often it has been noticed that teachers show partiality among students. Their ideas and opinions are ruled out. This issue: pointed by many students should not be taken lightly. These activities can affect the mental conditions of the students and discourage some of them at the same time.

In Maldives, 2250 children are currently listed as disabled with only 230 of them who are gaining education. We can never afford to lose the contribution that these innocents could

make to the society they belong to. Hence, it is high time that issues related to them have to be addressed. And they should be facilitated with what is required for them.