



Delhi Business Review Vol. 24, No. 1 (January - June 2023)

DELHI BUSINESS REVIEW

An International Journal of SHTR

Journal Homepage: <https://www.delhibusinessreview.org/Index.htm>
<https://www.journalpressindia.com/delhi-business-review>



Book Review

Survivors and Disability of Armed Conflicts: The Conundrum of Differently Abled Persons in Afghanistan

Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, Eliva Press (2023)

ISBN 978-9994987573, Pages 168, Price \$ 60.00

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ARTICLE INFO

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Article history:

Received - 07 January 2023

Revised - 10 January 2023

25 January 2023

Accepted - 05 February 2023

Author of the Book:

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Keywords:

Survivors,

Differently Abled Persons,

Disability of Armed Conflicts,

Reasonable Accommodation,

Inclusivity.

ABSTRACT

This seminal academic book explores the complex dimensions of disability in Afghanistan, analyzing its connections to religion, politics, and the legal landscape. Guided by inclusivity and collective humanity, it comprehensively examines the challenges and opportunities faced by individuals with disabilities in Afghan society. By dissecting religious, political, and legal issues, the book uncovers the stark realities of disability and its far-reaching impacts on various aspects of Afghan life. Notably, it delves into the influence of Islamic law on the treatment and inclusion of disabled individuals. This valuable resource provides scholars, policymakers, and practitioners with insights to foster inclusivity, social change, and collective humanity in Afghan society, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on rights, equality, and empowerment for disabled individuals in Afghanistan and beyond.

DOI: [10.51768/dbr.v24i1.241202309](https://doi.org/10.51768/dbr.v24i1.241202309)

It is a remarkable piece of work on the legal status of disabilities from the lens of the Convention on the right of Differently Abled Persons. This book analyses the position of differently-abled persons in Afghanistan. In addition to this, it provides historical as well as religious perspectives on the differently able persons in Afghanistan, it is an excellent academic work on the disability issues in Afghanistan. It makes a diligent effort to understand differently able persons from the lens of Islamic law. Chapter second tries to explicate how disability is understood through the international framework, and it analyses the barriers and interventions for disability in Afghanistan. Further, the book aims to make an honest attempt to understand the relevance of CRPD in the relevance in inclusive reasonable accommodation society. The relevance of CRPD with the other laws is the need of the hour; it provides different dimensions about the psychological, legal, and human rights related to disability. This is evident in the chapter three.

The notion of disability varies from region to region; in Afghanistan, it has a unique identity; the author tries to show how it is reflected in the other realms of life; the author uses this book to understand the disability problem in Afghanistan, social perception, religious and cultural attitude in Afghan society. It makes a clear distinction in how disability is viewed from different stages of human life, especially in familial relationships, disability is understood as a social construct that aims to provide the social construction of disability. Further, the book dwells on the interventions and counseling needed to tackle the biases, prejudices, and stereotypes associated with disability in Afghanistan; it deconstructs how disability is viewed and understood in employment, marriage, and other forms of human life.

On a critical note, it talks about the failure of the legal system in Afghanistan to contain disability issues and provides a reality check in the institutional and legal examples; it touches on the role of the red cross society in dealing with a disability. It concludes in making whatever the problems, it is the policy that matters to contain it in this regard; the author shows how international organizations and humanitarian

efforts are needed to bring disabled people into mainstream society. The legal framework of these issues is discussed in chapter eight. In the world of legal battles, it is the policy that matters, so this book aims to provide a legal framework for disabilities; it explains the role of international organizations and their decisions to tackle disability. Moral and societal issues are more serious than the disability itself.

The human rights movement should not be confined to New York; institutional and global support must reach the streets of Kabul to integrate people with disability. This is the need of the hour. We must instill a sense of hope, confidence, and resilience in our disabled population. This book also compares the different legal procedures in other countries and their impact on the global level.

This book is the finest display of the rights of people with disability. It is a humanitarian and legal framework for disability. I believe this book will be used to formulate better, effective inclusive policies towards reducing the discrimination against disabled people; discrimination must be ended we must endorse human rights and provide justice to the Disable people. All these issues are discussed in this book. I believe this book will garner support from different walks of life and ensure legal protection for disabled people, not just in Afghanistan and also for the world.

In conclusion, the author finds that this book is a remarkable work to give legal awareness among the general public in Afghanistan, and this is an attempt to show the glaring realities of disability. He deconstructs disability in society, culture, and political aspects. In the end, it sums up how the world can be visualized with a better legal framework both from the global as well grass root levels in Afghanistan; the book echoes the reasonable accommodation and inclusivity in the world order, and it urges the countries to take proper legal framework, that will take the society in forward. Humanitarianism is strengthened by a better legal framework and the participation of the community at large.

- Lokendranath K.S.