

Editorial

Upcoming elections and the need for persons with disabilities participation

The upcoming presidential election of Afghanistan is important for all afghan people; because elections determine the future of our people. If there is no election there will be no elected government if there is no government then we may not be able to see the social life in a legitimate way. Elections pull us toward legitimacy and justice, and it encourage us how to raise our voice for our own rights and how to take active steps toward social development.

Without any doubt, election is valuable for all afghan people, while it has more value for persons with disabilities unfortunately they are the important part of the afghan community that the war has involved them in an endless sorrow due to the internal fighting and other invasions. If this part of our afghan community is not taken into consideration then this will mean that we may not have fair and free elections.

Persons with disabilities are unforgettable segment of the Afghan community and right now our community is still taking the burden of aimless and endless war. Every day new people have been push toward the disability and increase the tragedy of disability. In addition hundreds of problems have been created for persons with disabilities due to these wars. Because of the war, environmental and seasonal diseases every day our mothers deliver children with disabilities. The reason is stills our unstandardized living and environment.

It is not like that we can't prevent the disability as human being, many people understand that what type of rights persons with disabilities have in our society and how they should be treated and what kind of assistance they need. This knowledge can be officially recognized when persons with disabilities understand not only their rights but also to practice their real struggle for achieving their due rights.

If there is an issue of the struggle continuity then the participation in election is compulsory and to facilitate conditions for the participation in election is the responsibility of both government and persons with disability if they don't agree with each other it seems that it will not have positive results.

Persons with disabilities have to bravely participate in the election and independent election commission and government security offices should assist persons with disabilities in this regard. The most important thing is to have the plan in our hearts for participation in the presidential election.

There are others problems in the way of our country election, but everyone think about their own anxiety and it is most important for us to be provided assistance in partnership for persons with disabilities at the time of their participation in election. Election commission should take encouraging steps for the participation of persons with disabilities and the encouragement from the civil society organizations is also very much important.

We would like to call on persons with disabilities to fully participate in the election and to vote for their favorite candidates; hence there is no any appropriate way without this. Our rights can't be achieved by conflict and force, so we have to proceed optimistically and politely.

There are bunch of propaganda about the year 2014 and some time it is called predestination election year, but it does not mean that neither afghan people will be existed nor Afghanistan, both of them will be existed, while we do not bend our head to violence and sacrifice, then it is better to continue our life in an easy and cheaper way and that is protecting our rights and residence in a; legitimate government. Day by day the range of hate increased from war and conflict, a small number of people want war but most of the people demand that we should have election under the good government system.

These are the matters in poor countries that law slowly steps forward, but slow steps are better than no step, while we will try to be quick these steps. May God spread the atmosphere of love and brotherhood instead of barbarism by coming election in our country and select negotiation instead of war. In the same condition the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities will be important as well and the problems will be decreased from one day to another.

Persons with disabilities can nominate themselves like other people



Dear Gadoon Readers we have conducted and interview with Ms. Nafisa Sultani (Head of Martyrs, persons with disabilities, inheritance and refugee affairs in Mashrano Jaga) to divert your kind attention to it.

Question 1: what are the major activities undertaken by commission so far?

1 Answer: with regard to your question I would like to briefly say that the commission has tried a lot to ratify the law and bring reforms that has been occurred in the past. Endorsement and joining Afghanistan with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities from both the chamber of the Afghan parliament was one of the major tasks which has been taken into account by this commission.

In connection of shelter for Persons with disabilities an important work is already done where the shelter land is given free for persons with disabilities based on the National Law on the benefit and privileges of persons with disabilities. In this regard work is also going on with the Nation Welfare Organization.



Question 2: what is your point of view about the persons with disability to vote and to nominate themselves in the election process?

Ans 2: we have encouraged persons with disabilities in the process of election to nominate themselves and utilize their right to vote. In this regard it has been communicated to the Independent Commission of election to provide the necessary facilities for persons with disabilities at the time of election

Question # (3) what kinds of activities have been undertaken by your commission for active participation

of persons with disability in the election process?

Ans 3: As I have mentioned earlier that the facilities needed should be provided to persons with disabilities and all the polling stations should be made accessible for persons with disabilities.

Question # (4) what is your view about removing of social, economic and political problem?

Ans 4: in my point of views its very much viable that comprehensive awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities should be given to the people in their villages and remote areas in Afghanistan so that people can be made aware of the rights of persons with disabilities and the government of Afghanistan will pave the way for their full participation and social reintegration.

The capacity of the people can be built through awareness creation while the capacity of persons with disabilities themselves can be build through provision of income generation projects so that they will not remain as a burden on the shoulders of the community and will independently take an active part in the development of their country.

What are Persons with Disabilities Saying



Aburahman is the resident of Kunar province Manogay district and he works in one of the non public organization in Kabul.

He said that he was about 25 years old whenever a mortar

hit their house in his village seriously injuring him resulted in his right leg amputation. For the two complete years I was walking with crutches, but suffering many problems to be fully recovered. My family encouraging me a lot, so that I should not be disappointed. I was suffering a lot because I was a young man when I became a person with disability. Later on I have been married and have two children. All though I am a person with disability, but I am very happy in my life. I work hard and earn Halal food for my family. I don't extend my hand for begging to others and proudly I can say that if I am a person with disability "despite that I am not a burden on the shoulders of others. My message for other fellow colleagues with disabilities is this that they should never be disappointed and disability is not inability, there is only need for hard working and every person with disability can work like other non disabled people and have a good life like me. I request the government to provide shelter land for persons with disabilities free of cost and provide employment opportunities.

Finally I would like to thank the publishers of Gadoon Magazine that they convey our voices to the government authorities.



Mohammad Abid is resident of Kabul Province in 3rd phase of Kair Khana and one of the employees of Orthopedic Organization in Kabul. He is 24 years old.

He said that he as well as his three brothers are paraplegics and he has been graduated from 12th class moreover he said that he is thankful to GOD that he is also memorizer of Holy Quran.

He has been working as receptionist in Orthopedic Organization of Kabul for 8 years. He added that unfortunately the persons with disabilities are poorly treated in our societies.

He wishes and hopes that treatment will be given to persons with disabilities according to the humanitarian and Islamic law.

This is his message for persons with disabilities that they should not be disappointed, but they should be strong and have high effort In addition he said that there is only one way for persons with disabilities to get promotion and to be success that they should go to Universities, schools, literacy courses and vocational learning to promote their Knowledge level in order to be independent, not to be dependant of the family and society and become the service provider for them.

GADOON & READERS



My name is Pavleta Alexieva. I am Bulgarian lawyer working for improving the civil society development in my native country as well as helping to transfer knowledge and experience from that process to other countries.

In November 2013 I had the opportunity to read the magazine Gadoon. I was really impressed from the fact that persons with disabilities and their issues are an important topic for the Afghan community. This magazine provides useful information to its readers for the needs of the people with disabilities and how they can receive assistance in order to achieve a decent life and protect their dignity and right to equality.

I really hope that this magazine will be widely available to all people especially to those who need more information on anti-discrimination policies and want to become part of the international disability movement.



Nadia Shabani

I was very happy that I had the chance to know more about Afghanistan and what are the people of this country are really interested in. I was very happy to see that the rights of people with disabilities is an important issue, that a lot of organization are trying to address and to work for better quality of life of this community. For me, from my professional experience (I have worked for the NGO sector in Bulgaria and Syria for the last 14 years), I know that the best way to develop is to share and exchange – doing this by reading and share good practices is an excellent opportunity. Keep doing it”.



Nasimullah, who is the student of Tanweer University in Kunar Province

As it is clear for all people that since the last 3 decades our country has been involved in different calamities and the people of our country faced different problems and suffered a lot of disasters and we are all witnesses that a situation was made in our country in which all people live far away from television and from reading the newspapers and no name

was recognized about media, but fortunately since last decade different medias inaugurated their effective activities and one of them is Gadoon Magazine. I have been studying the Gadoon Magazine for a long time it has very nice objectives and it is comprehensively perfect in addition it raises the voice of persons with disabilities and suffered people. Moreover it has many fans in Kunar province especially in our university many students read such Magazine and some elders and youngsters read it as well and it is very interesting for everyone to read, hence it has been written in an easy language and easy method I like its literature part such as poems, short stories and etc.

In conclusion I appreciate all Gadoon members and wish much success for all members of this organization.

Your Vote is Your Future

Your Vote is Your Voice	Know What you Stand For, Not Just What you Stand Against	Every Vote is Counted
Don't Complain if you Don't Vote	Peace Starts With Me!	Peace is the Only Battle Worth Waging
Peace is Always Beautiful	You cannot find peace by avoiding life	Voting is sacred
Voting is the first brick for building your community	Peace can't come by crying, but can come by vote.	Don't fight with bad leader, vote for good leader

Disability is not inability, and shame and it is only physical problem



Maa Pekay is the in charge of regional office of KOO organization in Kabul who is 25 years old and shared the bitter reminiscence of her life with us.

We live in shamali when Talibaan conquered Kabul province as well as the war has been started in Shamali region and we had to come to Kabul province. Our economic situation was poor and we left all the necessary equipments of our life in Shamali. One day I went to find some woods for burning when unexpectedly my leg was touched with mine and it has been exploded, so my both legs have been totally broken off. I was 8 years old when my both legs are broken off with the mine explosion. It was the tenor in which I should

have studied and had some entertainment; unfortunately I have passed that tenor at the hospital. When I have been discharged from the hospital I went to ICRC Organization and they developed artificial legs for me, even though I was disappointed. When I was looking at nondisabled children, going to the schools and entertainment as well as tried to make decent future for their selves. All the expectations which I had consecutively died. I was very disappointed from my life and I have passed a few years in this poor situation after that I have started to learn tailoring in ICRC Organization in addition (Gul Maky Siawash) who is the Head of KOO organization knew about my life situation and she hired me as a searcher in this organization . After some period Gul Maky Siawash (Head of KAOO) organization told me that I should start studying to have a decent future and I was completely uneducated. Gul Maky Siawash started teaching to me. I studied with her as the student of first class even the alphabets

(A-B) were new for me, finally I have learned reading and writing and slowly I have completed my school lessons by the assistance of KOO organization . After that I started to learn English language and computer programs in addition I have started vocational lessons in Orthopedic Organization in Kabul, which were related to Anatomy, physiology. I have been hired in orthopedic and prosthesis section of Orthopedic Organization. I have gotten admission in Afghan Diploma Prosthesis Organization (ADPO) after giving examination in addition I have studied the lessons for four years in orthotic, and prosthesis section which is related to (orthopedic technician). I have been graduated in the first graduation session of this institute. fortunately I have completed my lessons in orthotic and prosthesis section and became the provider of services for persons with disability and now I am the in charge of regional office of KOO organization, as well as I am the trainer in orthotic and prosthesis section in ministry of public health. I am extremely happy that I can provide services for persons with disability and now I am the person who provides financially assistance for her family and provide facilities for my family to get education. This is my message for persons with disabilities that they should never be disappointed and disability cannot be

the cause of interruption of education if we have lost an organ of our body, but we have not lost the ability of our brain and we can struggle and effort as nondisabled people. Nevertheless I have physical difficulties and both of my legs are broken off, if I have been disappointed from my disability, thought that I cannot study and if I feel sham from my disability then I would have waited for other person to assist me and I would be the bourdon of the family. If I would have lost my patients then I couldn't achieve the position which I have now. Persons with disabilities should take benefit from the ambition which has been given them by Allah and they should not wait for other persons to assist them, God is the provider of food they should not request the human being for providing food, because the assistance of human being will be for only two or for a specific period. They should be patient and request the God to give them ability. Allah loves the persons who have patient. Whatever is done by Allah it will have the benefit for human being? Perhaps this situation is useful for us. I am the example of that, if I have not been disable I would not be this much useful for the family and society. Disability is not sham, it is not inability, but it is only physical problem.

PREVENTION OF DISABILITY



Prevention of disability is divided into three categories:

- Prevention of disability incidents
- Prevention of current disability from even getting worse
- Prevention of social limitations on persons with disabilities

Prevention of disability:

It is primary prevention. Doing some activities to prevent occurring physical, educational, mental and sensory disabilities. The objective of this step is to decrease the number of disability incidents. Programs eradicating poverty, developing health and food and taking care of pre and post pregnancy make it possible to prevent many disabilities

which are increased by weak social and economic situation. Narcotics and Alcohols rehabilitation and educational programs and removing of poisonous substances from environment also come under the primary steps of disability prevention.

However, because of limitation of particular resources, such programs are not given priority.

A few examples of primary prevention of disability within health Sector are as follows:

Incidents and disability surveillance:

To plan and implement of services for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of disability, it is important that health workers should have information on incidents and development of disability. The national survey of disability in Afghanistan that covers all provinces as a model survey, defines development as: (development of disability is the ratio of people in all population who have disability.)

The national survey of disability in Afghanistan consists that ratio of spread is changed time to time and has close relation to the following factors:

- Definition of disability and choosing and removing a number of barriers.
- Disability awareness level in social and cultural context.
- Specific types of disabilities are considered less important, which could be hidden in some of the cultures. (For instance, it is common in mental

disability)

Ratio of disability development can also be defined as:

Ratio of persons with disabilities, from the whole population that still exist with one of the problem. In epidemiological statistic, spread of disease is defined as:

- Incidents of a specific disease in specific people at a specific time.
- According to statistics, existence of cause's ratio of a disease in a number of people

At a specific time and number of patients on population level.

Problem incidents mean percentage of effected people whether they are alive or dead.

In brief, (ratio of incidents means numbers of persons with disabilities whether they are born with a disability or later on they became persons with disabilities. Ratio of spread means number of people who exist.)

6: In developing countries, because of high level of health and rehabilitation, ratio of incidents is close to ratio of spread. It means that many serious persons with disabilities are treated while in those countries that have weak services, such people die.

7. In conclusion, in poor countries level of disability development comparing to level of incidents is high.

Most of the times developed countries show the level of spread high because these countries have many elderly people and because of the old age,

persons with disabilities have high development in these countries. Developing countries have many young aged people.

National survey of disability in Afghanistan had summary of questionnaire in order to find persons with disabilities. The questionnaire evaluates that anyone who has at least one of the following serious problems in daily life: physical, sensory, thought, mental and social affair.

The aforementioned survey indicates that spread of disability is with acute 2, 7 %. According to the estimation of ministry of public health, 550000 to 643000 Afghans have serious problems. While this estimation by UN is 747000 to 867100. If people who have less problems in their daily activities are also included, level of development will get to 4, 9 %. Daily activities have the following concepts:

- To take care of him/herself in daily life.
- To contribute in home work.
- To walk around and to contribute in outside work.
- To communicate with family and community members.
- To have relation with people and interaction.
- To have the ability of thinking and memorizing.
- To have regular individual behavior.

ACTIVITIES OF DAO PHYSICAL REHABILITATION CENTER

Brief summary of report:



The DAO Physical Rehabilitation Center in Kunar Province is going very well by providing services to persons with disability that covers the male and female, in physiotherapy, prosthesis and Orthotic sections. The services which have been provided in PRC let the persons with disabilities to walk independently and push them toward the success and to gain development in each aspect of life in addition the services of PRC let them to be worked as non disabled people. The services are being provided for new patients, Replacement case and repaired case in this Center. The DAO Physical Rehabilitation provided services to male and females under the age of 10 to 18. During all these services the DAO has also distributed the GADON magazine to persons with

Disabilities.

According to actual work plan DAO Physical Rehabilitation Center provided treatment for 56 males and 8 females patients during the last month in physiotherapy,

In addition the Physical Rehabilitation Center also provided treatment for (9) males and one female patient, in prosthesis, four of them were new patients and the others were repaired cases, Moreover DAO PRC has provided services to 18 males and 7 females patients in Orthotic, so the grand total comes to 99 patients have been provided treatment by DAO PRC from 1st November 2013 to 30th Nov.

DAO PRC has produced assistive devices such as artificial limbs for persons with disabilities which causes of being able to be preceded their task without any difficulty. Whenever this Center has not been established the persons with disabilities were supposed to move to the other provinces for treatment but now they can easily get the required services with the help of Physical Rehabilitation Center in Kunar. The physical rehabilitation Center has been funded by W.H.O. The activities of DAO PRC causes of being protect the persons with disabilities from the economic problems, hence most of them cannot afford the cost of assistive devices and other expenses to purchase in the private medical centers, so the people of Kunar have shown positive feelings and great satisfaction about such activities implementing by DAO PRC, based on action plan in Kunar province.

The following table is prepared about the patients that have been provided treatment

S/N	Task	Types of Deliverable	Province	Village	Male	Female	Repaired	New patients	Total Male	Total Female
1		Physiotherapy	Kunar	Asadabad	56	8	64	0	83	16
2		Prosthesis	Kunar	Asadabad	9	1	6	4		
3		Orthotic	Kunar	Asadabad	18	7	10	15		
4		Grand Total								99

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED IN LAGHMAN PROVINCE



DAO conducted Terminology workshop-1 (Inter Ministerial Cooperation Meeting and Terminology Workshop-2 (Spinal Cord Injury workshop) and CRPD Training(Convention on the Rights of persons with Disability in the Public health Hospital of Laghman Province with the coordination of (Mr. Abdul Latif Qayoumi) who is the director of (Public Health of Laghman Province) moreover the workshops have been inaugurated with the reciting of Holy Quran on Tuesday 19-11-2013 and it continued up to Thursday 21-11-2013 by the cooperation of Director of Public Health of Laghman province. These workshops have been facilitated by (Mr. Hidayatullah Samim and Mr. Ghulam

Farooq Omar jaar) who are the Training officers of DAO. Mr. Hidayatullah Samim thanked the guests and participants who have joined the workshop and the objective of the workshop is clearly highlighted by Mr. Hidayatullah Samim. The facilitation of these workshops are highly appreciated by the director of public health in Laghman., in addition the Director of Public Health of Laghman appreciated donors and implementer of such workshops and Training and said that these kind of workshops are very convenient and demanded from the ministry of Public Health to extend and further increase the number of these workshops to better understand the national and international rights and rules of the persons with disabilities and to provide these services that they deserved.106 persons from the health sector have participated in the training in which persons with disabilities were also included. On top of that these workshops regularly monitored by Dr. Musa Zia from the Disability and Rehabilitation Department (DRD) of Ministry of Public Health and he has also delivered his speech to the audience. Workshops have been successfully ended on Thursday 21-11-



2013 at 3:30 with the conclusion remarks from Mr. Abdul Latif Qayoumi.

Persons with disabilities Responsible for the upcoming election?

As we say in the definition of democracy that the government of the people by the people for the people, so we have to know the activities that how to demonstrate the governance of people.

The people have a lot of extraordinary impression in democratic election; because the people elect their own representative by their votes for a specific period and the elected representative on behalf of people demonstrate the freedom of people.

In fact the representatives of people importantly consider themselves when they keep their promises made with people, because the political consciousness and awareness level of many people is raised and they know the solution of computation. If the representatives did not keep their promises he/she will lose the chance of being representative for the next tenor.

the facilities are always provided for development from the social point of view, but in the third century sometimes it is vice versa in Afghan community in which there is no an open way for development on political and intellectual base, therefore the candidates for presidential and provincial councils may not concentrate on votes, but it does not mean that people should not give value for their votes, vice versa we

Should do more struggle and stress than the development societies for creating democratic culture.

We should respect our votes to take our afghan community to a level in which the votes of the people are honestly respected and all the candidates do not have any other way without the votes of people and we can reach to this purpose when we fully support the election process.

We must take participation in this predestination election process and we should try our best according to our knowledge to vote for deserved candidate. Each afghan who is about 18 years old can give vote in election process and they have to give the vote, it doesn't matter if this afghan is male or female, young or older, person with disability or non disabled.

In our backward society a person with disability is considered incapable, but this is not true. I am very happy and as a person with disability I claim that the person with disability is not incapable and perhaps persons with disabilities are more productive in comparison to people with no disabilities in a human society but regarding this topic I will present some of my experience in the future.

The election legitimacy will be raised when many people take participation in election. The participation of people cannot be increased without the participation of persons with disability in the election process and as well as the election legitimacy cannot have it's necessary movement.

In this regard the beloved persons with disability of Afghanistan should not be disbelieve about human ability and they should believe that they have much effect in each aspect of social life particularly the election process cannot be very well completed without the participation of persons with disabilities therefore our beloved persons with disabilities should take suitable and logical action with power full emotional for predestination election of Afghanistan and they should believe that their prudently action must take out Afghanistan from current crisis. God forbid if they express disappointment due to disability and they did not undertake their national responsibilities for afghan people and Afghanistan, they will be fully responsible for future crisis of their country.

In conclusion we can say that there is only one way which develops and give honor to a country and that is democracy and election is the backbone of democracy.