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Forum: Education (GC2)

Issue: Eradicating the lack of access to education for disabled persons

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Introduction

Education is a powerful concept and as stated in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* education is everyone's right. While there are people who choose not receive education, there are some that can't even receive the most basic type of education due to their geographical location, financial situation or medical reasons. While there are many groups of people that can't receive education, the main focus of this report will be on disabled people. For people who have no disabilities it is easy to go to class, learn and answer questions but some disabled people might have a hard time performing these tasks. The *UDHR* states that primary education or the fundamental stages should be free but some of these people need more attention than the average person which means the increase in the budget necessary. Some governments provide this education but the majority of these people are still uneducated and still do not have easy access to education. Education is one of the most crucial topics of our world because without it the development of our civilizations would stop, it is essentially one of the building blocks of our world and it is every humans right to receive education. There has been huge steps taken to ease the access to education for disabled people but it's still a key issue that needs to be handled.

Definition of Key Terms

Education: The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.

Disability: a physical or mental handicap, especially one that prevents a person from living a full, normal life or from holding a gainful job.

Access: To make contact or be able to reach something; gain Access.

Primary Education: The first step to formal education.

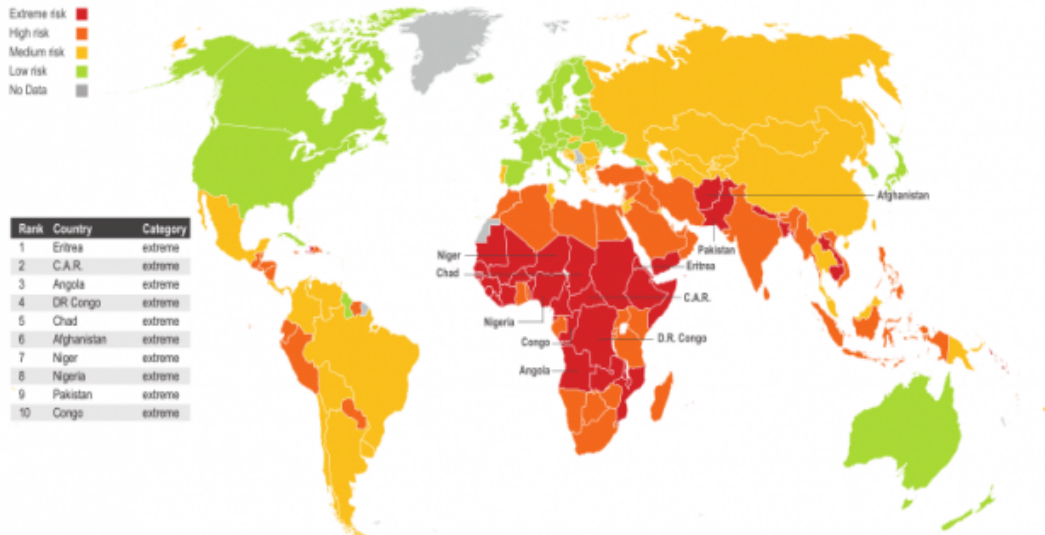
Background Information

When you think of education 2000 years ago, the image of a classroom with a teacher shouldn't appear because back then the word education wasn't invented yet. Back then the closest thing to education was the daily experience people learned from hunting and gathering since that was all that was happening back then. This main objectivity of our civilizations culture allowed people unlimited freedom to explore and learn it by gaining experience out of it.



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Education in Europe

The most famous and widely accepted education system in Europe is the International Baccalaureate. This system is recognized by most of the universities around the world, but in Europe it is the system that is accepted. Most of the countries in Europe have their own systems for primary and secondary education.

Education in The United States of America

The United States has its Advanced Placement system which starts at junior year of high school just like the International Baccalaureate. This is the system that is widely accepted by the universities in the U.S but beside that the students have to take The Scholastic Aptitude Test determining the students level in the U.S curriculum.

Education in Asia

Some schools in Asia follow the IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) or their own systems. For the high school curriculum either they follows the IB or their own countries systems.

The Education Programs for the Disabled

Now most countries have the power to allow every kid to receive free public education, countries are now focusing on special kids, like the disabled. One example is the United States's Education for All Handicapped Children Act. The act was created in 1975 making it a law to allow



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kids with disabilities to be educated like every other kid in the United States. While this act had a name changes over the year the end result was still the same, kids were granted additional technology, parent training and specialized education. This act is now called the Individuals with Disabilities Act or IDEA for short. Europe has a similar policy for the disabled too.

Clause 5 of the European Commission's European Disability Strategy it states:

5. Education and training: promote inclusive education and lifelong learning for students and pupils with disabilities. **Equal access to quality education and lifelong learning** enable disabled people to participate fully in society and improve their quality of life. The European Commission has launched several educational initiatives for disabled people. These include the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education as well as a specific study group on disability and lifelong learning.

The United Nations Also has a policy in the disabled really similar to the ones of the U.S and The E.U

Timeline of Major Events

1088

The University of Bologna was founded in Italy, the first University in the world.

1096

Oxford University was founded and became really popular.

1635

The first public school in the world opens in Boston, MA, United States.

1789

The first private boarding school opens near Washington D.C

1975

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EAHCA) or IDEA became law.

December 6th, 2006

The United Nations passed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities act (UNCRPD).

2010

The European Union adopted the European Disability Strategy, similar to the UN's (UNCRPD).

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

The United States of America



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The United States of America has many policies to help the disabled kids to educate them to the like every other kid. With organizations like IDEA. The United States only helps the citizens inside its borders.

The European Union

The European Union similar to the United States has similar policies regarding the issue. The EU, only treats the citizens inside it's border like the U.S does.

UNICEF

UNESCO

World Bank

Global Partnership for Education

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Big organizations like UNICEF, UNESCO have helped millions by supplying millions of kids with the necessary equipment and teachers with funding from the World Bank, but this hasn't been a really serious issue until recently.

Possible Solutions

Implementing new policies to countries that don't have any policies on disabled kids and aiding them with the basic needs for the education they require from organizations like UNICEF or UNESCO. Countries could have a required amount of their GDP to be focused on the need of the disabled.

Useful Links For Further Research

Alongside this chair report there are some useful websites that have valuable information about this topic:

Global Partnership for Education Website

<https://www.globalpartnership.org/focus-areas/children-with-disabilities>

EU Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1137>

U.S IDEA Site

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/leg/idea/history30.html>

United Nations Website Article 24: Education

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-24-education.html>



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“History of the IDEA: Thirty Years of Progress in Educating Children with Disabilities Through IDEA.” *Archived: History of the IDEA*, 1 Nov. 2010, <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/leg/idea/history30.html>

“Persons with Disabilities.” *News RSS*, 15 Feb. 2010, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1137>

“Children with Disabilities.” *Global Partnership for Education*, www.globalpartnership.org/focus-areas/children-with-disabilities

