

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL  
DISABILITIES IN LEBANON

A thesis presented in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree  
of Master of Philosophy  
in Development Studies at  
Massey University

Miranda Jo Pittaway

1997

## ABSTRACT

This thesis is concerned with people who are physically disabled and are living in Lebanon. The discussion focuses on what development has occurred for these people, how their households manage their lives within their local and national environment, what their needs are, and which service providers are attempting to address these needs. The national environment in which these people live and the situation of disabled people in developing countries is also considered. The thesis question asks if the service providers are meeting the development needs of the people with physical disabilities. The needs of the disabled people fall into two broad categories: practical and social. The Lebanese state is not active in addressing these needs and this role falls to the non-governmental organisations. It is shown that the non-governmental organisation services are in some way meeting the development needs of the people with physical disabilities. But both the non-governmental organisations and the people with physical disabilities identify weaknesses in the non-governmental organisation service provision. The physically disabled people experience improvements in their quality of life through their own efforts or with the support of the non-governmental organisations and/or their families.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have assisted me over the past two years while I have prepared this thesis and I wish to acknowledge their support.

Special thanks are due to Abdul Ghafor al Ansari who translated the questionnaire into Arabic, and to Annie and Chris Hightet, Peter Browne, Helen Zarifeh, Glenys Checchi, and Chris and Jilann Byrnes.

I wish to thank the participants in the field work and the field assistants in Lebanon. Without the co-operation of the people with physical disabilities and their families and the representatives of the non-governmental organisations, and the work of Walid Abu Harb, Samira al Ali, and Thaer Moatassem this study would not have been possible. I am grateful to Om Shafik al Ali for her very kind hospitality while I was in Lebanon.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements		iii
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
Chapter 2	Methodology	11
Chapter 3	Development and Development Theory	20
Chapter 4	Lebanon	41
Chapter 5	Physical Disability and Development	67
Chapter 6	Non-governmental Organisations in Lebanon	83
Chapter 7	The Disabled Person and the Household	104
Chapter 8	Conclusion	129
 <b>APPENDICES</b>		
Appendix A	Information sheet for people with a physical disability	141
Appendix B	Consent form for the interview	142
Appendix C	Guidelines for the structure of the interview	143
Appendix D	Questionnaire for the non-governmental organisation survey	144
Appendix E	References for the people with physical disabilities and their families	147
Appendix F	References for the non-governmental organisations	149
Appendix G	Summary of the field work	150
Appendix H	References for the informal discussions	159
 <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		 160

## LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

### Figures

Figure 1.1	Conceptual framework of the thesis	6
Figure 3.1	Components and flows in a livelihood	22
Figure 3.2	Components and flows in the counter-ideology of reversals	24
Figure 3.3	Four domains of social practice	27
Figure 4.1	Lebanon	42
Figure 4.2	Four domains of social practice: adapted model	57
Figure 4.3	Four domains of social practice: 1943 - early 1970s	60
Figure 4.4	Four domains of social practice: late 1970s - 1980s	61
Figure 4.5	Four domains of social practice: 1990s	65
Figure 6.1	Relationship between the needs of the disabled people, the NGO services, and the constraints of the state and society	101

### Tables

Table 2.1	The participants in the interviews	13
Table 5.1	The causes of physical disability	69
Table 5.2	Primary physical and sensory disabilities and the secondary problems which may or may not occur	70
Table 6.1	The different services provided by the 'composite' NGOs	86
Table 6.2	The factors which limit the work of the NGOs	91
Table 6.3	The future plans of NGOs	92
Table 6.4	Generational analysis of the NGOs	93
Table 7.1	Good change for the young children	106
Table 7.2	The livelihood of H. and his family (M4)	109
Table 7.3	Good change for the school children	110
Table 7.4	The livelihood of M. and her father (S3)	112
Table 7.5	Good change for the working age people	114
Table 7.6	The livelihood of H. (W6)	118
Table 7.7	The livelihood of S. and his family (W11)	119
Table 7.8	Good change for the elderly people	120
Table 7.9	The livelihood of S. and her mother (E4)	122