We shall overcome

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BASIC demand of the physically disabled is to be included in the mainstream and not to be privileged with special treatment but to have access to what everyone else does.

We have highlighted the life of the physically disabled students who are studying in Dhaka University.

It's not so easy for the disabled students to continue their study as the normal one. It took extra efforts and time to cope with the educational system. Normally they attend classes with tape recorder and later with the help of other students they prepare their notes.

After collecting the notes they have to convert the notes into brails, their own learning system.

"It is expensive for us to complete the whole process, which is really difficult for us to manage," says Mahima, a student of Sociology.

It's not as normal as we prepare for examination or attend classes and I got some shocking information while preparing this story. Imagine, disabled students are not allowed to use the library!

But despite such adversities, Mansura Yasmin, a 4th year student of political Science is successfully carrying on with her educational life. She manages to obtain second class marks.

"We want a corner for us in the library, it's our right, but instead of being sympathetic they are often too rude to us. They don't even want us to be present in the library. We want a separate corner in the library where we can study says Mansura Yasmin.

There is no arrangement for the disabled students in the library; they don't have any book or notes.

The students who have completed their honours or masters can contribute to the preparation of notes for the blind, which will at least minimize the problems of preparing the notes in future. The blind students can be appointed by the authority, which will also create job opportunity for the handicapped students.

Though there is a quota for the disabled students but other students are fighting for those reserved seats in the hall.

Sanjida Alam is suffering from accommodation problem . Every day she has to come from Savar to attend classes, which is really difficult for her, but the authorities do not show any sympathy.



Handicapped students are really grateful to roommates and other students of their dormitory because if they don't get help from them then it would be really tough for them to continue with their educational life.

The blind students are self-sufficient. They even have all arrangement for cooking their own food. They are not dependent on others for this matter. They normally use rickshaw as a means of transportation, it sometimes increase their expenses. They feel that if the DU authorities could arrange for separate bus for the disable students it would be quite helpful for them.

Parvin, commonly known as "Parvin Apa" among the juniors, is studying in the history department. She wanted to be a teacher but now she is losing her confidence because of the circumstances. "It's very difficult to complete the course. We have to do more work than the normal students, as we have to take the help of writers for examination, which takes more than one week to complete the formalities about the writers." She said.

She demands for the systems to be changed which could be helpful for them.

The university doesn't have any arrangement for the entertainment of the handicapped students. But they arrange programmes by themselves and also attend different programmes organized by different NGO's.

Sultana Ferdous Ara Khanom, Principle House Tutor of Samsunnahar Hall said, "We have full support for the disabled students. We always want to extend all types of support to them, but due to some bureaucratic problems, it's not always possible for us to do what we want to do."

Instead of helping the disabled, people actually exploit them and put them at further disadvantageous situation. But they do not want any sympathy. They only want cooperation of all so that they can lead a normal life.