

Chapter 10

Legal Protection of the Right to Education for People With Special Needs: Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination as a Model

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ABSTRACT

The UAE upholds the right to education for every child through compulsory education laws, provision of special tools and services for people of determination, and legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination against individuals with special needs. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research have been tasked with ensuring access to education for people with special needs. Given this commitment, it is essential to examine the sufficiency of legislation in safeguarding the educational rights of people with special needs, allowing them to contribute to society in ways that are compatible with their abilities and circumstances.

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INTRODUCTION

Special education refers to specialized programs and services designed for individuals with disabilities or other factors that may hinder their access to learning and educational performance. In the UAE, the government is committed to supporting education and learning services for people of determination, which is the term used to describe individuals with special needs. The country has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and passed Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 to protect the rights of people of determination, which includes provisions for equal opportunities in education.

To facilitate education for people of determination, the Ministry of Education has established the Department of Special Education, which promotes their rights and ensures that they have access to the same educational opportunities as students in the regular education system. The Ministry has also established support centers across the UAE to provide services such as diagnosis of disabilities and learning difficulties, recommendations, and advising support services for children. The Ministry's strategy is to adapt public schools to cater to the needs of people of determination, including providing qualified teachers and specialists, supportive technologies, and learning materials.

The UAE has made significant efforts to include people of determination in mainstream education, which is reflected in the Ministerial Resolution No. 647 for the year 2020 on the policy of inclusive education. This policy directs government schools to adapt to the needs of people of determination and provide them with the best education services. Additionally, the Ministry provides specialized teachers with high behavioral skills and skill training programs to ensure that educators are properly equipped to care for people of determination, including those with visual and hearing impairments or language disorders.

The Importance of Studying

The significance of this study stems from the growing number of individuals with special needs who require additional assistance in accessing their right to education. As their numbers continue to rise, it becomes increasingly important to provide them with sustained legislative support.

Study Problem

The issue addressed in this study arises from an analysis of the efficacy of legal safeguards for individuals with special needs in the United Arab Emirates, as well as the relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks. Specifically, this study aims

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