Information support for the development of disabled persons with special reference to the people of East Midnapore, a district of West Bengal (India)

Abstract

Today information has become essential to all for development & better living catered by information institutes with various information services. Disabled persons are neglected to get the benefits and utilization of information resources. I have highlighted the different aspects of disabled persons including their social, mental, physical and educational condition with the overview about the availability of the services prescribed for them at the libraries & information centres of East Midnapore; framing new services & policies, to understand their physical and psychological problems & their needs, to determine the sources of information, helping them to follow government rules and policy and highlighting the role of educational provisions & information for future development.

The present study is based on a survey method. It covers a period of 5 years (2010-14). This study has taken up 1400 selected disabled persons along with their parents at a particular time. The area covers the 4 subdivisions and 25 blocks of East Midnapore. The sampling size is 1304 disabled persons and their 1178 parents. The questionnaires are framed for the disabled persons, their parents, the institutes and rehab-professionals. A qualitative data analysis procedure has been followed with various tabulated forms and they have been compared, analyzed and tallied to draw the findings with suggestions.

Childhood is the staring age of disability often. There is no major role of the existing educational and information centres and there is lack of rehabilitation facilities & rehab-professionals. Beside that there are low numbers of availability of library and information centres, awareness programmes & various NGO programmes for disabled persons are conducted on irregular basis.

The purpose of this study is to highlight the adequate information supports to the disabled persons and their families with the special teachers & organizations by upholding to resolve the scarcity of assistive devices with government & non-government aids. It also upholds about the self- dependant projects for them & growth in numbers of rehabilitation professionals.

It was found that the existing scenario of providing the information to disabled persons is not very impressive.