

“See the able, not the label” Aishah Siddiqah

“Focus not on differences of people with disabilities but the talent of the individual.”

Nowadays, individuals with disabilities are often stigmatized encountering attitudinal and physical barriers both in work and in daily life. However, education is getting quite important in today's world. It gives us knowledge of the world around us and makes us more optimistic. It is something that everyone wishes to have. Yet, there isn't sufficient special education for them. Disabled people are less valued and are being discriminated against or isolated. However, I think that we shouldn't judge a person by it's appearance, it's really wrong.

Disability is natural. We must stop believing that disabilities keep a person from doing something. This has occurred in front of me. My cousin Pakiza, was beloved by her parents only for once in a life time. She looked normal at the beginning but later she started to cry everyday. It was getting serious day by day. Everyone was too disappointed and worried about her. So her parents took to the hospital for the checkup.

Unfortunately, it was revealed that she was born abnormal with physical disabilities. She didn't have a good sight and couldn't hear well, couldn't talk and even couldn't walk. Unexpectedly, it was too hurtful to see a mother abandoning her own child just by seeing her child “disable”. I couldn't stand that action, so I requested my parents to adopt her. They thought for a long time, and yes, they accepted my request, but only with a challenge that “only you would be responsible to take care of her and provide her everything.”

Obviously, I accepted their challenge just because of Pakiza. No matter she has mental or physical problem, she is human being too. She has feelings too.

At first, it was really hard for me to take care of her. I didn't know how to communicate with her. I never understood her feelings, what she wants, why she cries and much more. I was the person who wakes up early in the morning to prepare her favorite food, held her hand and took her to try to have a walk. As she didn't have a good sight and hearing, I've always left my important works and took her to the medical appointment on time. Although I couldn't provide her everything, I've still put my best effort on her which is officially a mother's responsibility.

Soon, the doctor had given me some advice to follow so that she might get something better. From that day on, I've spent most of the time of mine with her. I took her to the greenery parks, taught her to speak and much more.....

Days went by, she seemed to become happier, always smiling and laughing. Honestly, her happiness made me happy too. She became so close with me that we even couldn't live without each other. We became more than our relationship "cousin".

After six years, when I was preparing her breakfast in the kitchen. I could hear some.....some noises..... So I ran immediately to Pakiza's room to check her. My plates of breakfast immediately fell on the ground and both of our eyes turned so watery. It was the first time ever that I saw her standing on her own feet without my help!!!She could walk! She could see better as well! That was the most exciting day of my life! It proves that every disabled person also has their abilities. We shouldn't discriminate people by just seeing their labels.

All human beings are equal. No matter he or she is a disabled person. They would find their own values. To promote inclusion of people with disabilities, there is an organization called "Dialogue experience". People are placed in a all-dark environment to experience the daily life of blind people. Through this activity, the public will better understand the difficulties that disabled people are facing and learn to respect them. At last, **DIAABLE IS NOT THE LABEL.**