

Understand Disability, Change attitude and participating in Building advisability Inclusive society!!!

By

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In 2008 the world has changed its perspective towards disability. This was basically shifting from the old medical perspective/ model of disability to a new social perspective/ model.

Medical perspective of disability mainly suggested that people are disabled by their unusual/ undesired visible and invisible features that were thought to confer to them great limitations when it comes to standard human performance. This understanding shaped societies' demeanor and attitude towards people with impairments. It therefore eventually found its way in societal practices, cultures, laws policies and budget both the community and the national level. Eventually everything meant for people was exclusive of people with impairments. This was the case despite both the international, and national initiatives that would boost inclusive development that leaves no one behind in terms of the current SDGs. Taking for an example here at home (Lesotho) Free Primary Education policy was meant to increase enrollment and retention of primary going students in school. However, the implementation strategy as well as the Monitoring and evaluation system of this policy did not take in to account learners with impairments. Similarly, no preparations were then made to ensure that those with impairments benefit equally from this policy.

Pursuant to the disability movement which began in 1992 the international community was bound to rethink the ways in which people with impairments could benefit equally from the already existing developmental strategies. It then appeared that the medical model of disability is actually the main predicament which consequently exclude people with disability from the mainstream

society. In 2008, through the adoption of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** the international community came up with a new perspective of disability that should influence all the societal practices, demeanor and attitude towards people with disability. This perspective also brings a change of approach to development. It should also find its way to the national laws, plans, policies and budgets. It requires that people with disabilities be sufficiently mainstreamed across all the sectors at both the national and community levels. This means that it should find its way to each and every household and community. This is social perspective/ model of disability.

According to this perspective, impairment is just a form of human diversity and not necessarily a real issue. In terms of this perspective, people with impairments have their own unique and diverse abilities that need societal support as opposed to medical corrections to unleash one's potential to perform in society. Opposed to medical perspective, social model dictates people are not disabled by their unusual or undesired features rather by the environment that is impairment insensitive and non-responsive around them. The word in this context environment here refers to both the physical and non-physical surroundings that includes but not limited to negative demeanor and attitude of people towards impaired people, disability exclusive and non-responsive public services, laws, policies, plans and budgets. In terms of Article 1, of the disability rights founding law; UNCRPD, People are first impaired then become disabled by the unfriendly environment around them which usually put both visible and invisible limitations on how far impaired people can go, reach, interact and perform and contribute in society.

The impairment barrier full environment has existed for quite a long time meaning that it will take even longer to eliminate all these barriers

this means that it will take long for people with impairment then to suffer disability. This is the reason why people with impairments are also people with disabilities. (because they are perpetually disabled).

Since 2008, the international community and the organizations of people with disabilities are calling the nations to adopt a new social model or perspective of disability in order to ensure that nations embark on a journey towards **respect for human rights of all, democratization as well as inclusive development in line with the World Development Agenda 2030!** The nations are called to eliminate disability not through medical corrections through eliminating the disability barriers and paving a way for inclusion and equal participation of people with disabilities in both private and public spheres! Knowledge and change of attitude is central to this, LNFOD thus appeals to Basotho Nation to hear this call!

Let us all join hands in creating Basotho Nation that is barrier free thus disability inclusive

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