

Law and policy situation of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia

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Introduction

- laws and policies represent official and formal view of an issue or subject.
- Laws and policies both differ from, and relate to each other in function and essence.
- They may not necessarily co-exist on the same issue or theme.

Significance

- Existence of Laws and policies on disability marks the beginning of inclusion in The list of strategic issues of the country.
- provides a sound basis and legitimacy for disability work.
- It introduces and guides proper social perception of disability.
- Represents some level of commitment towards disability.

Evolution of disability law and policy making and

- disability was not much a matter of law and policy before 1991.
- The first piece of law on disability is the 1971 imperial order no. 70/1971.
- It was made to establish rehabilitation agency of the disabled.
- This should not imply a complete absence of disability intervention before 1991.
- Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities began much earlier.

Factors leading to disability law and policymaking

- the advent of democracy and change in the political system.
- Introduction of new political culture and associated measures.
- Inspiration of the disability movement by the new environment and its revitalization.

specific policy and legislative measures

- constitutional clause on disability in 1995.
- Employment right legislation of 1994.
- Social welfare and development policy in 1997.
- Preferential employment right clause in 2007.
- A human right-oriented Employment legislation in 2008.
- CRPD ratification proclamation in 2010.
- Accessibility or building legislation in 2009 and 2011.
- disability-inclusive national development plan 2011.

shortcomings and gaps

- formal commitment has not yet sufficiently manifested in action.
- There are still legislative and policy gaps.
- There is still a need for harmonizing the domestic law with the content of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities as required by article 4 of the treaty.
- Disability laws are more-urban-oriented with little significance to those living into eh countryside.
- Little policy influence in the private sector.

policy and legislative outcome

- employment opportunity increased.
- Parliament included disability in its oversight function; and ministries and agencies began to mainstream disability in the respective mandate.

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challenges in addressing disability in disaster and risk management

- there is little room for the protection in the mainstream policy.
- Low attention or focus.
- Lack of skill and knowledge in managing disability.
- information and management system is not friendly.
- DPOs are not well-involved in disaster and risk management policy and practice.

opportunities

- international norms and standards are being incorporated in national policy and legal system.
- Though not so visibly, disability has been referred to in the DRM policy of the country.
- The process of post-2015 disability inclusive development agenda has already begun.

recommendations

- review the disaster and risk management policy and practice from disability perspective.
- Consider article 11 of the convention and assess its implementation within the context of disaster and risk experience of Ethiopia.
- Take the necessary measure to include disability in the post-2015 development and disaster and risk management plan.

Design and implement a massive and intensive training and disability sensitization program in all the DRM- relevant sectors.