Protecting and Empowering Persons with Disabilities during the COVID Pandemic: Responses Must be Disability Inclusive

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1. Introduction

2. Essential Needs

3. Conclusion
1.1 Introduction

Selected Type of Disability
(by Census and Statistics Department, Report No. 62 in 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Disability</th>
<th>No. of Disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restriction in body movement</td>
<td>320,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual impairment</td>
<td>174,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing impairment</td>
<td>155,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech impairment</td>
<td>49,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental illness/mood disorder</td>
<td>147,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>10,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning disabilities</td>
<td>17,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD/HD</td>
<td>12,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>887,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Single and Multiple Disabilities included)

Total PwDs: \(~ 578,600\)
1.2 Introduction

Profile of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

(by Census and Statistics Department, Report No. 62 in 2013)
Proportion of population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>7.179 million</td>
<td>7.509 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% increase</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion of Population (2013)

- PwDs: 578,600 (8.1%)
- Non-PwDs: 6,600,400 (91.9%)
1.3 Focus Group

Focus Group Meeting on COVID-19 on 24 April 2020

- 20+ representatives from different disabilities groups
- Report sent to Government and associated NGOs at end May 2020
1.4 Disabilities of Participants in Focus Group

- Physical Disability
- Visual Disability
- Hearing Disability
- Rehabilitation Advisory Committee Representatives
- NGOs
- DPOs
COVID strategy must be Disability Inclusive
2. Essential Needs

2.1 Services
2.2 Daily Life
2.3 Quarantine Centers
2.4 Health Conditions
2.5 Environment Conditions
2.6 Information and Knowledge
2.7 Education and Training
2.8 Psychological and Social
2.9 Preconceptions
2.10 Caregivers
2. 1 Personal Essential Needs

- Home care, meal, and hygiene services may not be available
- Need review
2.2 Daily Life Essentials

• PwDs have difficulty queuing up for long time
• Need priority for their essentials
2.2 Daily Life Essentials

- PWDs have difficulty queuing up for long time
- Need priority for their essentials

Free delivery by NGOs in Hong Kong
2.3 Quarantine Centres

- Quarantine centres are generally not physically accessible to PwDs
- Need universal design
2.3 Quarantine Centres

- Quarantine centres are generally not physically accessible to PwDs.
- Need universal design.

Accessible quarantine centre in Hong Kong.
2.4 Health Conditions

• PwDs are vulnerable for infection

• Need special priorities for preventive measures
2.5 Environmental Conditions

- People with **mobility impairment** touch many items.
- People with **visual impairment** rely on braille information.
- Need to adopt extra precaution for infection control.
2.6 Information and Knowledge

- PwDs may not have access to the Internet and ICT devices
- Cannot acquire latest information about available services
2.7 Education and Training Needs

• PwDs cannot switch to learning or working from home easily
• Need special training and support
2.8 Psychological and Social Needs

- Social skills of PwDs may deteriorate after months of lockdown

- Need reassessment and retraining.
• Generally assumed that PwDs belong to some NGOs
• Non-members are isolated from essential service provisions and news
2.10 Caregivers Needs

- Caregivers have to compensate for the caring and rehabilitation work done by service providers
- Psychological burden and burnout
3. Conclusion

Protecting and Empowering Persons with Disabilities during the COVID Pandemic
3. Conclusion

COVID strategy must be disability inclusive
3. Conclusion

Protecting and Empowering Persons with Disabilities during the COVID Pandemic

Inclusive as Users
3. Conclusion

Protecting and Empowering Persons with Disabilities during the COVID Pandemic

Inclusive as Decision Makers
Thank you

Arigatō gozaimasu