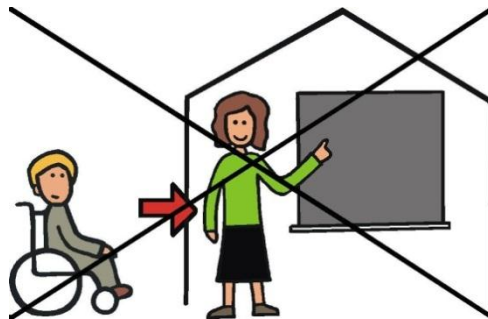


Education of Persons with Disabilities in China

A Report about How Persons with Disabilities Have Problems Going to School in China

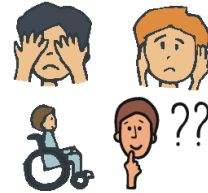


Easy to Read Version of Summary and Recommendations



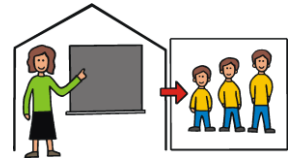
About this Report

This is a report about persons with disabilities in a country called China.



It talks about the right to get a good education.

This means that persons with disabilities have the right to go to school and learn new things just like anyone else.

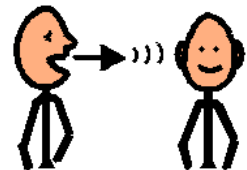


Who We Are

Human Rights Watch is an organisation that checks if people in different countries can use their rights.

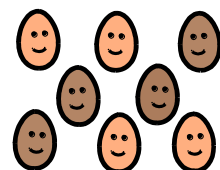


To write this report, we spoke to different people all over China.



We spoke to:

- Children and young people with disabilities,
- Parents of children with disabilities,
- People who support the rights of persons with disabilities,
- Teachers,
- Officials.

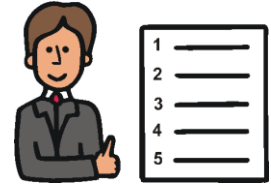


About the Right to Education

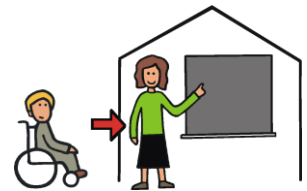
The Convention of the United Nations on the rights of persons with disabilities is an agreement between countries.



The Convention says what countries should do to make sure that persons with disabilities have the same rights and chances as anyone else.



The Convention says that persons with disabilities have the right to inclusive education. This means that persons with disabilities have the right to go to regular schools and learn new things together with persons without disabilities.



Inclusive education is good for all students. Persons with disabilities also learn better when they are together with persons without disabilities.



Rights of Persons with Disabilities in China

China agreed to the Convention of the United Nations on the rights of persons with disabilities.

This means that China agreed to make sure that persons with disabilities can use their rights like everyone else.

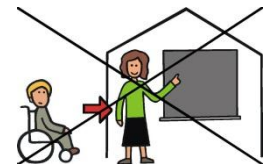


The government of China has done some good things for persons with disabilities:

- It made a law about the rights of persons with disabilities.
- It promised to give money for the education of persons with disabilities.
- It said that persons with disabilities will not have to pay for school.



But the government does not have a plan on how to make sure that all persons with disabilities can go to regular schools.

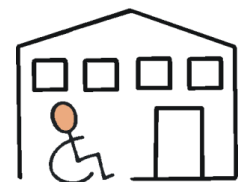


Instead, it continues to build special schools.

Special schools are only for persons with disabilities.

This means that many persons with disabilities are separated from persons without disabilities.

This is against the Convention.



What we found



The government of China has done some good things with education.

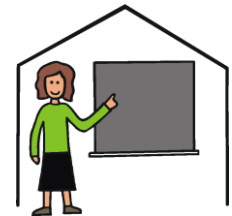
Almost all children without disabilities go to school.

But only 3 out of every 4 children with disabilities go to school.

Only persons with mild disabilities go to regular schools in China.

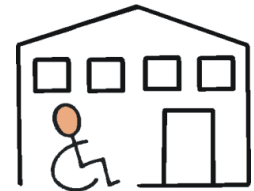
Some of them stop going to school too early.

Some of them are moved to special schools.



Many persons with disabilities go to special schools.

These schools are often far away from their homes.



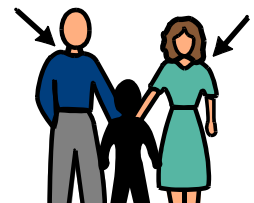
Persons with severe disabilities do not go to school at all.

Persons with disabilities rarely go to college or university.

Parents have an important role in making sure that children with disabilities in China get good education.

But often, they have little information about the right of children with disabilities to

get a good education and learn in regular schools.



China Disabled Person's Federation is an organisation that helps the government to support persons with disabilities.

This organisation rarely talks to parents about the rights of children with disabilities to education.

The Story of Chen Yufei

Chen Yufei is 9 years old.

He has an intellectual disability.

He also finds it hard to sit still and pay attention in class.

He wanted to go to a regular school near his home.

But the school did not take him in.

They said he would make it difficult for other children to learn.

Chen had to go to a special school instead.

It took a long time for Chen's mother to find a special school for him.

She had to pay the school money to take him.

Chen's mother is not happy about Chen going to a special school.

She thinks he would be much better in a regular school.

Problems for persons with disabilities in China

- **Discrimination**



Discrimination is when persons with disabilities are treated unfairly because of their disability.

In China, some regular schools do not want students with disabilities.

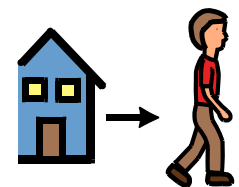
They refuse to take persons with disabilities in.



Sometimes, regular schools make it very difficult for persons with disabilities to go there.

For example, they say parents must stay at school to help children with disabilities in class.

Sometimes, regular schools ask persons with disabilities to leave.



In China, there are laws against discrimination.

But these laws are not very clear.

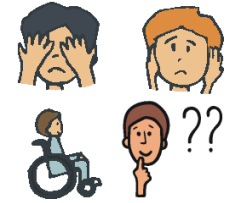
So persons with disabilities find it hard to complain about discrimination.

The government makes little effort to stop the discrimination.



- **Schools do not give support to persons with disabilities**

Regular schools in China give little support to persons with disabilities.



Sometimes, only small changes are needed to make sure that persons with disabilities can go to regular schools. But these changes are rarely done.



Persons with disabilities have the right to ask their school to make changes so that they can learn well there.

These changes must be reasonable.

This means they cannot cost too much money.

These changes are called reasonable accommodation.

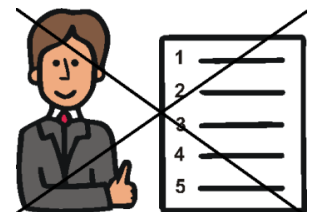


Reasonable accommodation is, for example, when:

- Teachers write down notes of what they say in class for students who cannot hear well.
- Schools make sure that children who cannot walk well can go to classrooms and bathrooms on the ground floor.



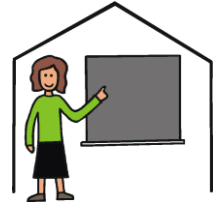
But there are no rules about reasonable accommodation in China.



- **Schools and teachers get little support to include persons with disabilities**

Some regular schools make a lot of effort to include persons with disabilities.

But they get little support from the government.



The way regular schools are organised in China makes it difficult to include persons with disabilities.



Teachers get little support to include persons with disabilities in class.

Often, they teach very large groups of students.

This makes it difficult to make sure that everyone takes part in the class.



Teachers get very little training about the needs of persons with disabilities.

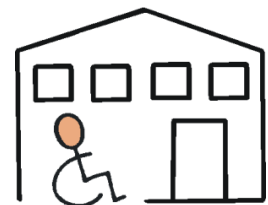
The money schools get to support persons with disabilities is often not enough.



- **Special schools**

Special schools are schools for children with disabilities.

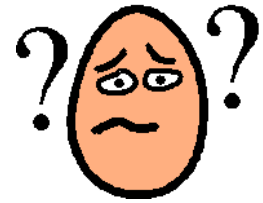
In China, these schools usually get a lot of support.



But there are different problems with special schools:

- Children with disabilities do not get to meet children without disabilities.
- There is little information about them.
- There are not many special schools.
- They are often far away from where children with disabilities live.

This means children have to live in schools far away from their family and friends.



- **Getting into college**

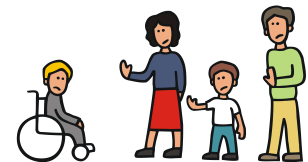
Only very few persons with disabilities go to college.

There are many difficulties for persons with disabilities who want to get into a regular college.

- Every person who wants to go to a regular college has to pass a medical test.

Persons with disabilities have to say they have a disability.

The government said that regular colleges should reject persons with certain disabilities.



- Every person who wants to go to regular college has to pass entrance exams.

But the government gives little support to persons with disabilities so that they can take part in these exams.

For example, blind people cannot take paper exams in Braille.

Braille is a special type of writing that blind people can read.

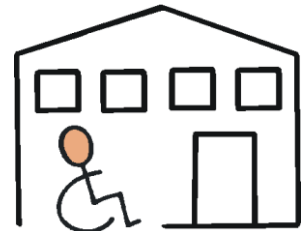


In China, there are also special colleges for persons with disabilities.

But these colleges train persons with disabilities for only a few jobs.

For example, they train blind people to do massages.

Or, they train deaf people in painting.



What needs to be done

We want China to start working on inclusive education.

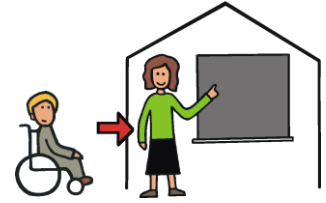


This is what the government of China should do:

- Change laws and rules about education to make sure that persons with disabilities can learn in regular schools.



- Make sure that laws on education agree with the Convention of the United Nations on the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Have rules about reasonable accommodation.
This means changes should be made in schools so that every person with a disability can take part.



- Support regular schools with money and training to make sure they can make the necessary changes to include persons with disabilities.



- Prepare a plan on how to make inclusive education happen.

- Immediately remove rules which say that colleges should reject persons with certain disabilities.



- Make rules on checking how persons with disabilities are doing in their studies in regular schools.

- Make sure that parents know about the right of children with disabilities to education.



- Bring together a group of experts, people representing children with disabilities and parents to look at the problems that persons with disabilities have going to school.



The group should also give advice to the government on how to make things better for persons with disabilities.

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