

Country Report

Nationality: China

1. Brief Introduction of China

1.1 The People's Republic of China, located in East Asia, west of the Pacific Ocean, with 9.60 million square kilometers in area, is one of the largest countries in the world.

1.2 According to national census made at the end of 2005, there are 1.3 billions people in China, which is the largest population in the world. Among them, there are 561.57 million people in urban areas, which accounts for 43 percent of the total population and 744.71 million in rural areas, accounting for 57 percent.

1.3 China is a unified, multi-national country, comprising of 56 nationalities. The Han people make up 90.56% of the total population, leaving 9.44% for the other 55 ethnic minorities.

1.4 Religious freedom is practiced in China. There are Buddhism, Taoism, Islamism, Catholicism and Christianity. There are about one hundred million followers of all kinds of religions in China.

1.5 Chinese is official language.

1.6 Beijing is capital city of China.

2. Brief Introduction of disabled persons in China

2.1 Definition of disability: According to *THE LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE PROTECTION OF DISABLED PERSONS*, a disabled person refers to one who suffers from abnormalities of loss of a certain organ or function, psychologically or physiologically, or in anatomical structure and has lost wholly or in part the ability to perform an activity in the way considered normal.

2.2 Categories and number of disabled persons: The term "disabled persons" refers to those with visual, hearing, speech or physical disabilities, mental retardation, mental disorder, multiple disabilities and/or other disabilities.

According to the disability sampling survey conducted at 1987, there are 60 millions disabled persons in China, covering 5% of the total population of China, and the number of each category is as follows.

Hearing (includes speech) disabilities: 20.57 millions, about 34.3% of all the PWDs;

Mental retardation: 11.82 millions, about 19.7% of all the PWDs;

Physical disabilities: 8.77 millions, about 14.6% of all the PWDs;

Visual disabilities: 8.77 millions, about 14.6% of all the PWDs;

Mental disorder: 2.25 millions, about 3.8% of all the PWDs;

Multiple disabilities and/or other disabilities: 7.82 millions, about 13% of all the PWDs.

2.3 Other information about disabilities is that the percentage of male is about 50.03% and female is about 49.97%. The proportion of them is equal generally.

The percentage of children and youth with disability from 0 to 15 years old is about 15.83% in the whole number of PWDs, and about 2.66% in the whole number of the Chinese children.

The percentage of PWDs above 60 years old is about 39.72% in the whole number of PWDs.

The percentage of PWDs in urban is about 25.47%, and the percent of PWDs in rural is about 74.53%. The proportion is 1:3.

2.4 The main causes for disability are heredity, diseases, medical poisoning, accidents, calamity and environmental pollution, etc.

3. The Legislation and organizations for PWDs in china

The Chinese government always pays much attention to the development of the work on disability, and adopted lots of measures and set down a series laws & rules in order to protect the legal interests of PWDs.

3.1 There is a laws & rules system concerning disability in China which regards the constitution as the core, regards the laws, the administration rules, the department regulations, the rules of regional rules and regulations concerned as the series, regards the preferential treatment helping PWDs of People's governments at county, township, village levels as the extending. At the same time, Chinese government also strengthens the other work concerned, such as supervising and surveying the conditions of implementing the laws concerned, taking the serves and aids in law in order to protect the PWDs' legal interests, strengthening the publicity of legal system.

3.1.1 According to Article 45 of *THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*, when the citizens of the people's republic of China are old, illness or lose the laboring, they have the right gain the material help from country and society, and the country must offers social insurance and social almsgiving and medicine healthy conditions to his citizens.....The country and society must help his disabled citizens such as visual disabilities, hearing disabilities, language disabilities laboring, living and education.

3.1.2 *THE LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE PROTECTION OF DISABLED PERSONS* adopted at the 17th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on December 28, 1990. This law have been implemented of May 15,1991.It including nine aspects such as General Provisions, Rehabilitation, Education, Employment, Cultural life, Welfare, Environment, Legal Liability, Supplementary Provisions. It states the rights and the obligations of PWDs, prescribes the responsibilities of government, society and the organizations of disabled persons, ensures the legal status of enterprise of PWDs and disabled persons federation from, It is a fundamental law to safeguard disabled persons in Equality, Participation and Sharing. At present, this law is just being modified.

3.1.3 *THE REGULATIONS ON THE EDUCATION OF PWDs* were approved for implementation at August 1994 by the state Council. These Regulations are formulated in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons and laws concerning education, for the purpose of safeguarding the right of PWDs to education and developing educational undertaking for PWDs. The Regulations define the responsibilities of the government, institutions, society, schools, and families in education of disabled persons. It includes general provisions, pre-school education, compulsory education, vocation education, education at or above ordinary senior middle school level and adult education, teachers, guarantee for material conditions, rewards and punishments, supplementary provisions.

3.1.4 In addition, China government adopted a series of other special laws and regulations for PWDs such as *THE TEMPORARY REGULATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE WORKSHOPS* (were approved by seven departments concerned such as Ministry of Civil Affairs at September, 1990), *THE REGULATION ON THE EDUCATION OF PWDs* were approved for implementation at August, 1994 by The state Council.

3.1.5 There are about 40th laws ensuring the legal rights and interests of PWDs, such as *THE LAW ON LABOUR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*, *THE LAW ON EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*, *THE LAW ON MARRIAGE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*, etc.

3.2 Chinese government brings the PWDs' undertakings into National Programmes activity and ensures the PWDs' undertakings' development in-phase with the National economical and social development. From 1988, the Chinese people's government at all levels had formulated 5 Five-year work programs successively to improve the situations of disabled persons. Each Five-year work programs includes many implementation measures on rehabilitation, education, employment, culture, sports, social insurance, assistant devices, and so on. These Five-year work programs and implementation measures advanced the development of Chinese PWDs' undertaking effectively.

3.3 The work council for PWDs. From September 1993, Chinese governments at all levels set up the work council for PWDs in sequence. It is the normal organization to council the things of PWDs for Chinese governments at all levels. Its responsibilities includes supervising the implementation of the polices, laws, regulations, plans of PWDs' undertaking and resolving the important problems of PWDs' undertaking. Now, the national work council for PWDs includes 39 departments concerned.

3.4 The history of PWDs' organization in China. In the 1952, there had been set up some PWDs' organizations such as the China persons with visual-impaired welfare organization (set up

in 1953), China persons with hearing-impaired welfare organization (set up in 1956), China persons with visual-impaired, persons with hearing-impaired welfare federation (united the upper two organizations in 1960), China Fund for the Handicapped (set up in 1984). In 1988, at the foundation of the upper organizations, the China disabled persons federation (CDPF in brief in the following) was set up.

4. Brief Introduction of CDPF

4.1 The summarize of CDPF

The CDPF, affirmed by the law and ratified by the State Council, is the unified national organization of and for persons with various categories of disabilities in China, which was set up at March 1988 in Beijing, is the national non-government organization of/for PWDs. Mr. Deng Pufang is currently the Chairman.

Now there are more than 80,000 staffs serve in the disabled persons federations at all levels. Most of them are health; persons with different disabilities are little proportion in the staffs. The finance is all come from the government including wage of the staffs. There are nearly 1.9 millions volunteers helping PWDs in register.

4.2 The aim and functions of CDPF

The aims of CDPF are to advocate humanitarianism, protect the legal rights and interests of PWDs and develop the work on disabilities, so as to ensure their equal and full participation in social life and their share of material and cultural wealth of society.

CDPF is an organization with three functions, namely, representing and protecting the legal rights and interests of PWDs; uniting, educating and serving PWDs; and fulfilling the duties assigned by the government to administer various affairs of PWDs.

4.3 The organizational structure of CDPF

4.3.1 National Congress

National Congress of PWDs, convened every five years, is the highest organ of CDPF. Its representatives are elected among PWDs and people working for PWDs.

4.3.2 Presidium

Presidium, composed of members elected by the National Congress for a five-year term, takes the responsibilities of the National Congress while it is closed.

4.3.3 Executive Board

Executive Board is the standing executive body of CDPF, taking charge of day-to-day work of CDPF.

4.3.4 Group Members

CDPF has a number of group members such as China Fund for the Handicapped, China Rehabilitation Association for Persons with Disabilities, China Association of Blind Massagers,

China Paralympic Committee, China Deaflympic Committee, China Special Olympic Committee, China Association for Promotion of the Press and Publicity on disability, etc.

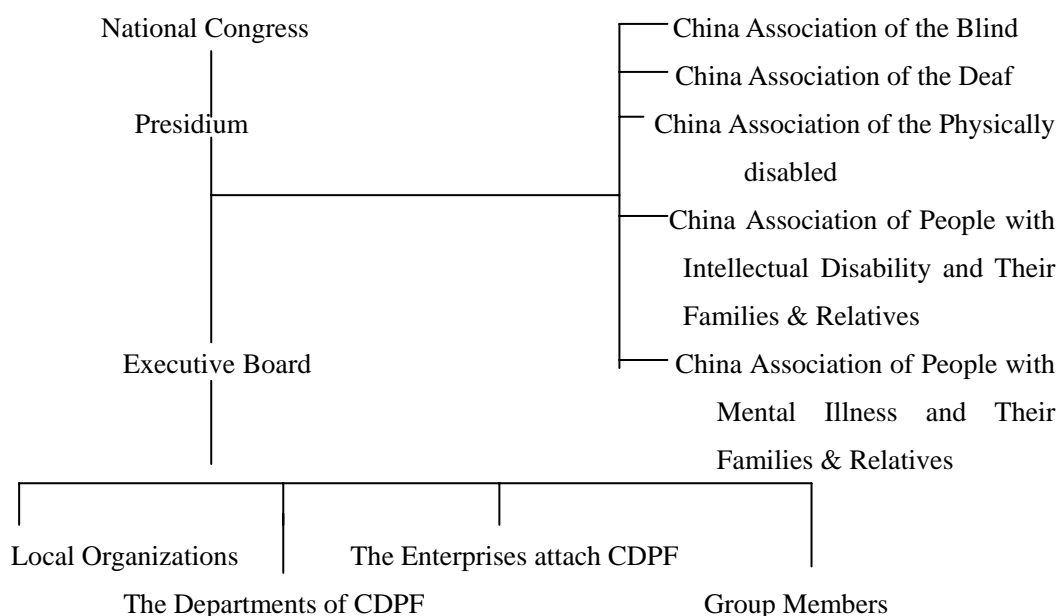
4.3.5 Local Organizations

Local Organizations of CDPF are established all over Mainland China at provincial, prefectural, county and township and village (community) levels. There are 32 disabled federations at the lever of provincial, 359 disabled federations at the lever of prefectual, 3160 disabled federations at the lever of country, 41.7 thousands disabled federations at the lever of township, 445 thousands disabled federations at the lever of village (community)and has being the system all over China. Where has PWDs, where has PWDs organizations

4.3.6 Associations

These associations refer to the following organizations: China Association of the Blind, China Association of the Deaf, China Association of the Physically disabled, China Association of People with Intellectual Disability and Their Families & Relatives, China Association of People with Mental Illness and Their Families & Relatives.

The chart of CDPF



4.4 The tasks of CDPF

4.4.1 Making closed contact with persons with disabilities, listening to their views and suggestions, reflecting their needs and serving them wholeheartedly.

4.4.2 Uniting and encouraging persons with disabilities to abide by the law, perform their due duties, carry forward the optimistic and up-and-coming spirit and the spirit of self respect, self confidence, self improvement and self reliance.

4.4.3 Advocating the cause of persons with disabilities, facilitating the links among the

Government, society and people with disabilities, and mobilizing society to understand, respect, care and assist people with disabilities.

4.4.4 Developing and promoting rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural life, welfare, social service of persons with disabilities and the prevention of disabilities so as to improve the environment and conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in society.

4.4.5 Assisting the Government in studying, formulation and implementing disability-related laws, regulation, plans and programs; fully plying its role of promotion, synthesization, organization, coordination, consultation and providing services and monitoring; and guiding the work in related areas.

4.4.6 Carrying out international exchanges and cooperation.

4.5 Resources of Income of CDPF

-- Donations from all circles in society (including organizations and individuals at home and abroad);

-- Contributions from the Chinese Government;

-- International cooperative projects;

--Income generation;

--Other income.

5. Brief Introduction of myself in CDPF

5.1 The main responsibilities of my department

I serve at the Organizational and Connected Department of CDPF. The main responsibilities of my department are those

Be with responsibility for organization building of disabled persons federations from national level to local level.

Be assisting the province government to manage the senior officers of province disabled persons federation.

Setting down and implementing the training plans of the staffs serving in disabled persons federations of all levels.

Be managing and issuing the certificates of PWDs.

Be connecting, educating, training and awarding PWDs.

Guiding the grassroots organizations of PWDs.

Organizing volunteers to help PWDs.

Taking on the daily works of associations for various categories of disabilities.

5.2 When and why did I serve at CDPF

I came to CDPF and served at there by examination when I graduated from university at July 2003. I am very glad that I can take part in the group served for PWDs because I am a PWD too (physical disabled). I know the feeling and the pain of PWDs, and I also know there still have lots

of prejudices and discriminations to PWDs at present society. It's my honors to do my best to serve for the PWDs and improve their social status, help them get more benefits in different fields such as rehabilitation, education, employment, improve their living quality and working environment.

Even though I am just common officer at CDPF, I will do my best to do work in order to influence the working decisions on PWDS of my leader and other departments effectively through making suggesting to theme. I will serve PWDs as much as I can.

5.3 Achievements, Problems and Reasons

5.3.1 Now, China has done great achievement in the PWDs' undertakings by promotion of PWDs and the hard work of national government, departments concerned, disabled persons federations in all different levels. The social environment of PWDs becomes more harmonious. The social capability of serving for PWDs becomes stronger. The PWDs' living conditions such as health and education become better. The PWDs' diathesis becomes higher. The international influence of Chinese PWDs' undertakings becomes greater.

5.3.2 Though there have been many achievements of PWDs' undertakings, there still have lots of difficulties and problems which need us to deal with:

- The development of PWDs' undertakings is far behind of national economic development.
- The living level of PWDs is far behind of the national average level.
- The condition for the PWDs' rehabilitation, education, employment, training, welfare and so on are very pressure. It is difficult to be satisfying the rising needs of PWDs.
- The law and rules on protecting rights and benefits of PWDs need improve.
- There is not balance of the PWDs' undertakings in different Chinese provinces, and the PWDs' undertakings at grassroots and rural are still very weak.
- The proportion of PWDs in disabled persons federations in all different levels is still low. The training of staffs in the federations needs more strength.
- The associations of various categories of disabilities need more activities. The system of volunteers helping PWDs needs improve, etc.

5.3.3 Why is there so much difficulties and problems of PWDs' undertakings in China? There are following several reasons. I think they are those.

- China is still a developing country. It's very difficult for she to provide enough matter condition. The measures and capacities for PWDs to participant in society equally are still limited.
- The social working methods for PWDs' undertakings need improve. The ways of fundraising are not various enough.
- There still have prejudices and discriminations to PWDs in the society.
- Because of the outer conditions and the disabilities of themselves, the ability of some PWDs is still low; their competition ability is not very strong.

5.4 Measures

- It needs fundraising from more and more fields so that there will have the better capacity to

add funds to PWDs undertakings and improve the PWDs living level and quality.

--The laws and regulations and policies on the rights and benefits of PWDs should be constituted and improved so that the rights of PWDs could be protected better.

-- PWDs' undertakings need more advocating so that the public's opinions to PWDs could be changed, governments in different levels and different social fields could do more support for the PWDs' undertakings, helping PWDs will be more common, and the environment for the PWDs to participant in the society become better.

--more and more excellent PWDs could have chance to work in disabled persons federations in all different levels and the staffs of the federations could get more training chance so that their capacities of serving for PWDs would be promoted.

--It is necessary that educating and training more PWDs in order to enhance their integrated capacities and improve their competition in the society.

6. My other working experience with persons with disabilities

Besides CDPF, I had worked China Rehabilitation and Research Center, China Rehabilitation and Research Center for Deaf Children, China Fund for the handicapped, and so on.

experience:

--Rehabilitation is the foundational need for the PWDs. Especially the language rehabilitation of deaf children is the job with salvage work. -It must be found as early as we can, then do the best to monotony, cure, rehabilitate them, in order to reduced the disabilities to the less and less occurring and degree.

--We must strength the concerned subject' research on disability and enhance the fee for the science researches on disabilities. Then we must make the researches fruits to the job as early as we can, so that ,we can serve for PWDs better.

-- It must have great sensation for PWDs' undertakings to fundraise from every aspect and set up the foundation with publicity, clarity, sincerity, efficiency.

Moreover, I had taken part in the Regional Training Workshop on Capacity Building for PWDs (The topic is *Toward Right-based Society in Asia Pacific Region*) on April 10-14, 2005 at Bangkok, Thailand. From it, I know about some international PWDs organizations and their working ways. It provided me with some enlightenments and very profit for my job.

7. My experience and feeling of disability

I am a physical disability with right lower limb disabled because of poliomyelitis. At my growing experience, there are some prejudices and discriminations to me because for disability. For example, many children, even adult persons imitated my walking way or abused me. When I graduate from university, I couldn't have a job for a long time because many organizationsdepartments didn't want to accept me also for my disability. But I am very fortunate in general because I just growing up with the rapid development of China and the PWDs'

undertaking. I am very happy because my family and lots of my friends and other persons I even don't know who is he/she help me a lot. During my education time, any schools hadn't refused me. When I went to find a job after graduating from school, I had gained much help from others. Finally, I had my favorite job, though some one refused me.

However there are still many difficulties and problems of PWDs' undertakings in China because of the developing country and the lower opinion of social culture. There still has the phenomenon of prejudicing PWDs. The rights of PWDs', especially the persons with heavy disability, such as rehabilitation, education, employment could not be achieved enough. There are lots of works for us to do for PWDs. But I believe, as China rapid development and the social culture improved in China, the living conditions of Chinese PWDs must be improved great and the future of Chinese PWDs should bright with the hard work of all Chinese governments and society and the disabled persons federation sand the help of foreign friends.