

Editorial

Transformation toward Sustainable and Resilient Society for All

The theme for the 2017 International Day of People with Disability is “Transformation toward sustainable and resilient society for all.” The overarching principle of this theme is to “leave no one behind” and empower people with disability to be active contributors of society. It is based on the transformative changes envisaged in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. It aims to strengthen the resilience of people with disability by providing full access to justice, health care services, infrastructure, and accessible communities. It focuses on inclusive education, lifelong learning, and sustainable economic growth through employment. It also aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness of common people on the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life. Considering the socioeconomic structure and pattern of health care delivery system, these are herculean tasks to be performed by 2030 in our country. We need to work hard and liaise with the respective authorities to make this aim successful.

The 2030 agenda pledges to “leave no one behind.” Persons with disabilities, as both beneficiaries and agents of change, can fast-track the process toward inclusive and sustainable development and promote resilient society for all, including in this context various facets, such as disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and urban development. Governments, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector need to work as a “team” to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Application of innovative medical technologies and means to facilitate accessibility to technologies to minimize barriers for participation of persons with disabilities in global society is a prime objective. The focus will also be on the use of regenerative medicine to treat osteoarthritis, the employment of remote virtual therapy to treat paralysis in persons with stroke, the application of three-dimensional printing to enhance access for orthotics and prosthetics, and the facilitation of access to technologies by means of entrepreneurship and government participation, followed by a discussion with emphasis on effective, sustainable application of these technologies in our global society. With the updated recommendation implemented, persons with disabilities can choose more easily the terminal devices that have the functions they need, which is especially relevant in the context of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. Unfortunately, the quantity of physiatrists and uniform institutional infrastructure including the medical equipments are lagging behind till today. But we cannot deny our job responsibility to help our differently abled patients. We need to improve our medical equipments and technological support in our institutions uniformly throughout the country.

“Building Future Societies for All” will bring together the public and private sector to share good practices and future actions on urban social development as a strategy for poverty eradication. When civil society and the public sector work together with the private sector on poverty eradication strategies, innovative public policy frameworks can be created to build societies that are resilient and leave no one behind. This is the most relevant issue in the context of high level of poverty in our country.

Hence, we have to highlight best practices and think about making recommendations to our local political leaders, businesses, academic institutions, cultural centers, and others. Last but not the least we have to work to ensure that our activity leaves a legacy and brings about lasting change. Let us join our hands to fulfill these aims for transformation of our health care delivery system and create a resilient society in the future.

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