Exploring the Potentials of Community-based Inclusive Development with Disabled People in Uzbekistan

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How many disabled people are there in Uzbekistan?

Reported disability prevalence (% of total population)


Number of reported disabled people by gender (thousands)


Source: The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics www.stat.uz

Source: Gender Statistics of Uzbekistan www.gender.stat.uz
Classification of disability in Uzbekistan

Under 16

MCC

Group 1
- Social benefits
- Disability pension
- No benefits since 2011

Group 2

Group 3

Home schooling

Specialised institutions

16 and over

MLEC

Non-disabled

Non-disabled

Social benefits

336,880 som ≈ $40 per month

≈ $160 per month

average salary in 2017 was

336,880 som
≈ $40 per month

No benefits since 2011
The legacy of the Soviet Union

- disabled people or **invalids** – Soviet citizens who lost their labour capacity
- functional model of disability based on a person’s “usefulness for society”
- **institutionalisation**
- “**The are no invalids in the USSR!**” (1980, Moscow Olympics)
- Repression of any independent disabled activism
Community-based inclusive development (CBID)

• Multi-sectoral bottom-up strategy for equalisation of opportunities, poverty reduction and social inclusion of disabled people
• Alternative to institutionalisation
• Identification of needs and resources at community level
• Suitable to the context of low- and middle-income countries
• Practiced in more than 90 countries but in Central Asia the preference has been given to institutionalisation

Mahalla as a traditional Uzbek community

Kengash (General Assembly of Households)

Oqsoqol (Chairman)

Muovin (Deputy Chairman)

Kotib (Secretary)

Social protection commission

Reconciliation commission

CBID commission

Pilot project by JICA on Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) in 5 mahallas of Tashkent city in 2008-2010
Disability and Islam in post-Soviet Uzbekistan

Cultural/religious understanding of disability

Disability is caused by ‘jinn’ (evil spirits)

Disability is a divine punishment

Disabled people are objects of charity
Traditional vs. CBID view on disabled people

**Traditional views on disabled people:**
1. Sin (karma), evil spirits
2. Vulnerable person
3. Person in need of help
4. Patient
5.Recipient of welfare
6. Recipient of charity

**CBID view on disabled people:**
1. Social resources
2. Empowered person
3. Member of society
4. Citizen
5. Policy advocator
6. Social development promoter

Source: Modified from APCD
Main research questions:

• How do disabled peoples’ lived experiences and understandings of disability affect their participation?

• How societal attitudes towards disability affect participation of disabled people?

• How can we empower disabled people to promote community-based inclusive development (CBID) in Uzbekistan?
Participatory action research with disabled people

Phase 1.
Exploratory inquiry
- identifying disabled co-researchers
- 53 household interviews with disabled people
- 13 elite interviews
- participant observation

Phase 2.
Co-operative inquiry
- participatory workshops with separate groups of disabled people (max 8 per group)
- participatory video and methods
- participant observation

Phase 3.
Follow-up inquiry
- follow-up action and problems related to its implementation
- provide feedback of preliminary data analysis
- presentation and dissemination of findings

June – September 2018
May – September 2019
My co-researchers from NGO “Sharoit Plus”

Mukhhabbat
Abdulla
https://www.facebook.com/sharoitplus
www.sharoitplus.uz (under construction)
Safiya
Muyassar
Piloting participatory video with co-researchers
Participatory video with disabled people

- Participation
- Individual development
- Communication
- Community building
- Critical awareness and consciousness raising
- Self-advocacy and representation
- Capacity development and self-reliance
- Empowerment

Source: Shaw and Robertson (1997)
Thank you

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