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The Disabled Must be Assisted

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It is really imperative that a society must ensure that all its residents get their due rights. And the these rights must be ensured without any sort of discrimination as all the members of the society stand equal as far as justice and fair play are concerned. The societies that are multicultural and consist of different ethnic or religious groups must make sure that the rights of minorities are properly guarded. In the similar fashion the rights of the special people – the people suffering

from different sorts of disabilities, must also be ascertained through proper policies and actions by the relevant authorities.

The underdeveloped and the developing countries, in particular, need to give proper attention towards the disabled as such countries face many other problems to tackle with; therefore, they are not capable of giving time and attention to them. Moreover, in such countries the opportunities and proper arrangements are not there that can help the disabled to fight with the harsh challenges of life and be the part of normal lives. Afghanistan is one of the similar types of countries where the opportunities are limited for the disabled. However, when there are efforts in our country regarding raising the standards of living of this section of society, it becomes necessary to appreciate such efforts.

One of the similar types of efforts has been carried out in northern province – Kunduz, where 1,000 people with disabilities received vocational training. Abdul Khalil Waziri, the director of the Social Association of Persons with Disabilities (SAPD) that arranged the training and is funded by Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), said in a statement that the vocational trainings included, tailoring, embroidery, repairing mobile phones and computers, rising honey bees, literacy, English and computer courses, producing jams and pickle. He also said that the 350 individuals who were trained earlier had already found jobs in different sectors while the rests were provided with their capacity building, proposal writing, and marketing and management trainings. Such efforts, if followed and monitored with determination and honest intentions will definitely support the disabled to live normal life and become productive citizens of the society. The disabled persons said that they were able to earn 200 to 500 Afghanis daily and could now feed their families. This clearly shows how the support and positive attitude of the society assist such people in developing optimistic approach towards life and bring prosperity and development not only to themselves but to the country, as well.

Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that the negative attitude of the people towards the disabled may discourage them to a large extent. Unluckily, it can be observed in our country that both the government and the people do not treat them properly. Although Afghanistan has signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, concrete steps are not taken yet in that regard. According to the convention people with disabilities must be given all the opportunities of having proper treatment and the feasibilities to live their daily lives normally. Unfortunately, the government of Afghanistan has been suffering on both the fronts. The medical facilities for the disabled are in way sufficient. Hospitals and care centers for them are not enough, while the existing ones suffer seriously from the lack of modern equipments. The methods of treatment are obsolete. The compensations or improvements that can be made in their lives are not realized appropriately and they go unchecked. Furthermore, the endeavors of government to support them in their daily lives need to be invigorated and they should be supported voluminously.

However, it should be noted that the financial compensation alone is not enough to support their families. At present, the disabled people receive about 400 Afghanis a month from the government, which seems negligible, keeping in mind the rising inflation. It should be noted that more important than the compensation is the job opportunities and vocational training. That will support the disabled people in standing on their own and live a life of self-esteem and reverence.

They cannot keep on depending on the favor of the government indefinitely - if the government feel sympathy they get their share, if not they stay underprivileged. It would be a better option to make them stand on their own and equal to their fellow citizens. Indefinite dependence on the kindness of the government or fellow citizens can in fact cripple them. They will get used to it and shun hard work; some of them may even opt begging. It is not peculiar to find the disabled people begging on the roads, taking advantage of the sympathy of the passersby.

Another important issue in this regard is the response of the fellow citizens towards the people with disabilities. Instead of assisting them out, most of the people further torture them by their discriminatory and even abusive attitude. There are so a lot of instances when such people are socially neglected. Since, they are not able to do the things in the way the other people do, they are considered weird and even called with various inapt titles.

The families with economic hardships and other difficulties curse their children with disabilities and treat them as burden on the family. Many of them are forced to go for begging; in addition, it is hard to find people who readily get into any type of relation with the disabled people. In particular, the females who are with disabilities do not get proper chances of getting married. They remain neglected throughout most part of their lives and suffer from severe kind of social isolation. It is really imperative to understand the difficulties faced by the people with disabilities; whether the disabled are so, naturally or as the aftermath of disasters or wars they should be treated appropriately.

The government has to make sure that they receive all the facilities for their treatment and modern facilities are available for them free of cost, and they get feasibilities that may support them in living their daily lives about normally. On the other hand there should be marked changes in the attitude through which the fellow citizens treat the disabled people; in particular, they should be considered equal human beings.