



**Opinion**

Volume 2 Issue 5 - August 2017  
DOI: 10.19080/GJIDD.2017.02.555598

Glob J Intellect Dev Disabil

Copyright © All rights are reserved by Nesreen O Alrowili

# Intellectual Disabilities in Saudi Arabia between Reality and Ambition



**Nesreen O Alrowili\***

*AlJouf University, Saudi Arabia*

**Submission:** August 08, 2017; **Published:** August 24, 2017

**\*Corresponding author:** Nesreen O Alrowili, AlJouf University, University in Sakakah, Saudi Arabia, Email: [nesreenalrowili@gmail.com](mailto:nesreenalrowili@gmail.com)

## Opinion

Saudi Arabia cared in developing legislation regulating the rights of people with special needs, which included health services in terms of preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. Including preventive genetic counseling, testing and laboratory analysis for early detection of diseases and taking necessary immunizations. Also, it took care of the aspects of education and educational training and rehabilitation, work, and sports, which is the right for those groups of people in the society.

However, legislation considered as the first steps of helping disabilities (intellectual disabilities), but there are other factors needed to help intellectual disabilities and people with special needs in general in Saudi Arabia to give best result in helping those sects. To illustrate that, there is no precise percentage of the number of disabled in Saudi Arabia. A research in 1997 indicated that the rate of disability in Saudi Arabia estimated at 3.73%. The latest study in 2000 indicated a rise of 6.3 percent [1]. In the meantime, specialists believe the number is greater than this present. Also, there is another problem that is no research showing the type of disability, ages and the causes of the disabilities. Last, there is a need to know the number of intellectual disabilities who have not been listed and registered in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

So, due to the absence of right statistics and no recent statistics on the number of disabled people in general and the

number of intellectual disabilities in a particular, a good fit and right intervention programs will not give appropriately to the beneficiaries.

In Al-Qariouti research, he indicated that the most common intellectual disability causes are genetic due to the marriage of relatives [2]. In this case and since genetic causes are one of the most common causes of intellectual disabilities, the government needs to set up programs that show the benefit of marriage outside the family and to offer embryonic counseling services for those who are next to marriage to help them be aware in this aspect. The study also shows that severe intellectual disabilities detected in the first year and minor or intermediate intellectual disabilities detected after the sixth year [2]. To help solve this issue, a program that targets parents, especially mothers should be set to help parents be familiarize and aware of the symptoms of intellectual disabilities, which helps them to get in an early intervention program and avoid any complications.

## References

1. Al-Waznah D (2003) Demographic Disability in Saudi Arabia. Statistical study on the situation of registered disabled persons. In the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Journal of the Association of Children with Disabilities, 1-26.
2. Al-Qariouti AA (1990) Mental Disability in Saudi Arabia. Its causes and some other variables. Journal of Faculty of Education.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License  
DOI: [10.19080/GJIDD.2017.02.555598](https://doi.org/10.19080/GJIDD.2017.02.555598)

**Your next submission with Juniper Publishers  
will reach you the below assets**

- Quality Editorial service
- Swift Peer Review
- Reprints availability
- E-prints Service
- Manuscript Podcast for convenient understanding
- Global attainment for your research
- Manuscript accessibility in different formats

**( Pdf, E-pub, Full Text, Audio)**

- Unceasing customer service

**Track the below URL for one-step submission**

<https://juniperpublishers.com/online-submission.php>