

ETHICAL PROBLEMS OF DISABLED PERSONS' INCLUSION INTO MODERN SOCIETY

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Introduction. Topicality of the article was prompted by several incidents occurred recently in some of Lviv public catering establishments, where persons with disabilities encountered the acts of brutal behavior and inadequate attitude on the part of local attendants. These incidents motivated us to highlight this problem from the standpoint of future physical rehabilitators whose principal vocation is to assist and to encourage people with disabilities to be equally happy and self-fulfilled with all the other society members.

Aim of the article is to depict the current ethical and social incipient problems of people with disabilities in the contemporary society.

While carrying out the research the following **methods** have been used. They are the method of literature review which involves searching for and synthesising other people's research and also the case study method used for investigating trends and specific situations in many scientific disciplines.

Results and discussion. For centuries society treated people with disabilities as objects of fear and pity. Prior to the twentieth century social attitudes reflected the view that persons with disabilities were unhealthy, defective and deviant. The prevailing attitude was that such individuals were incapable of participating in or contributing to society and that they must rely on welfare or charitable organizations [1].

Prior to the early XIX century people with mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, and/or epilepsy resided at home and were cared for by their families. Life expectancy for severely disabled individuals was not as long as it is today.

Many legislative and societal changes occurred in the 1960's and 70's, which influenced greatly the treatment of and attitudes toward people with disabilities.

In Ukraine the issue concerning people with disabilities is also of profound importance. Vasyl Shevchenko, First Deputy Minister for Social Policy of Ukraine, said that in 2012 Ukraine had adopted the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to 2020 [2].

For the past 10 years Ukraine has been elaborating a comprehensive system of rehabilitation and over 140 institutions for physical and psychological rehabilitation has been brought into service. These centres provide a package of social and therapeutic facilities targeted at children and adults with certain developmental problems as well as their families. Rehabilitation centres work alongside with educational establishments. Conditions are now created to include children with disabilities in mainstream education. Special rehabilitation programmes for women with disabilities are also supported by the State.

A lot was being done in terms of positive awareness-building, including the celebration of the international day for persons with disabilities. There is a Ukrainian festival for persons with disabilities, and almost the entire population watches the Paralympic Games.

For example, in view of the UEFA Euro 2012 Soccer Championship, the airports, roads and public transport, as well as all stadiums had been reconstructed in order to be accessible for persons with disabilities. Ukraine is relying upon the United Nations institutions to help protect the persons with disabilities in the occupied territories and the areas of military activity [3].

Committee Experts welcomed the adoption of the policy framework for the National Action Plan to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and develop a system of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities for the period between 2011 and 2020. But they also point

out systemic gaps and failures in the way Ukraine is improving its laws and regulations for persons with disabilities. For example the definition of disability is still very medicalized, outdated and discriminatory, and specific protection issues of women and girls with disability has not been taken into account in the laws. Parents of children with disability are under high pressure from professionals to put their children in special institutions. On the other hand educational and other services are fee-paying and thus inaccessible for those living on disability allowance of only approximately 40 euros per month.

There is the high level of abandonment of children with disabilities including those in conflict areas, and the widespread violation of the rights of children with disability in care homes and orphanages, including organ trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse [3].

Conclusions. It is an indisputable fact that moral health of a developed society is assessed according to its attitude towards people with disabilities. They possess all human rights of full-fledged members of any contemporary society and it depends upon us, future physical therapists, to help those people to implement their rights and raise the quality of their lives.

References

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