

Articles 24 and 27 of the UN-CRPD, Education and Work & Employment: An International Perspective

Madan Kundu

kundusubr@aol.com

Vice Chair of the RI Work & Emp, Rehabilitation International (RI)

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ABSTRACT

According to the World Report on Disability, there are 8.3 billion people in the world, of which 1.3 billion (16%) are people with disabilities (PWD). Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD) is a pivotal document that champions the rights of people with disabilities to lifelong education at all levels and unequivocally eradicates any form of discrimination. This inclusive education system, backed by appropriate technology and assistive devices, paves the way for primary, secondary, and tertiary education, transitional services, and vocational training. It equips individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the world of work. Article 27 underscores the rights of people with disabilities to work equally in an accessible and inclusive environment. Beyond being a means of earning a wage, employment is a powerful tool for physiological survival, psychological well-being, and social integration. It plays a pivotal role in the battle against poverty and social exclusion, offering individuals a pathway to self-fulfillment, respect, and dignity in their communities. As a result, the civic society faces two significant challenges: (1) to prepare the PWD for the world of work by improving skills and competencies of Employability and Placeability Skills and (2) to improve the skills and competencies of the professionals who serve them. Recommendations are made to utilize the provisions of the UN-CRPD, WHO, ILO, ICF, Federal, State, and Local laws to enhance employment outcomes and quality of life for PWD. Theory, research, and practice continue to enhance employability and rehabilitation outcomes.