

Disability Equality Training students of JSW School of Law

Metta Resort, Paro

September 16 & 22, 2022



Image 1: Participants of the det on 16th September

Background:

The Disability Equality Training (DET) is a participatory process where the participants are introduced to real issues and discrimination facing all Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with an objective to change their behavior and practices. As with other equality training, Disability Equality Training courses are designed and delivered by the people who have directly experienced discrimination.

Heightening awareness usually takes the form of trying to change people's attitude towards person with disabilities. One way of achieving this is through 'simulation' exercises where, for example, participants are blindfolded so they know what it feels like to be blind or use a wheelchair for a few minutes to know what it must be like for someone who is a wheelchair user. This individualizes disability by focusing on what it's like not to see or walk and trivializes the discrimination and barriers persons with disabilities experience.



Image 2: Participants of the DET on 22nd September

The Disabled People's Organization (DPO) organized a day-long Disability Equality training to 18 students, (5 male, 13 females from Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law at Paro on 16th September, 2022. Meanwhile, 14 participants (4 male and 10 female) from JSW School of Law attended the same workshop on September 22. The resource persons from *UNDP*, Bhutan Country Office, Royal Academy of Performing Arts-*RAPA*, Wangsel Institute for the Deaf and Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) facilitated the training with the following objectives:

- To demonstrate the practical application of equal opportunities policies for PWDs in every platform particularly in law and justice.
- To recognize that PWDs may experience multiple oppression and that specific strategies need to be developed to challenge this form of discrimination.
- To equip participants with a practical understanding of the models of disability, enabling them to recognize discriminatory language and images which perpetuate the oppression of person with disability.
- To equip the participants with adequate knowledge to assist persons with various disabilities.

Module content

The training package contained:

1. Background and knowledge-sharing on various disabilities
2. Experience-sharing of the issues and challenges faced by the persons with disabilities
3. Activities to allow the participants to experience how it feels like to have certain disabilities.
4. Pledges from the participants

Pledges and action points by students on 16th September, 2022

Towards the end of the day-long session, the participants, in addition to expressing their appreciation and gratitude made the following pledges:

- Create awareness and advocate about disabilities to their colleague and communities.
- The participants expressed that the workshop was beyond their expectations.
- Support PWDs to get introduced to justice.
- Explore the possibilities of collaborating with DPO in the future for any kind of activities relevant to law and justice.
- Engage PWDs in their academic research and initiatives.

Discussions with participants on 22nd September

Participants shared their point of views and the reason they participated at the workshop.

The immediate objective of attending the workshop was to hear the first-hand information from PWDs. They wanted to contribute in their own ways for inclusiveness in near future and make difference in the society. They also aspired to emphasis and understand from perspective of PWDs meanwhile pulling and reminding of pull the community and recognize their needs.

Questions on DET background.

- How will social model assist in breaking the barrier to help people with disabilities? (Why social model is given priority than other models?)
- How has the behavior shift occurred or change in perspective of society thorough DET or DAT project? (How effective is the DET and DAT)

Questions for DET on blindness

- How person with blindness and person with albinism enjoys recreational activities? What JSW students can do to excel them?
- How uneducated and illiterate person can facilitate the DET guideline for person with blindness other than theory session?
- How can JSW School of Law help them to gain infrastructure independence?
- How do you overcome daily activities such as crossing road or zebra cross?
- Why cane is colored in white?
- Why albinism doesn't use spectacle to correct their vision?

Questions for DET on Deafness

- Are there any possibilities to identify person with deafness at first instant?
- Since there are variety of sign languages which one is appropriate to use while communicating with any country?
- How do we communicate if we lack knowledge on even basic sign language?
- Which form of communication is best suit for deafness than sign language?
- How to intervene at early stage for children with deafness?

Questions for DET on intellectual disability

- What is code of conduct to respect personal space for person with physical disability?

Resource Persons:

- Mr. Phurpa Wangchuk, National Consultant (Jr) at UNDP, Volunteer with DPO and a Person with physical disability
- Ms. Dorji Phuntsho, Person with Albinism, ICT officer at DPO
- Mr. Kinzang Jamtsho, Person with Intellectual disability, Administration Assistant at DPO
- Ms. Dorji Zangmo, person with deafness, Sign Language Instructor at DPO and Mr. Tenzin Dralha, instructor at Wangsel Institute for the Deaf.
- Mrs. Thinley Dema, interpreter at Wangsel Institute for the Deaf.

Pictures from the Training



Image 3: Introduction to the Programme by Mr. Phurpa Wangchuk



Image 4: Experience sharing by Mr. Dorji Phuntsho, Person with low vision



Image 5: Experience sharing by Ms. Dorji Zangmo and Mr. Tenzin Dralha

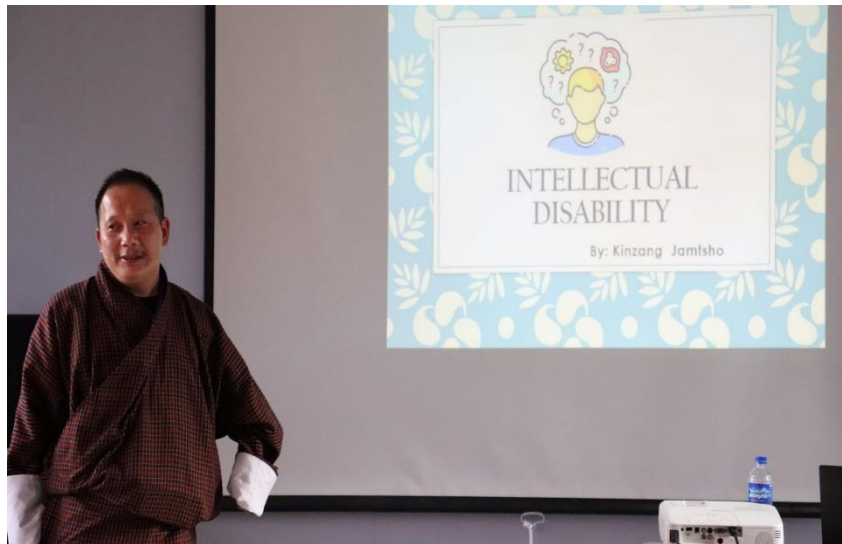


Image 6: Experience sharing by Kinzang Jamtsho, Person with Intellectual disability



Image 7: A 'simulation' exercises where participants are blindfolded and interacted so they know what it feels like to person with disabilities