

T. C. Prime Ministry Presidency ON Disabled People

Turkey

UNDERGROUND WOMEN

< INTRODUCTION >

In my country, women with disabilities haven't supported to participate to public sphere. On the contrary, families have tendency to keep them in their home. According to their families women with disabilities should sit at home, because they should have perfect protection there. As a result of this perfect protection, almost all of them are not aware their right as a person with disability. Even though she is not discussed her obstacles by herself.

The project purpose is to tell their rights, providing to discuss their obstacles themselves. For this purpose, I'm planning to organize 10 human rights and advocacy workshops with women with disabilities. Assumed time of project is 2 years.

< BACKGROUND >

Many countries including Turkey utilize World Health Organization's forecasts because of their lack of statistical information about population with disabilities. One of the data sources on persons with disabilities is population census. Information about population with disabilities of Turkey has been taken from general population census of 1995 and 2000. So, we had some forecasts on the size of population with disabilities. However, there was no detailed study about size, socio-economic characteristics, problems and expectations from community of population with disabilities.

Eliminating of information and data deficiency in this field. "2002 Turkey Disability Survey" was carried out. In the Survey, it has been targeted to measure number of persons with disabilities, their socio-economic characteristics, their problems and social life expectations. The Survey has elicited the truth and we saw that 12.29 % of the total population is persons with disabilities. The rate explained by Survey is higher than average of the world.

Some outcomes of the Survey are illiteracy rate of persons with disabilities is 3 times bigger than illiteracy rate of persons without disabilities. Almost 70 % of them start to primary school but almost 30 % of these students leave from school. In terms of school, in each step rate of continuing to school is lower than once step. Employment rate of is also low. Almost half of the population of disabilities use to social security system as burden to their family members such parents, children. Almost all of the other part's social security service is provided by government depend on disability pension. A small part has own social security opportunity.

< PROBLEM >

Of course, there many women with disabilities in the 12.29%. Turkey is a young society. So, most of these women are young. In other words, they should be active in terms of economic and social life. They should have job. They can participate in production of Turkey. They should use to education right. They should have family. Because all of them have human rights. However, unfortunately, most of the women with disabilities are kept their home. This problem is a result of many causes. One of the most important causes is over protection of their families.

Actually, in our culture most of the women's face to face over protection problem. Because a woman is virtue for her family. Therefore, she should be protected by her father, her brother, her husband even doe her sun. All male members of her family have right to protect her. If this woman has a disability, according to her family she is so weak. So, she can't protect and defend herself not only physically but also psychologically.

The best protection can be provided at home. Your home is your area and you are most powerful at home. As a natural result, a woman with disability should sit at home during her life time. During the school period, generally, she is carried by her family between home and school. Sometime families don't send to school their daughter with disabilities. Certainly the families don't have any bad faith. They like their daughter, but in their methods. They are unknowing to create a prison at home. Generally they try their best.

As a result of this protection, women with disabilities become weak. Unfortunately they don't have any idea about their rights as an individual. They can not imagine having a job, a family and a social life. According to her, if even she has such qualification, if there is a job opportunity firstly persons without disabilities after than male with disabilities on the cue. Under this condition, she can not have job. In terms of to have family, any body doesn't prefer to married with her. Because she has been felt useless for a long period and to internalized the feeling.

When she get job, if she face to face a problem, she can not struggle because of lack of experience and self-esteem. Generally, the women with disabilities have problems about daily living skills. They haven't any opportunity to learn these skills. When she needed, some body has done for her.

When their parents pasted away, they feel a deep desperation and hopeless. With parents they lost their best supporter. Unfortunately, sometimes they can be left homeless. The project will encourage participating in a life outside the home. With this study, women with disabilities will be stronger, since they will aware of their rights. The most important point is that, they will think about their problems and obstacles.

< OVERALL GOAL >

The overall goal of the project is to provide an opportunity to introduce human rights as a person with disabilities in order to help discussing to their problems and to encourage them participating to social sphere.

< CONCRETE OBJECTIVES >

The concrete objectives are;

1. To get approval of the project from the Presidency by the end of December 2008.
2. I'm going to introduce the project to stakeholders such as related governmental organizations and NGO's to have their support by the end of January 2009.
3. I'm going to get the fund by April 2009.
4. I'm going to organize the first workshop about human rights and advocacy in Ankara City in April 2009.
5. I'm going to organize from second to tenth workshops from May 2009 to December 2010 in 9 different cities.

<OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT>

250 women with disabilities from 10 different cities will contact each other.
They come to have better understanding of their rights.
They will exercise to use their rights.

<STAKEHOLDERS>

Beneficiaries of the project are women with disabilities especially from 18 to 35 years old. The project purpose is to encourage them participating to social life. It will leave door to independent life.

Supporters of the project are the ministry of gender, disabilities and social services, municipalities, mukhatars [village headman].

Coordinating Organization is the T. C. Prime Ministry Presidency on disabled People.

Partners are universities, social services and help centers, schools for the special education, NGO's working on disabilities, NGO's working on women.

The governmental organizations would be glad to support the project. Because the population covered by the project is a young, however, in terms of economic activities they are passive. When they have to live alone, government has to take care them, whereas, with the project, some of them can be active and they can manage their life. On the other aspect is that this is a social responsibility to government. Related NGO's should support the project. Because, while they will support it, they will be working in one of the their field.

The project is implemented under the coordination of T. C. Prime Ministry Presidency on Disabled People. As I mentioned in introduction, I'm planning to organize a series [10] of advocacy workshops with women with disabilities. Participants are going to be groups of women with cross disabilities.

<IMPLEMENTATION>

Assumed project period is 2 years [Jen 09 Dec 010]. This period is going to used as a 2 part. The first part is preparation and second part is the implementation. In the preparation period, I'm going to apply to funding resources. We have 3 project announcements in Turkey and I have to apply to 21 January 09. One of them is UNDP, second one is a national organization and last one is Abilis foundation. Abilis Foundation is an organization, funding to projects about persons with disabilities, coming from developing countries. I'm going to contact all related NGO's and governmental organizations introducing to the project. I will start to collect data about women with disabilities. For this purpose I'm going to use NGO's a specially working on persons with disabilities, and governmental organizations such as municipalities, village headmen, social service and help centers. Preparation period will take 3 months.

In the implementation period, I'm going to introduce the project to beneficiaries region by region. I'm going to contact them by phone, if necessary, face to face. I'm planning to contact them at least 15 days ago from the regional advocacy workshop. If they need, I'm going to provide transportation opportunity. Then I'm going to realize 1 day advocacy workshop with women with disabilities for each region.

For implementation of the project, I need staff, as a big chance, all NGO's which to work with

together, and T. C. Prime Ministry Presidency on Disabled People has many staff to support me. In addition, there are many volunteers especially from universities. I'm a member of a group consist of women with disabilities. In this project, they will be my important coworkers. I'm planning to use NGO's or municipalities' rooms as meeting places. Some commodities are going to provide by coordinator organization and my office such as papers, pens, pencils, computers, printers, internet, telephone. For the most important necessary beneficiaries, I'm going to contact local governmental organizations. Because, the women should apply to local governmental organizations to use the basic rights like to apli disability pension, to get social help. On the other hands, all mukhtars should have a registration of population of their cities.

The project is going to be introduction of a series projects operate with women with disabilities. It would followed by other projects. The workshops are going to provide us a connection with women with disabilities. Therefore, I'm going to organize 1 day workshop in 10 different cities. Before the first workshop, I'm planning to create a mailing list and a website under the name of project. With mailing list, I'm going to keep in touch with women who participate in the project. With website, they can follow the project and they get announcements about next step. In short, 1 day workshops are going to provide an opportunity to first connection and to get some information i need for following projects.

In workshops, I'm planning to discuss about education and employment as human rights. I'm going to try to talk about their social life. In addition, I'm planning to give general information about CRDP. Facilitators are two specialists from Prime Ministry Presidency and I myself. Content of all workshops will be same.

<MONITORING AND EVALUATION>

For monitoring and evaluation, after the workshop, a short questioner, about content of the workshop, will be implemented, in addition, 2 weeks later all participant would call one by one. Thereby communication will continued. Besides, a mailing list would be created for communication to between participants and organizations.

<POSSIBLE OBSTACLES>

Who are the possible obstacles of the project? Firstly families who have a daughter wit disability, some men with disabilities, women with disabilities themselves and of course social barriers. For solution, I'm planning to talk about the current condition with families and women with disabilities. What is the advantages and disadvantages?

<BUDGET>

The total budget of the project is assumed that as 30.000 TI (almost 22.500 US dollar). 20.000 TI for transportation of the women [both in cities and from villages or neighbor cities to city where is the workshop operated].

8.000 TI for the cookies and drinks to offer in workshops,

2.000 TI for unexpected needs.

To raise funds, I mentioned above, I'm going to apply projects invitations. Besides, I'm going to ask

to donations. I discussed to represent of most of the stakeholders and I explained I'm going to use many exist opportunities.

<IMPACTS OF THE TRAINNING PROGRAM>

Women with disabilities face to face to the problem for long time. Why I decided to this project after the Leadership Development Program of Persons with Disabilities provided by JICA? In this program I have many opportunities to the try several workshop techniques. With these experiences I learned how can I provide to participation of women to the discussions. The most important point, i got encourage you. I'm feeling more powerful than before.

<CONCLUSION>

In conclusion, with this project a program related women with disabilities is going to start in Turkey. In this program at least four projects would operated in 5 years. At the end of the program, many women with disabilities will able to manage their life by themselves.