

Social Challenges that Faces Disabled Women in Iraq: Specifically in Ala'lam Quarter in Baghdad

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ABSTRACT

The issue of social challenges and problems facing women with disabilities is one of the most important contemporary humanitarian and social issues due to its impact and direct connection to human rights and the principles of equality and social justice. Despite the achievements made in the areas of legislation related to this category and the services directed to it, there are many who still suffer from several difficulties that hinder their full integration into society. Social challenges can be represented by the persistence of negative stereotypes that can entrench concepts of disability and marginalization. In addition, social problems related to social isolation, poverty, unemployment, and difficulty accessing various services, whether health, education, or job opportunities. These challenges lead to a decline in self-confidence among people with disabilities and weak social participation. The importance of this research is highlighted by the fact that it seeks to analyze and understand the nature of these social challenges and problems and then determine their effects on the psychological and social adaptation of women with disabilities. This research also aims to provide scientific proposals that enhance the activation of legislation and policies that support the rights of persons with disabilities and reach the facts and results in the field in reality through the distribution of a questionnaire form. Thus, this research was based on the approach (case study) by determining a random intentional sample for a group of women with disabilities in the disabled gathering located in the Al-Ilam neighborhood area in Baghdad Governorate. The size of the studied community was (50), while the size of the sample chosen was (5%), meaning that (10) of these women. All members of the sample confirmed that there are many social challenges facing them.

The research recommended:

We hope that the current and future governments in Iraq will work to develop ways to solve the problems facing women with disabilities in society, as well as strengthen the role of the media in spreading cultural awareness of the rights of this group

1. INTRODUCTION:

The issue of persons with disabilities is one of the humanitarian and social issues that has received wide attention, whether at the international or local level, as it represents a challenge to social development that includes the values of justice and equality in society. Many international conventions, most notably the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006, have emphasized the necessity of empowering and involving persons with disabilities in all areas of life without exclusion or discrimination. Despite all the developments witnessed by Arab societies in various fields, including the field of services and care provided to persons with disabilities, the social reality still reflects the existence of many social challenges and problems that, in turn, may hinder their full integration and effective participation in building society, especially for women. The most prominent of these challenges is the lack of community awareness of their rights, environmental and material obstacles that limit job opportunities, education, and community participation, in addition to the continued negative view of disability. That is, disability is not an individual problem, but rather a societal issue in which various social, economic, psychological, and cultural factors overlap. This makes it

a comprehensive phenomenon that requires comprehensive treatment that may go beyond the medical dimension to include various dimensions, including developmental and social. These data highlight the importance of researching the challenges and problems facing people with disabilities because they represent an entry point to understanding the reality experienced by this group and also reveal the shortcomings in the policies and services provided to them. This study seeks to analyze the nature of the challenges that hinder the integration of women with disabilities into society, in order to propose mechanisms through which the disabled can be supported and empowered to perform their various social roles in a normal manner and in a manner consistent with their abilities and human rights.

Study problem:

First:

Women with disabilities are one of the groups that suffer the most from social marginalization, as they face a set of challenges in which disability overlaps with gender issues. These overlaps exacerbate their suffering, which reduces their chances of integrating effectively into society. They often find themselves exposed to negative views from society, as some lack the necessary awareness of their rights. The doors are closed to them in the fields of

education, work, and effective participation. Despite the efforts of some institutions to support people with disabilities, women remain the most vulnerable to isolation and discrimination. The reasons behind this are many, including cultural traditions and customs that reduce their status and diminish their role in society. Therefore, the research problem is to study and analyze the social challenges facing women with disabilities, and to try to determine their roots and effects on the social, psychological, and educational dimensions of their lives. This research seeks to explore effective ways to reduce these challenges and enhance their chances of integration into society equally and fairly.

Second: The importance of the study:

Scientific importance:

The scientific value of this study arises from its significant role in enriching the academic space related to disability studies. It not only provides new data and indicators that could become a technical reference for students and researchers, but it also opens the doors to a deeper understanding of topics related to the social challenges facing women with disabilities. The study also contributes to eliminating knowledge gaps by analyzing the social reality of this marginalized group.

Practical significance:

The practical importance of this study is highlighted by its provision of in-depth insight into the main social challenges facing women with disabilities. It also proposes practical and unconventional solutions that can serve as a guide for institutions and ministries concerned with implementing development plans and programs aimed at effectively integrating this group into society, while meeting their needs and providing basic services to ensure their balanced community participation.

Third: Study Objectives:

Every study has a set of objectives, and the objectives of this study can be summarized as follows:

To identify the most significant educational challenges faced by women with disabilities.

To uncover the most significant psychological challenges faced by women with disabilities.

Fourth: Study Hypotheses:

There is a statistically significant relationship between the type of challenge and the type of disability.

There is a statistically significant relationship between age level and the type of challenge.

There is a statistically significant relationship between gender and social stigma.

Fifth: Defining the concepts:

Social challenges in language: It is the plural of challenge, and it is said, "He challenged him," meaning he deliberately did it, and I challenged so-and-so: if I competed with him in an action and disputed with him for victory. (Ibn Manzur 1979, Lisan al-Arab, Cairo, Dar al-Maaref).

Social challenges technically: Opinions differed on this matter. The concept of social challenges, according to UNESCO, is: the complex problems that affect our society and require multi-dimensional solutions. These challenges include issues such as poverty, discrimination, inequality, conflict, deterioration, high unemployment rates, inadequate education, and weak infrastructure.

Defining social challenges operationally: They are a set of complex problems that women with disabilities face in society, and that limit their active participation in it, requiring the finding of solutions for them.

People with disabilities: It is a concept that includes girls and women who may suffer from mental, motor, visual, hearing, or multi-disabled disabilities, which, when it interacts with various barriers, hinders their participation in society. (United Nations Fund, Promoting Gender Equality, United Nations, 2013, no page).

In the social approach, Disability is viewed as a result of the individual's interaction with their environment, which does not accommodate that individual's differences. Consequently, the lack of accommodation hinders the individual's participation in society. Inequality is not attributed to the disability itself, but rather to society's inability to remove the barriers that hinder people with disabilities. This model places the person and their disability at the heart of its concern, and recognizes the values and rights of people with disabilities as part of society. (Khamayel Muhammad, "Women with Disabilities in the Labor Market," Unpublished Master's Thesis, College of Arts, University of Baghdad, Department of Sociology, 2024, p. 13.

Procedurally disabled women: They are women who suffer from a long-term physical disability resulting from genetic or acquired factors that have affected their lives in particular and their participation in society in general.

REFERENCES

N/A