

# An Analytical Approach to People with Disabilities Mainstreaming Policies In Western and Arab Countries

Case Study: The American Swedish Example and the Egyptian Saudi.

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# Introduction

- WHO report 2011 → Rise in NO. of people with disabilities to one Billion.
- Necessitates New Policies for Mainstreaming and Segregation Prevention.
- Mainstreaming depends → Not only the Individual
- → But also on Supportive Environment i.e. on the Universal Design Concept

# Aim of Study

- Illuminating Successful Mainstreaming Strategies



- Reveal Efforts to Normalize Lives of People with Disabilities



# Individuals with Disabilities

❖ Various Definitions according to :

- **Medical Model:**  
Health & Functional Limitations
- **Social Model:**  
Negative Attitudes
- **Environmental Model:**  
Architectural Barriers



# Worldwide Statistics (1)

- Numbers Increase and Causes

From 650 Millions

↓  
To One Billion including:

200 Millions

45 Millions

269 Millions

↓  
Extreme

Functional

Limitations

↓  
Blind

↓  
Vision Impaired

80 % of these Numbers → Developing Countries

# Worldwide Statistics (2)

## ❖ Causes of the Increase in Numbers

- 1) Spread of diseases & drug Addiction
- 2) Child Disability



Armed Conflicts



3 disabled for each child killed

- 3) Increased Life Expectancy  
Elderly with Impairments



# Mainstreaming People with Disabilities

- Mainstreaming → Empowering people with Disabilities to claim and practice their Rights.  
↓
- Enabling Environment → UN “CRPD”  
Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
←
  - Workplace → Equitable , Non discriminatory ,  
Does not create Barriers .  
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  - Making appropriate adjustment to workplace environment policies to allow participation and inclusion .

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# Enabling Environments...What are?

Environments → Participation + Inclusion.  
→ Accessible removing Barriers  
Facilitate Performance

↓  
Accessibility Culture based on Education and Awareness  
+ UNIVERSAL DESIGN that allows fulfilling them

↓  
Not only the Architecture Profession  
But Also Policy makers and Disability Organization.

Accessibility → Not be limited to Buildings +Surroundings  
But Include Transportation systems.

# Mainstreaming Policies in Studied Countries

- Western Countries
  - \* United States of America.
  - \* Sweden.
  
- Arab Countries
  - \* Egypt.
  - \* Saudi Arabia.

# United States of America

- According to their definition of Disability:

Population of Persons with Disabilities

54 – 56.7 millions → 19% of Population

**Disability** : difficulty to perform socially expected activities and recognizing environment interaction with pathologies to cause disability.

# United States 1990 Legal Act for Disability

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Passed by Congress in 26 July 1990
- An accessible environment + all the features that guarantee inclusion of the members of this group in social life, should be applied.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the ADA proclamation:
  - ❑ People with disabilities are living in more accessible neighborhoods with greater access to technologies.
  - ❑ Young people with disabilities have access to educational opportunities as their able-bodied peers.

# United States (1)

## Accessible Transportation

## Accessibility Features



# United States (2)

## Accessible Landscape



## Accessible Features



## Accessible vertical circulation



## Accessible Elevators



# Sweden (1)

- ❖ **Numbers of Individuals having some form of Disability: 1.5 Million**
- ❖ **Sweden's New Strategy for Disability Policy:**
  - **The New Strategy launched 2011 to last 2016 gives individuals with disabilities greater opportunity to participate in social life.**
  - **Ten items were given priority among which:**
    - **The justice system**
    - **Transportation systems**
    - **Information Technology.**

## Sweden (2)

- In accordance with the “Enabling Environment”:
  - Grants are given to Individuals with Disabilities for homes modification. This could be directed towards:
    - Removing doorsteps.
    - Mountains rails for support.
    - Widening doorways.
    - Fitting automatic door openers.
    - Installing special elevators .
- Grants for car allowance could be provided.
- The law is directed against discrimination towards people with extensive disabilities and enforces their human rights.

# Sweden (3)

Automatic Door Opener  
Added



Making Entrance Accessible



Removing Entrance steps



# Sweden (4)

Mounting Rails for support



Making Entrance Accessible



Remodeling Kitchen for Wheelchair User



Adding Elevator to the Home



# Egypt Mainstreaming Policy

- ❖ Egypt's Population of Persons with Disabilities
  - According to Authority Statistics:
    - 5.7 Millions Persons representing 7% of the population.
  - According to the World Health Organization:
    - 8.5 Million Persons representing 10% of the population.
- ❖ Discrepancy  Not Including certain types of disabilities (Rheumatic disorders, Heart Conditions & Multiple disabilities ).<sub>19</sub>

# Egypt's Policy towards the Population with Disability

## Egypt's Disability Laws:

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1950 | → | Insurance + Pension   |
| 1959 | → | 2% of labor force Disabled  |
| 1975 | → | Law 39 rights to services & Rehabilitation + raising Labor force from 2-5%.                     |
| 1996 | → | Childhood law providing social, health + psychological care allowing inclusion + participation. |
| 2003 | → | Egyptian Access Code.   |
| 2013 | → | Egypt's New Constitution guarantees Human Rights + Rehabilitation of People with disabilities . |

# Accessibility Features Outdoors

## Al Azhar Park – Cairo- Egypt



Accessible Entrance



Park Main Entrance

# Accessibility Features Outdoors



**Disabled Parking in front of the National Cancer Institute.**



**National Cancer Institute Cairo.**

# Accessibility Features Outdoors



Although the ramp does not conform to disability requirements it is still a trial at Cairo University.



Adding a ramp at level change at the faculty of Science Cairo University.

# Accessibility Features Outdoors



Wheelchair Users Ramp in front of Cairo University New Library.

# Accessibility in Schools

Egypt's Language Free  
Experimental School -  
Shebin El Kome- Menofia-  
Egypt.



Ramp leading to  
classes for children  
with disabilities.



Toilet for children with  
disabilities

# Saudi Arabia Mainstreaming Policy

- Saudi Arabia Population of Persons with Disabilities:
- Studies and unofficial survey revealed the number is around 4.5% of the population.
- Annual Medical Statistics → Saudi Ministry of Health
- NO Accurate Numbers  
Types  
Location } People with Disabilities

Saudi Arabia provides these people a life of dignity through the use of social welfare means to allow them to adapt to society social life.

# Saudi Arabia Policy towards People with Disabilities

- 1998 Disability Access Code
- Providing services → participation of people with disabilities in social activities + getting suitable jobs.
- **Inclusion of Students with disabilities in Regular Schools:**
  - Mainstreaming these students was a successful experience and a model for other Arab Countries.
  - Enforcing Access for All Regulations of Architecture and Transportation Facilities in order to allow People with Disabilities easy access to different areas in the community.
  - Monitored by the Saudi Supreme Council of people with disability policies and their application.

# Accessibility in Saudi Arabia



Accessible Vans



Accessibility for Pilgrims.



Accessibility for Worshippers in Medina.

# Accessibility in Saudi Arabia



New Mosque in Saudi Arabia



Jeddah shop Entrance

# Conclusion (1)

- The study provides lessons to be learned between the West and Arab countries.
- USA formulated the ADA Law considered “the most comprehensive federal civil rights law “ as it prohibits discrimination and guarantees same opportunities for people with disabilities as everyone else.
- Sweden national policy emphasized that disability should be an integrated part of all society activities and inclusion is an ideology manifested in all its policies.

## Conclusion (2)

- Egypt whose disabilities law go back to the fifties of the last century still needs enforcement and more awareness about the creation of an Enabling Environment.
- Saudi Arabia Efforts in this field are remarkable especially in integration students with disabilities in regular schools.
- These two examples are on the right track to mainstream the members of this group and allow their participation in social life.

# Thank you for your Attention

