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People with socially constructed disabilities and their experiences: Case study

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Abstract

This paper explains the experience of people with socially constructed disabilities who don't continue their lives in normal way in their family, society, and own mother land and factors that lead them towards unproductive function in their society. I have taken three cases in my study who have been disabled by socially constructed factors. Respondents are male and female who have been disabled by their society in different ways from birth to present more or less as well as don't continue belonging in normal lives, leading in some cases to social instability and even dysfunction for society. This case study is conducted through the semi-structured questioning interview, journal, book and observation of the sample population with the aim of identifying the condition of people with disability and way of disability construction in our society.

Generally, we know that people are disabled by natural process or because of accidents, but my study focuses on disability construction by social, cultural and economic factors. True, someone learn to speak, walk, adapt to others late or being raped. In this case, parents or family members or relatives are marginalizing them utterly from their own needs or rights that are basic need of them or constituted rights in their society or country. On the other hand, authority or local leaders aren't doing much more to combat these troubling trends.

The census 2011 has shown 1.41% (101,585 people) people of Bangladesh are disabled. WHO has argued that 15% of global population are disabled all over the World among them 2-4% are not functioning for their societies. All people with disabilities have not been disabled by nature or accidents and social and cultural factors make them disabled. The respondents of my study such as have been disabled because of their adaptation to society late and social violence and problems. Thus, they have been excluded from society and have been disabled.

So far policies have been made, the signs are not good, because their problems are not mitigated rather rising sporadically. Since social and cultural factors in conjunction is what allows disability rising is up to the authorities to make aware general population, enforce a suitable environment, and improve their basic needs and constituted rights. People should remain vigilant, keeping an eye on their bad condition. Solutions are fresh in my mind that by reducing social, cultural and economic factors what make disability could have an even bigger impact on mitigating problem of disabled people and help societies to prosper with health, education, and life expectancy improving significantly in many parts of the world. Along with Government strategies, private sector, with so much to gain and to lose from infection, should beginning to focus on their social and cultural status and position.

Keywords: Disability, disability construction, mitigation, unproductive species, impairments, handicaps, sexism, racism, exclusion, marginalization

1. Introduction

Disability is an impairment that may be cognitive, intellectual, physical, and sensory or some combination of them. It affects a person's life time activities from birth to death a bit at a time. No one wants to be disabled in his life but unfortunately, they become disabled before birth, during birth, after birth, in childhood, in teenage, in youth or adulthood. The disabled people can't lead their life without supports of their family or relatives because of being unproductive species. The war, violence, disasters, diseases, conflict are responsible for their unproductive condition which is not expected to anyone. Along with several scholars, I argue that there are social, cultural, economic factors that make them disabled. In description section, I shall explain about it.

2. Objectives of the study

The study emphasizes on the condition of disable people in our society and provides an evaluative solution. Also, the main objectives of this study are-

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1. To analyze social construction of disability
2. To find out socio-economic condition of disabled people.
3. To examine the problems that they face
4. To analyze the experience of disabled people in their society.
5. To identify some solution of disability.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data collection

Both primary and secondary data sources are used in this research to collect necessary data. Primary data are collected through case study method in which a semi-structured questionnaire is used. The secondary data are used to explain the discussion of research, to design report, and to construct the case study format and semi-structural questionnaire.

3.2 Research approach

This research is qualitative research in nature and it utilizes a case study methodology. A case study approach provides an important qualitative insight into the experiences of a selective group of individuals with disability.

3.4 Instruments

To collect data, a semi-structured questionnaire has been followed. Primary data have been gathered through interviewing the respondents in their respective workplace. This questionnaire is used to collect data from three respondents such as Melon Sheik, Saharun Khatun and Rukhsana khatun. The following issues are collected from respondents. Like-

- a. How to this situation is made
- b. Writing Name, hear doing, making and receiving phone calls
- c. Basic personal hygiene, dressing, selecting clothes, organizes furniture or arranges
- d. Purchases, prepares and stores food maintains healthy diet
- e. Cleaning, unclogging drains or toilets
- f. Following disaster safety routines for fire and natural disasters
- g. Counting money, makes change, pays taxes, and monthly bills
- h. Selecting appropriate method of transportation
- i. Knowing how to participate in voting and political decision-making
- j. Understanding basic local, state, and national laws
- k. Understanding rights as a person with a disability
- l. Selecting appropriate clothes, compare prices
- m. Sexuality
- n. Knowing how to obtain basic healthcare

3.5 Research Period

01 March 2019 to 28 June 2019- this time period is used to analyze and collected data from respondents.

4. Limitations

- a. There are only three respondents.
- b. Guardians speak in support of respondents.
- c. Don't use huge time to analysis.
- d. No budge for this study.
- e. Direct respondents aren't agreed to answer this topic.

5. Result and Discussion

5.1 Definitions of Disability

5.1.1 Impairments: in the context of health experience, impairment is any loss on abnormality of psychological or anatomical structure or function.

5.1.2 Disability: in the context of health experience, a disability is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being

5.1.3 Handicaps: in the context of health experience, a handicap is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment on disability, that limits or prevents the fulfilment of a role that is normal (depending on age, sex, social, cultural factors) for that individual.

Source: International classification of impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps (Geneva, WHO 1980 and 1993).

A disabled people is one who in his or her society is regarded or recognized because of a difference appearance, behavior, combination of functional limitation and activity restriction. People with disabilities are citizens of Bangladesh as well as his or her motherland. They have equal rights and they are able to contribute economically and socially to their households and communities, however disabled people are discriminated and socially marginalized and don't have access to basic social services.

WHO argued that developing countries are more vulnerable in disability management and Bangladesh has 3.4 million children with disability and 10.2 million adults with disabilities. On the other hand, BBS shows that 10.62 people are disabled among per 1000 people.

A disabled person doesn't affect an individual but affects the family, community and the state. It is estimated that about 800 million or 25% population in Asian-Pacific regions are affected by disability in family.

Table 1: ESCAP (2015)^[12] has shown a shocking report on total people of Southern Asia with disability. Such as-

Country	People with Disability	Rank
Afghanistan	32,527	169
Bangladesh	160,996	142
Bhutan	775	136
India	1,311,051	135
Iran	79,109	75
Maldives	364	103
Nepal	28,514	145
Pakistan	188,925	146
Sri Lanka	20,715	73
Turkey	78,666	69

Source: ESCAP, 2015^[12].

5.2 Case no.1

Name: Melon sheik

Age: 15 Family Condition: poor family

The Type of Disability: intellectual disabled The Reason of Disability: social and factor

Address: Bagerhat, Khulna, Bangladesh

Melon Sheik is a 15-years-old boy who is intellectual disabled. After birth, he was normal child, but at the time of

voicing, he couldn't speak as a normal kid. His family, neighbors and relatives didn't agree to go out and playing or walking or schooling. It is true that some kids learn to speak late, someone learns to walk late, someone learn to move late. Due to any problem, he couldn't spoke at just time. His family seemed that he hasn't going out and decided to confine him along with, they reduced their care of him, even he has faced many bad condition from his family including bad cloths, bad hear cutting like a mad, bad hear doing, no recreation, no friends and peer group, no schooling, no supporter, lower class food, lower caring of, lower health care and etc.

Ultimately, he has learned to speak with other clearly but that is late. Above condition make him intellectual disabled. His current problems-

He can't speak with other as 15-years-old child, failing go out or school, behavior is not as normal people (all time singing song and dancing and shouting), can't reading or writing, can't committing tasks

Although he can eat, drink or take birth as normal people, he fails to belong in normal life. Others problems are-

- a. He can't how to write name, hair doing, make and receive phone calls
- b. He can't to do basic personal hygiene, select clothes and dressing, organize furniture or arrange properly
- c. His mother helps to purchase, prepare and store food and maintain healthy diet
- d. His family clean drains or toilets, he can't that
- e. No tension about natural disaster. but during disaster, he becomes disappointed
- f. No exact idea about counting money, making change, paying taxes, and monthly bills
- g. He doesn't understand selecting appropriate method of transportation
- h. No desire how to participate in voting and political decision-making
- i. He doesn't Understand basic local, state, and national laws
- j. Rights as a person with a disability are unknown to him
- k. No tension to select appropriate clothes, compare prices
- l. He has Sexuality
- m. He doesn't know how to obtain basic healthcare, only can to take bathe in the pond.

5.3 Case no 2

Name: Saharun Khatun

Age: 35 Family

Condition: Poor family

Type of Disability: Mental Disabled

The reason of disabled: Natural and social Factors

Address: Bagerhat, Khulna, Bangladesh.

Saharun khatun is a 35-years-old girl who is a mental disabled by nature and social factors. After birth, she was a little abnormal with full of body. We are deeply saddened to learn that her life was passing but a Stalker raped her and she became pregnant and mental disabled. The gravity of the situation can hardly be put into words that society avoids her, gradually she failed to run normal life. A person as an ill can understand his condition, similarly a female, being raped by man, understand his condition. Yet her family, relatives, neighbors didn't care of her what she was deserved for leading normal life. Instead, no one supported or helped her to continue normal life. In this regard, many cases such as Saharun, have been occurred and there is no

tend to deal with basic governance and risk-management issues and seldom addressing those cases.

However, she became, as a result, a burden for the society, the family and the country. The present situation of her is she doesn't tolerate others speaking, avoiding social and cultural programs, making quarrel with other, guessing the world is not for her. My semi-structured questionnaire has shown her power of activity.

- a. She can write her name and hear doing, doesn't make phone calls and can receive phone calls
- b. She can take basic personal hygiene and dressing and select cloths and organize furniture or arranges
- c. She can cook only rice and doesn't choose healthy diets
- d. Her family Clean drains or toilets
- e. She has fear about natural disaster.
- f. She can't count money, make change, pay taxes and monthly bills
- g. To select appropriate method of transportation is painful for her
- h. She has little idea how to participate in voting and political decision-making
- i. No idea about basic local, state, and national laws
- j. No idea about rights as a person with a disability
- k. She can choose cloths but can't compare
- l. She has Sexuality
- m. She doesn't know how to obtain basic healthcare properly

5.4 Case No 03

Name: Ruksana Khatun

Age: 30

Family Condition: poor family

Type of disability: Mental Disabled

The Reason of Disability: Social Factors

Address: Bagerhat Sadar, Bagerhat, Khulna, Bangladesh

Rukhsana- a 30 years old girl was born in a happy family. Although her father was day labor, they have no problems to lead a normal way of life. The danger is that a horrible accident broke down her family. The situation is specially grave when her father lost his normal mental condition and his head didn't work exactly. As a result, their family was disappointed even her mother left their family and got married to a man. This is where she has a brother named Dalim who was not able to income. Under this circumstance, she and her brother were short by missing mother and father becoming mad. Both she and her brother were little aged and unfit for earning money that turned them into poverty. For many days, Dalim tried to earn money but he was failed at times. Suddenly by that time she was raped by a relative who is an uncle of Rukhsana. It was indeed a heartbreak of an event and all this is simply unacceptable and people have no words to condemn. Poverty and having been raped her life was going through fire and to that end mental condition was disordered. Sadly, it is not uncommon that when who get chance, they rape her constantly. Someone gave some money so that she would not say about raping or his name who raped her. It is incomprehensive is from young to old man were raping her everyday. She did not forbid, because she had needed some money to get food. Her brother subsequently tried to get justice but it is obvious that powerlessness and bad economy did not help him to get justice. A noise was pronounced in whole society about Rukhsana that she is a prostitute and

sinner. She was pregnant many times but local people obligated her to abortion pregnancy because there is no way to rear that children. She went out from her home and she was often seen near Dargha area, C&B Bazer, Chulkathi Bazer areas. By 10-50 taka, stalkers rape her everyday even she had delivered a baby. Local people gave that baby to a baby missing family because she had not able to rear, care and feed that child. She did not agree to give her child. When her brother started to earn, he was implying all time to go out and wanted to protect her but she did not agree to confine at home. A few people supported her by giving some food and clothes and treatment. Most people used her as a sex worker, way of sexual satisfaction and a visual delight. Now she continues her life by prostituting and stalling clothes of others and was being raped everyday. No one gave her place or support to get normal life without brother. She is a mental disabled. Her daily activities are mentioned on below. Let's have a look

- a. Writing name, making phone calls, hear doing are not done by her
- b. basic personal hygiene, selecting clothes, organizing and arranging furniture is difficult for her.
- c. She only eats food but don't know preparing and storing food and maintain healthy diet.
- d. His brother and brother's wife clean toilets and she some time clean the whole house by ordering of his brother.
- e. During natural disaster, she gets safe place but doesn't take proper step to reduce the bad effects of natural disaster.
- f. Counting money, changing money paying monthly bills etc. are out of control of her.
- g. She doesn't know appropriate method of transportation.
- h. She can give vote by helping others.
- i. She doesn't know basic laws, local, state, and national laws.
- j. She doesn't understand rights as a disabled person.
- k. She stoles clothes from others but doesn't prefer better clothes.
- l. She has sexuality.
- m. She has no knowledge about healthcare.

5.5 Overall problem of disability

Disabled people, a number of people who have sign as unusual are restricted and limited chances to lead normal way of life. The ill effects of disability are widely known and acknowledged, which why we have laws about them. Disability is the problem of disabled person for himself/herself, in family life, it is a burden and creates disorder for the family. It is considered as damage of social image and emerges humanitarian problem, disorder in circumstances /abnormal life style. A person with disability is in the wrong box and faces the problem with physical, vocal and hearing matter.

To become repeated senseless, complexities in treatment and financial loss in the family life, problem of deafness, skill of learning and talking is poor and obstacle in mental maturity, being unable to adjust, some complication in the custom or manner and behavior, there may be unbalanced condition in the body are more prominent consequences of disability.

5.6 Overall Factors of making disability

There are many issues to make a person disabled what may

be unwillingly. It is regrettable that people make them disabled willingly who are integrated people of him or her. The following chart has been made of act up my opinion that shows the causes of disability roughly.

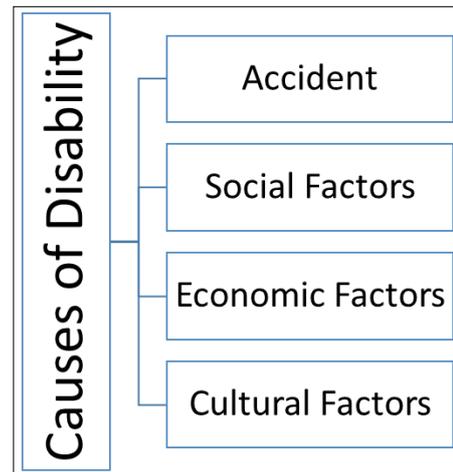


Fig 1: Causes of Disability.

5.7 Accident

At birthing period, a child can be affected many ways. Such as- different circumstances by birth, various kinds of diseases, different kinds of bad habit of mother, hurt during birth, pre-matured birth, immature birth, want of oxygen, any special complicated disease of brain, poisoning, hurt on the head, Complicacy during pregnancy, Born incomplete parts of body by birth.

After birth, a child can be affected in different ways. Among them- close of the hole of ear, to become short of ear screen or tear off the screen, to have abscess in ear, to grow with complicated disease in brain, to water in the ear, sudden high sound, accident, absence of instrument for loud voice, heart attack, being the victim of paralysis, shortage of vitamin in food, removable of body for treatment

5.8 Social factors

Disability activists and several scholars argued that social factors are responsible for making people disabled and disability is socially constructed. Linton *et al.* have said that disability is social phenomena, social constructed and metaphor and cultural. Feminists also argued that social phenomena make disability. Among social phenomena these are more mentionable-lack of social and public facilities, racism, sexism, heterosexism, age and disadvantages of class background, lack of inadequate habitation, lack of fulfillment of basic needs, degradation of environment, lack of proper medical care and facilities, dangerous or inadequate obstacle practices, increasing in the face life-malnutrition and overwork or stress, drug, alcohol, and illness, physical obstacle or inability, lack of good parental care, inadequate public transportation,

5.9 Cultural factors

Schur and Groce (1988) argued that Disability is a cross cultural phenomon having been present in every human culture. Cross culture means a common culture which is seen every society. Disabled people are neglected in every society. Everyone wants to his or her friends or relatives or subordinates have physical appearance, facial scaring, body size, educated, socialized and smart. When a relative, friend

or subordinate can't fulfill that criteria, they become disabled for being friend or relative. On the other hand, generally people blame them that fate, bad luck, sins of parents, evil spirits make them disabled. Also, women depending on men make women disabled.

5.10 Economic

Viewing disability as a social factor, several scholars stated that Disability is an economic issue. There are many economic reasons for being disabled. Among them- lack of basic resources, lack of nutrition, failure of economic support, poverty, unemployment, in adequate rehabilitation, poor communication services, inadequate training and education.

5.11 Possible ways of reducing disability

They are disabled people who have disability that means any restriction or lack of ability to perform activities in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. It is time, to reduce the problems that they have faced in their social lives. I have made a chart on possible ways of reducing problem of people with disability as a growing number of countries now do. When a disabled person gets help or support from others, he or she play a strong role in nation-building activities. I have made this chart by presenting the possible ways of reducing disability problem as my influential vice to reduce problems of those people.

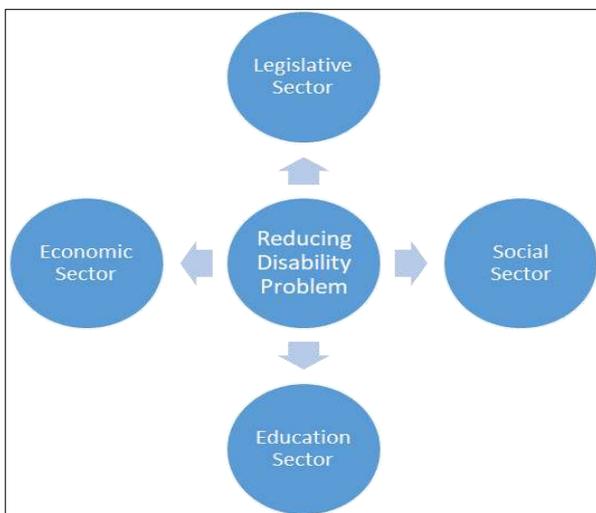


Fig 2: Possible way of Reducing Disability Problem

5.12 Economic sectors

Economic supports are more important for disabled people. There are many policies among them- building proper environment and transportation system, income security, giving work in industries, rising seats for them, making quota system for them, giving technical supports, arranging low interest based loan for them, donating money, regional and international cooperation etc.

As well as Melon or Saharun or Rukhsana won't be burden for society, if their family provide proper treatment to them. So, keeping that in mind, economic supports are most important to reduce that problem.

5.13 Legislative Sectors

Many countries don't count them in census. Firstly, they must have counted as citizen. Also, giving IT training by govt., making new laws, amending unused laws, giving

health care, rehabilitation, promote human right are helpful to reduce the problem of disabled people.

The laws can steer the country ahead to the pinnacle of success, similarly they can also doom the country through their deeds. When proper laws regulate the society, Saharun won't be raped and disabled. On the other side, Rukhsana's brother would get justice for Rukhsasa.

5.14 Social sectors

Changing social trend is needed to reduce problem of disabled people. Among them- building women rights, women empowerment, rising awareness, reducing violence and discrimination, encouraging for self-reliance are mentionable. We have to lead an ideal life. We should not compromise with justice under any circumstances and always keep our conscience awake. When it is ensured, Saharun and Rukhsana won't be disabled.

5.15 Educational sectors

When a disabled person come in education sector, he or she won't be burden for family or society. So, making quota system for them, no tuition fees for them, making way to go to educational institution, arranging vocational training, using symbolic language for them who don't understand general language can reduce problem of disabled people. Graduate, post-graduate students, teachers and Scholar should study on disability.

These and others similar initiatives, have been made by other GOs and NGOs, civil society, and other actors, help in many ways.

6. Discussions of findings

At the eleventh hours, we can understand that people with disabilities have many barriers to lead a normal life, someone somewhere are disabled because of natural ways, such as premature birth, birth with incomplete body etc., but most people are disabled by social and cultural process. Sexism and racism have vital role to make individuals disabled all over the World. In addition, local, national and international level policy makers can use these initiatives frequently for creating new possibilities as cooperation of disabled people. As well as above initiatives are arguably the best hedge against current threats, challenges, and insecurities, and present extraordinary opportunities to make a positive environment for them.

7. Conclusion and Recommendation

Ultimately, we can say that disabled people are our property and we should not avoid and neglect them. Our Effectives efforts can change their sadness by the removal of cultural, physical, social and other barriers that prevent people with disabilities from entering, using or benefiting from the various systems of society that are available to other citizens and residents. Recently several countries, NGOs, Institutions, Groups, Universities, specific discipline are try to solve this social problem of disability. Among them, Bangladesh govt., Bangladeshi universities- specially University of Barishal, NGOs are concerned to this issue. The message is clear that we need a cooperative effort on national and global scale to change our current situation. I hope this problem will be reduced as soon as possible. Along with public and private sectors, civil society and many more must step up and sign on important disability oriented programs.

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