

# Disabled Welfare Program in Bangladesh



## 1. Background and Rationale

Bangladesh is home to a large population of people with disabilities, including individuals who are blind, physically challenged, hearing- and speech-impaired, and children with special needs. Despite significant progress in social development, persons with disabilities (PWDs) often remain among the most marginalized groups in society. They face barriers in accessing education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and social inclusion.

Many disabled individuals depend heavily on their families or communities for survival, which places additional financial and social burdens on households. Without proper support, they are at risk of exclusion, poverty, and vulnerability. Recognizing this urgent need, the **Education and Development Research Council (EDRC)** proposes the **Disabled Welfare Program**, which aims to support **20,000 disabled individuals** across Bangladesh.

## 2. Goal

To improve the quality of life, social inclusion, and economic empowerment of 20,000 disabled people in Bangladesh through targeted welfare and support interventions.

## 3. Objectives

1. **Health and Accessibility:** Provide essential support services such as mobility aids (wheelchairs, crutches, white canes, hearing devices) to enhance mobility and independence.

2. **Education and Skills Development:** Promote educational opportunities and skill-based training for disabled children and youth to enhance employability.
3. **Livelihood Support:** Facilitate small-scale income-generating activities for disabled individuals to reduce dependency.
4. **Social Inclusion and Awareness:** Reduce stigma and enhance awareness in society to ensure that disabled persons are treated with dignity and respect.
5. **Child Support:** Provide special care and educational materials for children with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



#### 4. Target Group

- Blind and visually impaired individuals
- Physically challenged persons
- Hearing and speech impaired (deaf and mute) individuals
- Children with special needs
- Other categories of disabled individuals in rural and urban Bangladesh

**Total Beneficiaries:** 20,000 disabled individuals

#### 5. Proposed Activities

- Distribution of assistive devices (wheelchairs, crutches, white canes, hearing aids, learning kits)
- Scholarship and educational material support for disabled children
- Skills development training (computer) and vocational programs
- Awareness campaigns for disability rights and inclusion
- Small-scale grants or livelihood support initiatives for families of disabled persons

## 6. Budget Plan

Item Description	Quantity/Unit	Unit Cost (USD)	Total (USD)
Assistive Devices (wheelchairs, crutches, canes, hearing aids)	1000 units	50.00	50000.00
Education & Special Learning Kits	1000 units	20.00	20000.00
Skills Training & Livelihood Support (computer, poultry and livestock)	1000 persons	50.00	50000.00
Awareness & Social Inclusion Campaigns	Lump sum	—	2,000
<b>Total Budget</b>			<b>122000</b>

## 7. Expected Outcomes and Impact

- **3000 disabled individuals** will receive direct support.
- Enhanced **mobility and independence** for thousands of disabled people through assistive devices.
- Improved **access to education** and learning opportunities for children with disabilities.
- Increased **employment and livelihood opportunities** for disabled youth and adults.
- Greater **social awareness and acceptance**, reducing stigma and exclusion of disabled persons.

## 8. Sustainability

The program will ensure sustainability by:

- Involving local government bodies and community-based organizations in implementation.
- Encouraging family and community participation in supporting disabled individuals.
- Promoting partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, and NGOs to sustain educational and healthcare initiatives.