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# Egyptian Disability Movement: Are Voices Heard and Policies Impacted?

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## Abstract

Egypt represents a meeting point of the North, South, Africa and Asia. Egypt's population reached around 92 million, 15% of whom are disabled.

The aim of presenting this study " which assesses the current situation of the Egyptian disability movement and DPO's using Cairo as a case study" is to give a historical background on the disability movement and how it impacted policy framing and development process concerning disabled people in Egypt. It will also highlight the effects of the major political events embodied in the strikes and protests prior to and during the 25 January 2011 revolution, on disabled people and how these circumstances enhanced the emergence of new disabled people alliances and organizations.

The research methodology of the study combined both qualitative and quantitative methods to make the best use of the data available. Structured interviews and focus groups were used as the main tool for data collection. The combination of both descriptive and explanatory research types were also applied to give an in depth understanding into the strengths and weaknesses of this movement. The target group of this study mostly has different types of impairments; different formats were applied to ensure appropriate accommodation of all participants.

So the presentation design will tackle the following themes: A brief historical background on Disability Movements Worldwide such as IDA and EDF and how these acknowledged disabled peoples' needs and called for their rights. Following this, a demonstration of the current situation of disability movement in Egypt, before and after the revolution, will be presented in order to understand the extent to which it affected the situation of disabled people in terms of rights, policy and practices.

Finally the study recommendations offer needed mechanisms to enhance the capabilities, organization and effectiveness of the disability movement in Egypt, so they can appropriately advocate for their rights.

**Keywords:** disability movement, Egypt, policies, Egyptian revolution, alliances, DPOs

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