The visually impaired students enjoy several facilities while they study in the university. They can apply for the quota if they qualify in the admission test for DU. They get extra times in the examination hall to finish their writings.

"Sight Savers International" came one step forward to help the visually impaired by making at least two books per subject into Braille. Right now they are working on this project. This will surely help the visually impaired to carry on with their study.

Some handicapped are doing private tuitions. Some are doing jobs in govt. and private sectors. There is a teacher in University of Dhaka who is visually impaired. This has boost up the confidence level of the other handicapped. This will motivate them to think that they are not inferior to others in society.

There are more visually impaired students among all handicapped students in University of Dhaka. For their welfare, the visually impaired students of DU have formed an association in 2006. The name of this body is "Visually Impaired Development Association". At present there are 40 members in this association. The basic function of this association is to help the visually impaired to get suitable jobs. We also ensure that the society will make proper use of the handicapped according to their area of interest.

Suggestions

On the point of how to help the handicapped students to continue with their studies, one student suggested, "Right now in our country, the Ministry of Social Welfare deals with the issue of the handicapped. If the Ministry of Education takes up this responsibility alongwith Ministry of Social Welfare, then this sector will see some improvement. They should work hand in hand together. This integration will be beneficiary to the handicapped. The awareness regarding the handicapped is not high in our society. People in general have to be careful while handling the handicapped as they are also the part of the society. Still we are considered minorities in society. They show us sympathy but what we really want is compassion."

My understanding from talking with a number of physically impaired students is that they want equal treatment like normal people. We must impart the feeling that they are not inferior to others in society. Because this hurts them very badly.

They want our assistance from not only individual level but also institutional level. We have to be more conscious about them. We have to ensure timely help towards them so that they can make themselves comfortable. We should give them priority as early as possible.

NGOs can play an important role in solving the problems the handicapped face. They can donate several listening devices, arrange lifts for the handicapped, provide Braille edition of books and so on.

The handicapped want our friendly cooperation. We all have to help them as much as we can. Education is an universal product. We cannot reserve it for some people or sectors. We have to spread it out to all so that the light of knowledge can touch every mind in society. We have to extend our helping hands towards them and open new windows of opportunity so that they can explore the world. Our constant support will make them worthy. We should always be with them so that they can see the light of the world, feel the warmth of relationship, and hear the sound of joy, experience the beautiful world.

Lastly, the handicapped have to build up their confidence and hold their positive attitude. They should not lose their concentration.



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