

Disabled or Enabled in the UN

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“The disability is not in the person - it is in the society which does not allow the person to enjoy equal rights,” quotes the General Assembly. Persons with disabilities struggle with being treated equally, it is usually overlooked even though it is an issue worldwide. The problems often being, being discriminated against, being denied basic rights, not having fair opportunities to education, and not being employed to pay for their basic needs and to be able to get adequate healthcare for their disabilities.

The Montessori Model United Nations is inspiring youth to create a better world, by hosting a variety of committees that are focusing on the different problems around the world. The Social, Humanitarian and Culture committee is featuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Exactly 34 delegations around the world participated in this committee. The countries that the delegates acquired, ranges from developed countries to 3rd world countries, this is vital to see the perspectives of the issue from a diverse standpoint.

Many countries believe that education is the first issue that needs to be solved. People with disabilities are segregated into their own schools and not integrated with enabled kids their own age, which prohibits the children at regular schools to see the view of the disadvantage and learn that it is not a bad thing. These kids with disabilities, are not offered the same opportunities and access to education as most children. We should be focusing on the youth that are disabled and start a new generation that fixes these discriminatory issues head on.

Spreading awareness is a solution that is easy enough to overcome, summarizes a majority of the delegates, by the more developed countries stepping in and letting their civilians recognizing the disadvantage that a disability can cause. If you are in a developing country, such as Afghanistan, the problems are worse and much more difficult to solve, and many people around the world are unaware that the issue even exists.

Simply educating children about the issues that people with disabilities have is an easy way to spread awareness and make more people feel more inclusive, and that they can make a difference. For example integrating the schools, and having classes

that teach about disabilities. A counter argument that occurred was that spreading awareness through technology was a cheap and easy way to go. Korea was one of the countries that spoke up and said “Promoting awareness via social media” would be an efficient way to reach to communities around the globe. On the other side of the spectrum many countries denied this solution, saying their countries cannot access technology affordably, and it is only applicable to the more fortunate areas.

The problem of unequal treatment of the disabled versus the enabled persons has been going on for decades, but only now has it come out of the closet. Promoting awareness can be the start to ending the discrimination, but even with that we are no where near the finale that awaits us in the future of the disabled and enabled. How long will it be until this struggle prevails into equality? It is a question that is yet to be answered.