

STUDY ON STATUS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES IN BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Once upon a time education was difficult for the disable people. But now it is possible due to the tremendous works done by the present government. However the present study has conducted to explore the specialized education for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh. The study was conducted at Urban and rural areas of Dhaka district, Barguna district and Barisal district in Bangladesh. This study employed both quantitative and qualitative methods as a combined research approach (also called integrated approach). The study collected data and information from both primary and secondary sources in two phases. Here the research design of the present study is survey type. Purposive sampling method was used in the study. Total 400 respondents were selected study areas. Among the respondents 25 were Teacher, 25 were Doctor, 25 were Nurse, 25 were NGO workers, 25 were Medical Assistant, 25 were Journalists, 25 were Civil Society, 25 were Government Officer and 200 were guardians. Tables, graphs and statistical analysis were done by Computer Program Microsoft Excel. From the result it was found that 92% respondents replied that separate educational institution is necessary for disable children, 82% respondents strongly agreed for separate course curriculum for disable children, 63% respondents replied that condition of disable children in Bangladesh is very good, 72% respondents replied that the disable children in Bangladesh is getting more priority and 81% respondents replied that more work is doing for disable children of Bangladesh. Separate educational institution and vocational skill training opportunities should be established for disable children in every Upazila in Bangladesh. More policy support, accessible and friendly environment are should be ensured for the disable children. Separate course curriculum should be developed for disable children of Bangladesh. The teachers should be trained up how they will teach the disable children of Bangladesh. The different testing modifications should be learned that can really help a disable student to show what he or she has learned. Teachers should teach organizational skills, study skills, and learning strategies to help all disable students. Teachers should work with the student's parents to create an educational plan tailored to meet the student's needs. A positive working relationship with the student's parents should be established through regular communication, exchange information about the student's progress at school. Specialized wing should be established for disable children of Bangladesh under the ministry of Social Welfare.

Key words: Disability, Disable Child, Special Education, Status, Course Curriculum.

INTRODUCTION

An estimated 10% of the world's population experience some form of disability or impairment.¹ The number of people with disabilities is increasing due to population growth, ageing, emergence of chronic diseases and medical advances that preserve and prolong life. The most common causes of impairment and disability include chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer; injuries such as those due to road traffic crashes, conflicts, falls, landmines, mental impairments, birth defects, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. These trends are creating overwhelming demands for health and rehabilitation services. During the last couple of years, disability, as a development issue is gradually gaining some recognition. The status, acceptance and importance of any adult individual in the family as well as community is primarily depends upon his/her economic status and contribution. It is of utmost frustration for any individual to remain unemployed. It has its psychological costs as well. In a developing country like Bangladesh, one has to face

¹ ICF definition of disability and impairment; Disability is defined as "the outcome or result of a complex relationship between an individual's health condition and personal factors, and of the external factors that represent the circumstances in which the individual lives". Impairments are defined as "problems in body function or structure such as significant deviation or loss", <http://www3.who.int/icf/intros/ICF-Eng-Intro.pdf>

many challenges, barriers, and competitions to find a job or to be employed. In this situation it is almost impossible for Persons with Disability to find a job or start economic activities.

The situation of employment of even skilled/educated Persons with disabilities in Bangladesh is not encouraging. They are not only facing immense competition from people who are not disabled but also the unfair barriers created due to negative attitudes of the employers. Even if a few are employed, they are dropped in an environment that is mostly unfriendly and unsuited with regard to their disability. With poverty being addressed, positive influence will occur improving the situation of persons with disabilities in the country. Access to economic opportunities for the persons with disabilities is really very scarce in Bangladesh. Lack of policy support, lack of accessible and friendly environment; Negative social attitudes due to Ingrained prejudice; lack of education and vocational skill training opportunities are obstructing their access to income generation options. A majority of the persons with disabilities, including those with severe degree of disability has the confidence to acquire education and engage in financial gainful contributing activities. Bangladesh has reached middle income country which is being addressed, positive influence should occur for improving the situation of persons with disabilities in the country. If it is do so they will take part in economic activities in the country. Access to economic opportunities for the persons with disabilities is really very important in Bangladesh. At present a majority of the persons with disabilities, including those with severe degree of disability has the confidence to acquire education and engage in financial gainful contributing activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) To explore the scenario special education for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh.
- 2) To find out the necessity of special education for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh.
- 3) To recommend the ways of increasing awareness of specialized education for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Research Methods

This study employed both quantitative and qualitative methods as a combined research approach (also called integrated approach). The study collected data and information from both primary and secondary sources in two phases. First, the study analyzed available literatures and documents to understand the theory and framework and study instruments on specialized education for disable children in Bangladesh. Secondly, a *questionnaire survey* had been employed to assess the effect of specialized education for disable children in Bangladesh. The questionnaire was initially prepared in English and translated into local language, then retranslated to check consistency. Filled questionnaires had been back-checked daily for their completeness by the researcher. Data had been collected via face-to-face interview with the respondents of the study area. The study approach had been participatory in nature that ensured meaningful participation of a range of stakeholders in the entire process of the study. It had employed appropriate research techniques and valid tools to ensure the study realistic, viable and reliable leading to ensuring validity of the findings. It has observed seriously cultural, social, economic and political issues to capture the dynamics of study themes.

Research Design of the study

The choice of an appropriate research design is essential for a scientific study since it gives a framework of what the researcher do from setting the research question to the operational implications of the data analysis. A research design is 'the arrangements of conditions form collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure' (Selltiz 1965 cited in Aminuzzaman 1991, p.53). The study is focused to evaluate the effect specialized education for disable children in Bangladesh. Hence, descriptive and analytical research designs have been chosen. Because descriptive research design helps to describe the current practices and events while analytical research design enables to establish relationship between variables (Aminuzzaman 1991). Here the research design of the present study is survey type. The study design has to be a quasi-experiment one. Data were collected from nine stake holders/groups.

Study area

The study was conducted at urban and rural area of Dhaka district, Barguna district and Barisal district in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, there are eight divisions. It was easy to the researcher to access in the field, participate, observation and its interviews from the sample. However, in the field of urban and rural, the study has tried to understand in depth of the problem specialized education for disable children in Bangladesh and compare between urban as well.

Sampling Method

Basically, purposive sampling method was used in the study so as to get the best information to achieve the objectives of the study. This method gave flexibility to the researcher to pick up only people who are likely to have the required information and be willing to share it. Moreover, the sampling method helped to ensure representation of different variation of service providers as well as service seekers. In other words, heterogeneity in the composition of sample of service seekers and providers (age, sex, senior-junior officials, education, and profession) was attempted to maintain as possible. Therefore in this study a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods were used. The question might arise why combination of these methods were used. Because as Creswell (1994:177) suggests, that it is advantageous to a researcher to combine methods to better understand a concept being tested or explored. Each approach has its strengths and its weaknesses, and reliance on anyone method is not appropriate. Therefore, in this research quantitative and qualitative research was used to better understanding as well as in depth to know the domain of the study.

Sampling technique

Purposive sampling is a sampling technique in which researcher relies on judgment when choosing members of population to participate in the study. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method and it occurs when “elements selected for the sample are chosen by the judgment of the researcher. Researchers often believe that they can obtain a representative sample by using a sound judgment, which will result in saving time and money”.¹ In this research purposive sampling method was used.

Sample Size

Total 400 respondents were selected study areas. Break-up of sampling technique and sampling distribution have given in table 1 and table 2.

Table-1: Selection of the areas

District	Urban	Rural	Total
Dhaka, Barguna & Barisal	20	20	40

Table-2: Sample distribution

Teacher	Doctor	Nurse	NGO worker	Medical Assistant	Journalist	Civil Society	Govt. Officers	Guardians	Total
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	200	400

Sources of Data

Generally, there are two different sources of collecting data, viz., primary sources and secondary sources. The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were collected from the respondents of the study area directly using different data collection techniques. On the other hand, the study has used different relevant publications, dissertations, books, journal articles, reports, and websites etc. as sources of secondary data. The data were collected from secondary sources must be useful to cross validate primary data and also to analyze the relationship among variables. Primary data were collected from the particular areas in urban and rural areas in Bangladesh.

Data Collection Method

The study conducted based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through interviews and Questionnaire survey. Structured questionnaire containing both open and closed ended to be used. A survey through a standardized questionnaire was conducted to collect both quantitative and qualitative information from. The semi-structured interviews have to be used for conducting with the policy makers, administrators, and disable child education experts. These provided inputs to see the impact of the policies related to disable child education. Secondary data and information were collected besides the primary sources side by side secondary data were gathered from journal articles, published books, government documents, education commissions'

¹ Black, K. (2010) “Business Statistics: Contemporary Decision Making” 6th edition, John Wiley & Sons

report, policies, reports of various committees related to higher education etc. At the same time the present study has collected qualitative data through face to face interview by using a check list, Case study and Key Information Interview (KII).

Questionnaire Survey

For unique and exploratory research new information must be required. Questionnaire survey is the easiest and most widely use instrument for data collection in this regard. This method allows the researcher to come in direct contact with the respondents, to observe their attitude during answering time and to analyze the issue under study in ordinary setting. The questionnaire precise enough to meet the objectives of the study research questions. Besides, comments and advice from participants defense on the study great support to frame up the questionnaire and other. The purpose and objectives of the study was explained to the respondents as simply as possible allocating sufficient time so that they swallow up the idea and can come back with spontaneous thoughts. Thus questionnaires duly filled up to avoid unwarranted biasness.

Validation of Data

Validity is the degree to which the allotted instruments convincingly measure, explore or describe the phenomenon in hand (Judd, Smith and Kidder, 1991). In this study data were collected by questionnaire survey and interview method was also followed. The combinations of both the methods give the reliable and valid data. In this study, qualitative and quantitative collecting data were triangulated due to 1998:247). Validity refers to trustworthiness which is done through cross checking the data collect from one source to that of others. If themes are established based on converging several sources of data or perspectives from participants, then this process can be claimed as adding to the validity of the study (Creswell 2009, p.191). In this study data were triangulated during survey and interview and latter justified with secondary data.

Data Processing and Analysis

In qualitative study the researcher has the freedom to marshal gathered data to meet the desired objectives of the study (Creswell 2009). Partial data of questionnaire survey was processed using simple statistics. The rest of the data were explained carefully to meet the aim of the study and research question and also attempted to establish relation among the variables. Some important and strong statements were referred in the analysis part to add value to the findings. Computer Program Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis. Data were analyzed according to the objectives of the study. Tables, graphs and statistical analysis were done by Computer Program Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age of the Respondent

Table 3: Age of the Respondent

Age group	Frequency	Percent
21-30	10	5.0
31-40	75	37.5
41-50	89	44.5
51-60	15	7.5
61 and Above	11	5.5
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the result it was found that the age group 41-50 years was 44.5% which was the maximum and age group 21-30 years was the minimum which was 5%. Other ages groups 31-40, 51-60 and 61 and above years were 37.5%, 44.5% and 7.5% respectively. Age group 41-50 was the maximum because they were from mid-level officers/respondents who were more experienced and were able to answer all the questions perfectly. But age group 21-30 which was the minimum because they were entry level officers. So they were inexperienced enough to answer all the questions in due time.

Educational Status of Respondents

Table 4: Educational Status of Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Bachelor	28	14.0
Masters	135	67.5
Bar at Law	2	1
MBBS	14	7.0
LLB	13	6.5
Ph. D	8	4.0

Total	200	100.0
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Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the result it was found that educational qualification of Master's Degree was 67.5% which was maximum and Bar at Law was minimum which 1% was. The other qualifications of Bachelor degree, M.B.B.S., L.L.B., Ph. D were 14%, 7%, 6.5% and 4% respectively. Number of the Master's Degree holder was the maximum because most of the respondents got the highest degree from the universities and had to complete the most competitive examination- the B.C.S. Examination. But Bar at Law was the minimum because from lawyer category, they were selected and the same degree holder is a few in numbers in Bangladesh.

Religion of Respondents

Table 5: Religion of Respondents

Religion of the respondents	Frequency	Percent
Islam	186	93
Hindu	14	7
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The above table shows that religion Islam was 93% which was the maximum and religion Hindu was the minimum which was 7%. The state religion of Bangladesh is Islam and 88% of the population is Muslim. Hindus are the second highest majority in Bangladesh. So among the respondents, the Muslims were the maximum and the Hindus were the minimum.

Marital Status of Respondents

Table 6: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Married	190	95
Unmarried	10	5
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the result it was found that married respondents were 95% which was the highest and unmarried respondents were 5% which was the lowest. As most of the respondents completed their higher education from universities and as they were in service for some time, they got married. So the number was the highest. A few entry level officers/respondents were still unmarried. So the number was the lowest.

Number of Family Members

Table 7: Number of Family Members

Family members	Frequency	Percent
1	63	31.5
2	97	48.5
3	37	18.5
4 and above	3	1.5
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The above table indicates that respondents having 2 family members were 48.5% which was the maximum and respondents having 4 and above members were 1.5% which was the lowest. Respondents having 1 and 2 family members were 31.5% and 18.5% respectively. Respondents having 2 family members were the maximum because the number 2 is a standard one. Governments' slogan is "Two children are sufficient enough-either male or female." Birth control system in our country is well accepted as well as popular among the educated people. But respondents having 4 and above family members were the lowest. So it was the minimum.

Table 8: Necessity of Separate educational institution

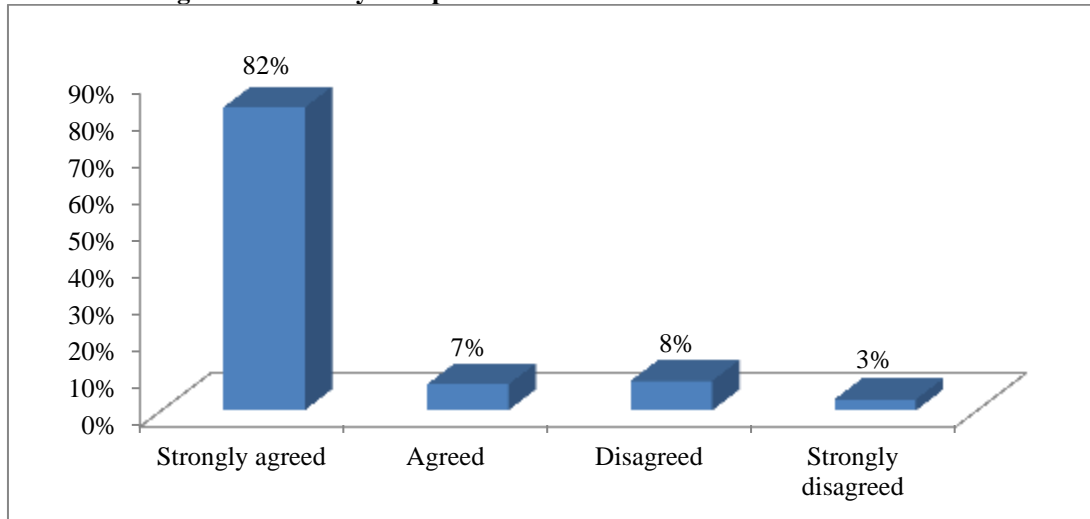
Respondents' opinion	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agreed	184	92%
Agreed	14	7%
Disagreed	2	1%

Strongly disagreed	0	0%
Total	200	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Necessity of Separate educational institution for disable children in Bangladesh has shown in the above table. From the result it was found that 92% respondents replied that separate educational institution is necessary for disable children which was the maximum and 0% respondents strongly disagreed that separate educational institution is necessary for disable children which were the minimum. 7% respondent agreed that separate educational institution is necessary for disable children and 1% respondents were disagreed. The disable children are different from normal children. So, different educational environment is needed for the disable children. For this reason the disable children needs separate educational institutions.

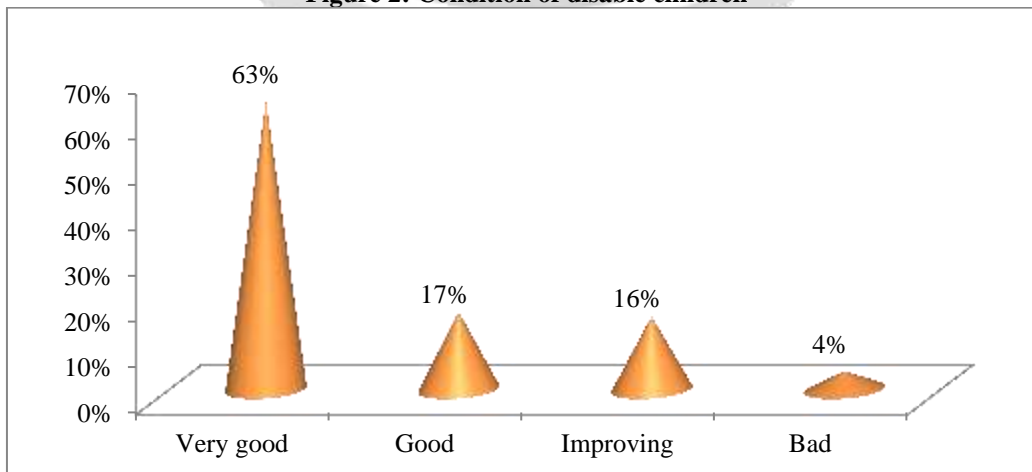
Figure 1: Necessity of Separate Course curriculum for disable children



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Necessity of Separate course curriculum for disable children has described in the above graph. From the result it was found that 82% respondents strongly agreed for separate course curriculum for disable children which was the maximum and only 3% respondents strongly disagreed for separate course curriculum for disable children which was the minimum. On the other hand 7% respondents agreed for separate course curriculum for disable children and 8% respondents disagreed for separate course curriculum for disable children. The disable children are different from normal children. Their ways of learning is also different. They will not able to learn by normal course curriculum. So, different course curriculum is needed for the disable children. From the result it can be said that as they are physically disable so separate specialized course curriculum is necessary for the disable children of Bangladesh.

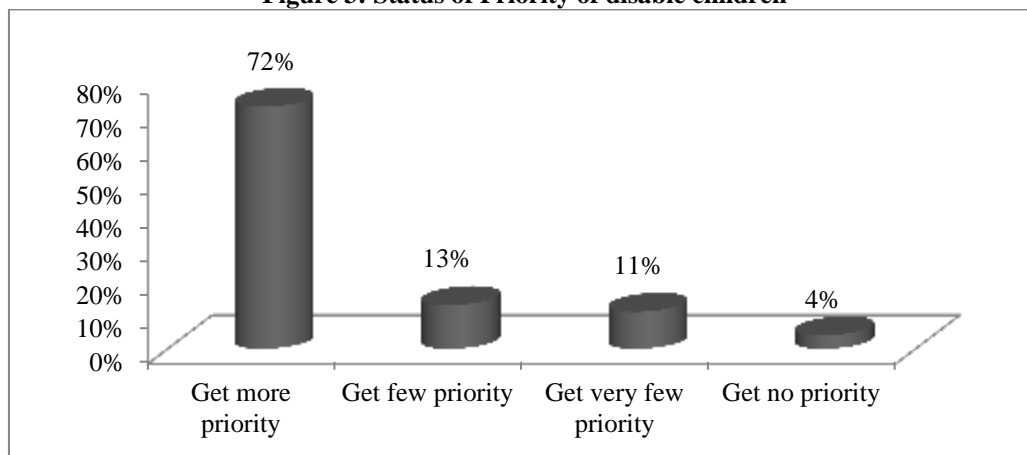
Figure 2: Condition of disable children



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Condition of disable children has described in the above graph. From the result it was found that 63% respondents replied that condition of disable children in Bangladesh is very good which was the maximum and only 4% respondents replied that the condition of disable children in Bangladesh is good which the minimum was. On the other hand 17% respondents replied that the condition of disable children in Bangladesh is good and 16% respondents replied that the condition of disable children in Bangladesh is improving day by day. From the result it can be said that the present Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh is doing more works for the disable children who is very significant for Bangladesh. For this reason maximum respondents opined that the condition of the disable children of Bangladesh is very good, good. On the other hand very few, only 4% respondents replied that the condition of disable children of Bangladesh is bad.

Figure 3: Status of Priority of disable children

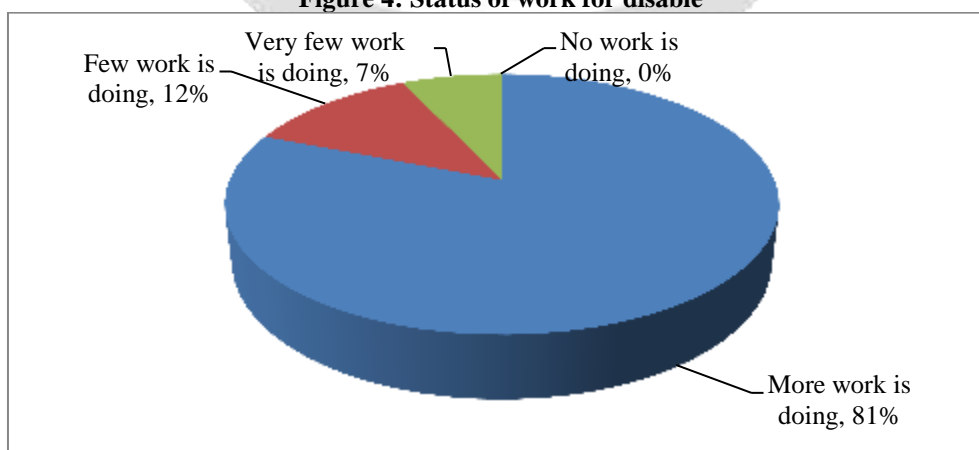


Source: Field Survey, 2018

Status of Priority of disable children in Bangladesh is described in the above graph. From the result it was found that 72% respondents replied that the disable children in Bangladesh is getting more priority which was the maximum and only 4% respondents replied that the disable children in Bangladesh is getting no priority which was the minimum. On the other hand 13% respondents replied that the disable children of Bangladesh are getting few priority and only 4% respondents replied that the disable children of Bangladesh is getting no priority.

From the result it can be said that the present Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh is doing more works for the disable children for this reason maximum respondents opined that the condition of the disable children of Bangladesh is very good, good. For an example the present Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh has allotted reserved number of jobs for the disable people in recruitment which is positive for the disable children. For this reason disable people are getting jobs in Bangladesh which is a good signal for disable children of Bangladesh. On the other hand very few, only 4% respondents replied that the disable children of Bangladesh are getting no facilities.

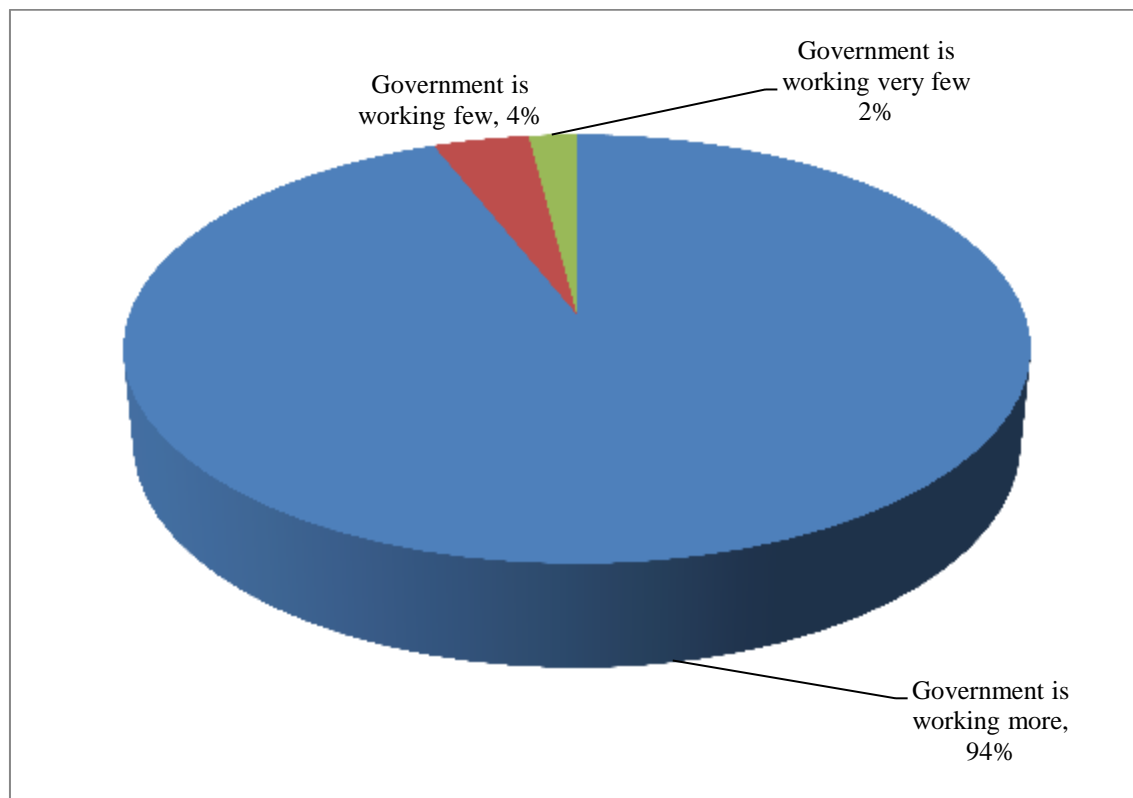
Figure 4: Status of work for disable



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Status of work for disable children in Bangladesh has shown in the above graph. From the result it was found that 81% respondents replied that more work is doing for disable children of Bangladesh which was the maximum and there was no respondents who will say that there is no work is going on for disable children which was the minimum. On the other hand 12% respondents replied that few work is doing for disable children of Bangladesh and only 7% respondents replied that very few work is doing in Bangladesh for disable children. From the result it can be said that the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh helping to do more works for the disable children for this reason maximum respondents opined that more work is doing for disable children of Bangladesh. For an example the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has helping the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) for the disable children which is a significant for disable children of Bangladesh.

Figure 5: Government's work for disable children



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Government's work for disable children of Bangladesh has described in the above graph. From the result it was found that 94% respondents replied that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is working more for the disable children which was the maximum and only 2% respondents replied that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is working very few works for the disable children which were the minimum. On the other hand only 4% respondents replied that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is working very few works for the disable children.

From the result it can be said that the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh working more for the disable children for this reason maximum respondents opined that the Government is doing more work for disable children of Bangladesh. For an example it can be said that present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has arranged international summit for the disable children at Dhaka in Bangladesh. Many delegates disable children and their guardians have attended the summit. Cultural activities like game, drawing pictures are arranged for the disable children. Separate unit has started at Bagabandhu Sheikh Mujibor Rahman Medical University at Dhaka in Bangladesh which is a significant evidence for disable children in Bangladesh.

CONCLUSION

All children need love, encouragement, and support, and for kids with learning disabilities, such positive reinforcement can help ensure that they emerge with a strong sense of self-worth, confidence, and the determination to keep going even when things are tough. There is a necessity of Separate educational institution for disable children in Bangladesh. From the result it was found that 92% respondents strongly agreed that separate educational institution is necessary for disable children which were the maximum. The disable children are different from normal children. So, different educational environment is needed for the disable children. For this reason the disable children needs separate educational institutions.

There is a need of separate course curriculum for disable children of Bangladesh. From the result it was found that 82% respondents strongly agreed for separate course curriculum for disable children which were the maximum. The disable children are different from normal children. Their ways of learning is also different. They will not able to learn by normal course curriculum. So, different course curriculum is needed for the disable children. From the result it can be said that as they are physically disable so separate specialized course curriculum is necessary for the disable children of Bangladesh.

From the study it was found that 63% respondents replied that condition of disable children in Bangladesh is very good which was the maximum and only 4% respondents replied that the condition of disable children in Bangladesh is bad and it was the minimum. On the other hand 17% respondents replied that the condition of disable children in Bangladesh is good and 16% respondents replied that the condition of disable children in Bangladesh is improving day by day. From the result it can be said that the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is doing more works for the disable children who is very significant for Bangladesh. For this reason maximum respondents opined that the condition of the disable children of Bangladesh is very good, good. From the study it was found that 72% respondents replied that the disable children in Bangladesh is getting more priority which was the maximum and only 4% respondents replied that the disable children in Bangladesh is getting no priority which was the minimum. On the other hand 13% respondents replied that the disable children of Bangladesh are getting few priority and only 4% respondents replied that the disable children of Bangladesh is getting no priority. From the research it can be said that the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is doing more works for the disable children for this reason maximum respondents opined that the condition of the disable children of Bangladesh is very good, good. For an example the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has allotted reserved number of jobs for the disable people in recruitment, which is positive for the disable children. For this reason disable people are getting jobs in Bangladesh which is a good signal for disable children of Bangladesh. On the other hand very few, only 4% respondents replied that the disable children of Bangladesh are getting no facilities.

From the study it was found that 81% respondents replied that more work is doing for disable children of Bangladesh which was the maximum and there was no respondents who will say that there is no work is going on for disable children which was the minimum. From the result it can be said that the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh helping to do more works for the disable children for this reason maximum respondents opined that more work is doing for disable children of Bangladesh. For an example the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has helping the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) for the disable children which is a significant for disable children of Bangladesh.

From the result it was found that 94% respondents replied that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is working more for the disable children which was the maximum and only 2% respondents replied that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is working very few works for the disable children which were the minimum. The result indicates that the present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh working more for the disable children for these reason maximum respondents opined that the Government is doing more work for disable children of Bangladesh. For an example it can be said that present Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has arranged international summit for the disable children at Dhaka in Bangladesh. Many delegates disable children and their guardians have attended the summit. Cultural activities like game, drawing pictures are arranged for the disable children. Separate unit has started at Bagabandhu Sheikh Mujibor Rahman Medical University at Dhaka in Bangladesh which is a significant evidence for disable children in Bangladesh.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study the recommendations of the study are as follows:

1. More separate educational institution should be established for disable children in Bangladesh.
2. More policy support, accessible and friendly environment are should be ensured for the disable children.
3. Positive social attitudes should be provided.
4. More education and vocational skill training opportunities should be provided their access to income generation options.
5. Separate course curriculum should be developed for disable children of Bangladesh.
6. The teachers should be trained up how they will teach the disable children of Bangladesh.
7. The disable students should be given positive feedback and lots of opportunities for practice.
8. Instruction and accommodations should be provided to address the student's special needs. Examples include: breaking tasks into smaller steps, and giving directions verbally and in writing.
9. Giving the student more time to finish schoolwork or take tests; letting the student with reading problems use textbooks-on-tape (available through Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, listed under Organizations); letting the student with listening difficulties borrow notes from a classmate or use a tape recorder; and letting the student with writing difficulties use a computer with specialized software that spell checks, grammar checks, or recognizes speech.
10. The different testing modifications should be learned that can really help a disable student to show what he or she has learned.
11. Teachers should teach organizational skills, study skills, and learning strategies to help all disable students.
12. A positive working relationship with the student's parents should be established through regular communication, exchange information about the student's progress at school.
13. Specialized wing should be established for disable children of Bangladesh under the ministry of Social Welfare.

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