

## The Role of Media in Raising Awareness of the Right of Persons with Disabilities in Jordanian Legislation

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### Abstract

This study aimed at demonstrating the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities stipulated in Jordanian legislation, and to identify the areas and nature of these rights; to educate members of society, and to raise the level of public awareness of these rights. As the media has an impact on changing perceptions and ideas about disability and creating a sound mental image rather than the sympathy and compassion view towards the disabled persons. The legislations have guaranteed their rights in clear legislative texts to be achieved by the public and private bodies where the disabled work and for the aim of integrating disabled people in the society. And that is by answering the following questions:

1. What is the nature of the rights of the persons with disability that Jordanian legislation guarantees?
2. What is the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities mentioned in Jordanian legislation?

To answer the study's questions, the researcher used the descriptive analytical method, for examining the contents of the legislative texts of the disabled people, it was analyzed logically linguistically. The rights of the persons with disability were represented in the areas of social life and institutional care; higher education; vocational training; health care; customs exemptions, tax and environmental facilities; rights of the disabled in public and political life; sports, culture and recreation. In addition to their rights to litigate. The study also addresses the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in a way that enhances the process of integrating them into society. The study concluded some recommendations including encouraging scientific research in the disability field, giving it a special priority, and the necessity of holding scientific conferences and seminars that study issues of the persons with disability and their rights within society.

**Keywords:** Persons with disability, legislation, Media, Persons with disability rights.

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### Introduction

The media, whether it is conventional "such as newspapers, television or radio" or modern means such as the electronic press, various Internet information sources or social media sites, is considered one of the most influential means affecting the different segments of society and shaping their cognitive structure and their visions towards many issues of various dimensions. Since it can effectively play an important role in promoting people ability to make appropriate decisions about how to deal with different issues and how to address these issues in away that achieves comprehensive development in its different dimensions. The individuals' opinion in many issues has been influenced by the media's coverage of these topics since there is a positive relationship between the media's emphasis on an issue and the degree to which the audience attaches importance. Thus, the increased emphasis on addressing such topics by the media contributes to gain greater interest of the public on them and there is also a great relationship between the way the media presents the topics and their level of importance in the publics' opinion. As the more the media deals with an issue, the more society cares about it. (Hilat, 2015-2016, pp. 56-57).

The issue of the rights of persons with disabilities is one of the most vital issues that must be considered in the media because it is a national investment and not a media luxury. People with disabilities are an integral part of any human society who enjoys full health, educational and social rights. Additionally, the relationship between the media and disability is an interactive relationship and a mutual responsibility. This relationship requires raising comprehensive awareness of the concept of disability and the rights of the disabled as stipulated in local and international conventions and legislation for all members of society regardless of their age or their cognitive levels; and focus on developing these concepts in a manner compatible with the spirit of the times (Al Ruffua, 2000, p. 24.)

Therefore, attention to the persons with disability at the national legislation level has become an organized attention in a way consistent with the development of international legislation and treaties; previously the legislation for this category was unorganized in local legislation, where the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established in the year 2007 AD, then the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. "3" for the year 2007 AD was emerged, based on a human rights approach that is in line with the international agreement. Jordan was the first Arab country that ratified it (Hilat, 2013, p. 9.)

Accordingly, the increasing attention of the issues of persons with disabilities has changed the peoples' perceptions towards the disability concept; this issue has become one of the most important social issues that

requires serious and real work to reformulate the attitudes, draw the policies and future plans to suit the provision of the best educational, training, consulting and institutional care programs and services for individuals with the special needs according to their abilities. The more attention is paid to this segment of society, the more active and productive they will be in their society where they can enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others. Jordan has called for establishing a clear vision, equal rights and parallel plans for building the Jordanian citizen who has disability to be active and productive person in his community. (Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities, National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, Action Plans for the second phase 210-2015.)

### **The study Problem.**

This study seeks to demonstrate the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in Jordanian legislation, as the media has an impact on the attitudes and behavior of members of society towards issues of disability and the disabled persons. It can be a powerful force to change societal conceptions about disability and To create a clear mental image of people with disabilities as individuals who are part of human diversity, rather than an impression of sympathy and compassion towards people with disabilities as if they were unable to live their lives like ordinary people. In addition to identifying areas of the rights of persons with disabilities that have been dealt with in Jordanian legislation. Therefore, the problem of the study attempted to answer the following questions:

- 1- What is the nature of the rights guaranteed by Jordanian legislation for the persons with disability?
- 2- What is the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities stipulated in Jordanian legislation?

### **Study objectives.**

This study aims to identify the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in terms of health, education, social life and institutional care. In addition to provision of services such as environmental facilities, customs exemptions, sports, culture and leisure, and acceptance of disability as part of social diversity.

### **The importance of the study.**

The importance of this study stems from identifying the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities stated in Jordanian legislation, raising social awareness to change the prevailing stereotype in society about disability and to work as much as possible to integrate them into normal life.

### **Study limits**

This study is limited to Jordanian legal legislation, which relates to the social, educational, health, and economic rights of persons with disabilities, and the role of the media in raising awareness of these rights.

### **Study methodology.**

The researcher used the descriptive and analytical approach to Jordanian legislation to derive legislative texts from laws, regulations and instructions that guarantee the rights of different persons with disabilities and to analyze them in a logical linguistic analysis. In addition to clarifying the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in a way that enhances their integration into society.

### **Definition of terms.**

**The media:** It is an integrated system of visual or audio means that; works to communicate opinions, news and ideas to the recipient in several places "the audience "and presenting their points of view and narrowing the distances by using newspapers, television, radio, "or electronic journals, smartphones, various information websites on the Internet, computers or social media (Badri, 1980, p. 180.)

**Rights:** are the benefits that a domestic, Arab, and international legislation regulates for a person with a disability: (with the aim of enabling them to restore or achieving their physical, mental, professional, social or economic abilities to the level permitted by his personal capabilities). (The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2007, Article: 2.)

**Disabled person:** All the persons who have long-term physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, psychological or neurological impairment which may hinder their performance of one of the major life activities or hinder the exercise by such person of any right or basic freedom independently

**Disability:** A lack of ability to perform appropriate social work as the normal person does, because of physical or mental impairment (Badri, 1980, p. 146.)

**Jordanian Legislation:** The set of laws, regulations, and instructions that govern and regulate the relationship between power and society and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. To meet their "health and educational needs, institutional care, environmental facilities, customs exemptions, sports, culture. In addition to their rights

in litigation and practicing their public and political life.

### **A brief history of the media.**

Media arose by simple means where it has evolved with the invention of printing, the global openness and the development of communication technologies. Then by its audio-visual and the reading instruments, it has occupied an important position among human societies, thanks to its technologies that enable it to access all groups and segments of society who have different intellectual, cultural, and social levels. Moreover, it is responsible for bringing about positive change in the audience thoughts who receiving information and ideas through its means and causing a change in their behavior provided it is used in accordance with the proper scientific method.

The media as seen by Hilat (2016, pp.72-74) is responsible for drafting news, information and ideas and broadcasting them to society making them an effective means of changing values, attitudes and promoting behaviors by modifying them positively or negatively. It also can play an important role in reshaping the cultural content of the public towards various issues that were blackouts by addressing and discussing them openly to result in reshaping behavioral patterns that are consistent with the information provided on various issues that is covered by the various media .

The first Jordanian media was established in 1920 as a written press that was followed by the audio media in 1948 where the first radio channel was launched that began broadcasting from the city of Ramallah in 1950, that was known as the Radio of the Kingdom of Jordan. Amman Radio was established in 1959. As for the visual media, it was represented in the Jordanian television, which started broadcasting in 1968, while the Jordanian satellite channel started broadcasting in 1993. The audio and visual media formed the main pillar in Jordanian society until the early nineties of the last century in providing information to citizens that was in a selective, formalized form. However, the Jordanian media has now been able to keep pace with the technical development in the media fields, especially in the use of the Internet and the creating of websites. (Hilat, 2013, pp. 61-65.)

### **An overview of the legislation for the persons with disabilities.**

Jordan's interest in the disabled dates to the 1960s, when the first disability center was established in Salt in 1964, and then the first public school was established in 1969 (Khasawneh, 2005, p. 208). The Jordanian interest in the issues of disability developed in the seventies and eighties of the last century, as national voluntary societies and bodies concerned with the affairs of persons with disabilities emerged. They have paid high attention to all kinds of disability whether the motor, visual disability or cerebral palsy. Several institutes and training centers were also established. All these efforts have stimulated official interest to pay more attention to the issue of disability and provide services through the specialized centers affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development. Schools, centers, and institutions that provide services for people with disabilities have also instituted to deal with mental, hearing, visual or mobility impairments. After the announcement of the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981, the attention to providing quality services for people with disabilities increased and many states sought to achieving the contemporary concepts and attitudes such as integration, equality and equal opportunities. The attention was not only limited to these concepts, rather it extended to other areas as sports for the disabled for its role in the physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

1990s, witnessed a major development in the provision of services to this segment. Jordan was the first country in the Middle East to adopt a national disability legislation as it issued the Disabled Law No. 12 of 1993. In 2007 AD, His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein issued the Royal Decree to develop the national strategy for persons with disabilities which started from 2007-2015.

The first output of the first phase of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities was the abolition of the Disabled Persons Act of 1993 and the issuance of the Disabled Persons Rights Law No. 31 of 2007, which included twenty-one human rights articles for persons with disabilities; Article (3) of this law stated the right of persons with disabilities to disseminating awareness and education on the issues of disabled persons and their rights. In addition to encouraging and enhancing scientific research, exchanging information in the field of disability and collecting information, data and statistics related to disability that keeps pace with what is emerging in this field. Article (4) of the law includes that people with disabilities have rights in the areas of health, higher education; vocational training and work; social life and institutional care; environmental facilities; customs and tax exemptions; public and political life; sports, culture and leisure; and tolerance) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act; 2007, Article: 4). The Supreme Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities was also founded as an independent governmental institution under the Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2007, it was chaired by His Highness Prince Raad bin Zaid.

Article (8) of the Convention emphasized “combating stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices related to persons with disabilities, including those based on gender and age, in all areas of life; and promoting awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities; in addition to raising awareness in the whole society In general and the family in particular, and promote respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.” (Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities; convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

p. 7.)

In 2007, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan signed the agreement that entered into force in 2008. Accordingly, Jordan becomes committed to adopting the terms of this agreement. The Cabinet assigned the task of following up the implementation of this agreement to the Supreme Council for Disabled Affairs. (The Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, Action Plans for the second phase 2010-2015, pp. 20-24). The second phase of the strategy indicated that change will not be achieved with the lives of persons with disabilities unless the focus is on six aspects: The legislative side; the human side; the awareness side; the environmental side; the regulatory side; and finally the financing side (the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities: 2010-2015, p. 12.)

### Types of disabilities

The concept of disability

The existence of a physical, psychological or mental disability affects the person's ability in a way he loses his ability to meet the requirements of normal life like any of his peers, so he needs external assistance to allow him to live his life as his peers, such as environmental and moral facilities (Hilat; 2013; p. 21.) The definitions of disability among cultures in human societies differs due to the cumulative outcome of the barriers imposed by the disability on the individual, which his ability prevents him from doing, even when he makes his maximum effort. It is also related to situations, attitudes and difficulties when interacting with the environment. This disability is determined by the type of disability of the individual which is represented in the following types:

**First: Intellectual Disability:** They are the people who are unable to manage things themselves due to the lack of social compatibility and it is associated with numerous biological, environmental, and sociocultural causes or injury to a disease that results in a decrease in the mental performance to below average level, this performance is accompanied by a defect in the adaptive behavior of the individual during growth. (Al-Anizi: 2014-2015; pp. 49-50.) It may be a primary mental disability related to a state before the birth "Heredity" genetic disorder or a secondary impairment due to the causes that occur during pregnancy or during childbirth which is called environmental causes. It may be a mental impairment according to the external shape, such as the shape of the Mongolian person. This condition can be identified before and during childbirth and its causes are due to chromosomal disorders and it is associated to the age of the mother. Its occurrence increases after the age of 35 years. Another reason is metabolic disorders caused as a result of hereditary causes and a decrease in the liver's efficiency in secreting the enzyme needed for metabolism of phenylene acid. "A dwarf" is another shape of this example that due to a decrease in the secretion of the hormone thyroxine, which is produced by the thyroid gland. The size of skull also recorder under intellectual disability where the small size of the skull is associated to alcohol, drugs or exposure to radiation during pregnancy, while big size of the skull is due to genetic reasons. (Mansi; 2004; pp. 20-22.)

**Second. Vision impairment:** refer to people who are blind, or who have partial vision. So that it requires education in curricula that do not include the sense of vision and depends on Braille or other methods. The degree of visual impairment may be complete, i.e. blind or functionally blind who have light eyesight and use it for orientation and movement skills or visually impaired people who need visual aids such as glasses or magnifiers for writing. (Al-Anizi: 2014-2015; p. 47.)

**Third. Hearing impairment:** They are people who have lost their hearing in a way that they cannot understand speech or acquire language or have lost part of their hearing ability and are able to speak at a rate commensurate with the degree of their hearing impairment. The degree of hearing impairment may be moderate, severe or very severe (Mansi; 2004; pp. 45-49.)

**Fourthly. Speech disability:** they are the people who cannot speak the words with clearly or expressively. They are a type of communication disorder where 'normal' speech is disrupted. This can mean stuttering, lisps, etc (Al-Anizi: 2014-2015; p. 49.)

**Fifth. Physical or motor disability:** People who have a physical disability preventing them from performing their motor functions normally, it affects a person's mobility, physical capacity, stamina, or dexterity. This can include the brain or spinal cord injuries, multiple scleroses, cerebral palsy, respiratory disorders or amputation of the limbs. This person needs medical, psychological, social, educational and professional programs to help him achieve his life goals and live with the greatest independence (Mansi; 2004, p. 82.)

### Previous studies

Al Ali (2008) conducted a study "on the deaf" that aimed at identifying the extent to which people with hearing disabilities have access to the media in the Emirates in Dubai and Sharjah. The study showed that in Sharjah, people with disabilities "deaf" are keen to watch the different media, TV and video and to read newspapers and magazines. This indicates that this category takes advantage from the achievements of science and the advancement of technologies and also indicates that the centers that provide services for the disabled are concerned with the rehabilitation and training of the disabled to watch by learning the sign and lip language, through which

they can understand some of the television programs, especially those use the sign language. They also provide them with learning strategies that enable them to read newspapers and magazines.

Bakri (2009) study aimed to identify the degree of applicability of building code requirement of persons with disabilities to buildings and facilities in Jordan and related difficulties. The results of the study indicated that the Jordanian code of private construction needed developing, modifying and introducing what is new and not available in it, such as specifications for guidance boards, the size of protruding objects in the corridors, setting special specifications for handrails and health units. The results also indicated the importance to provide recreational and play areas for the disabled, providing self-service machines and special areas in the courts and prisons for the disabled. The results showed that the percentage of abiding to buildings specification all areas was low. The most prominent results related to environmental problems were the lack of parking area, the lack of slopes within the sidewalks and their poor implementation, the lack of health units and bathrooms within the public buildings and facilities. In addition to the lack of provision of elevators and problems related to public safety such as the ways to evacuate fires, and problems related to the quality and strength of lighting. In terms of transportation, the results indicated that the institutions failed to provide buses for transporting the disabled, preparing the streets for loading and unloading the disabled and clarifying the bus route for the disabled.

Al-Enizi (2015) study aimed at identifying Kuwaiti media professionals' attitudes towards media treatment of issues of persons with disabilities in the media and to identify the extent of the Kuwaiti media's attention in the issues of people with disabilities, and the nature of the media image that reflects them from the Kuwaiti media professionals point of view, in addition to identifying the attitudes of Kuwaiti media towards media treatment of issues of persons with disabilities in the Kuwaiti media and what are their criticisms at this treatment, through conducting a study survey on a sample of Kuwaiti media professionals. The study concluded that the most common methods used by the Kuwaiti media to address issues of people with disabilities are to integrate them into society and raise awareness of their rights. Among the most prominent images presented by the Kuwaiti media about persons with disabilities are a respectable, educated and positive personality, and the most prominent trends of the study sample concerned the media treatment of issues of persons with disabilities, it uses a positive language when mentioning them. 71,8% of the study sample believes that there is a deficiency in the treatment of Kuwaiti media for the issues of persons with disabilities, and the most prominent of these deficiencies is the allocation of some media specialized programs for each category of people with disabilities.

Hilat (2016) revealed the low level of Jordanian newspapers' interest in disability issues. These topics do not attract the attention of the Jordanian press which is clearly shown when they do not highlight the headlines of disability topics in a large and clear way in the press which may be attributed to the lack of interest of people in such topics. Actually, the press in Jordan does not present the issues of disability appropriately to the public, but rather it relies on conveying the information on the classic style that does not exceed a news or a report and which relies on its own sources to obtain information related to disability. The results of the study revealed that one of the reasons for paying attention to disability was sometimes due to either the presence of a public figure sponsoring the disability, for the presenting a Local event or for conducting scientific studies.

Khamees and Abdel Hafiz(2007) concluded a study aimed at identifying the information needs of the disabled and the extent to which the media satisfies it. And to achieve several things; come up with a clear vision and practical mechanisms that enable those in the media to prepare information materials that meet the needs of the disabled and satisfy their ambitions, reveal the difficulties facing the disabled during exposure to traditional and contemporary media, and to identify the most used media by the disabled and how satisfied they are with it. The study also aimed to identify the nature of the media implications to which the disabled people is exposed to. Identify the motives of the disabled people for using the media and to define the relationship between the use of media and the nature of the relationship.

Kruse (1981) sought to verify which of the "audio-visual, print" media has had the greatest effect in modifying the attitude towards the physically handicapped. The sample consisted of 240 astronomy students from Colorado State University, who submitted a pre-test related to their attitude towards people with disabilities, and one person was assigned to four therapeutic, audio, visual, printed, and control groups. Treatments for independent variables consisted of individual comments recorded for three physically disabled students from the University of North Colorado.

The students were not interviewed, but a video was recorded for each of them, as they talked about themselves in front of the TV camera. Introducing themselves and mentioning their name, age, where they came from, in which school they studied, what level of education they have, what is the cause and nature of disability, what they can do, what care they need, what are their career goals and aspirations, finally how they feel about their disability, and what they expect from others towards them. After eight weeks of pre-test, the experimental groups presented the audio recording from the video. Upon completion of the work of the three media groups and the work of the control group. The interactive therapist  $\times$  confidence test indicated that there were statistically significant at level 0.1, and audiovisual and printed treatment was more significant and statistically significant than the control group. The results did not show significant differences between the three media groups. In other words, no media has any

greater impact.

Vinson (1983) study aimed to describe the development in the services of the Media library Center for students with special needs from 1950 - 1980 AD, and to determine the factors that cause any change in services. It also aimed at identifying those services, equipment, and materials that were provided. To obtain more accurate results for analyzing the history of the services provided by the Media Library Center for students with disabilities, the results were combined with the results of the national survey that measures the services provided by the media center in the period between 1979 - 1980. The services of the Media Library Center included students with disabilities in two frameworks; special education; and library services. The two frameworks developed separately from 1950 to the end of the seventies the connection between them was limited to coordination or planning aspects. The Equality Rights Movement, which launched in the 1950s, prompted parents to use judicial and legislative processes to protect their handicapped children, and at the same time the library profession became more accurate in defining and meeting the needs of individuals. In the late seventies, librarians used desktop literature to describe the service that could be provided for the disabled persons, as the National Survey of Service showed that the period between 1979-1980 showed that 91% of 350 respondents benefited from the services of the Media Library Center in an integrative environment. To increase the services provided to the disabled, there were many sources of materials and equipment available such as the public library and services of the National Library which include these services for the blind, the physically handicapped and special education centers. These services came as a result of the parents, educators, and legislators' efforts during the fifties, sixties and seventies, and these services provided by the Media Library Center reached their maximum extent by 1980. The services provided by the Information Center for the Disabled depend on the cooperation between the private teacher and the classroom teacher, Parents and administrators.

Harris et al.(2012) emphasized the role of media and technology in developing and enhancing civic knowledge and practices of persons with disabilities and their right to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others through the basic strategies that society uses to promote the rights of this segment. It also spotted the light on the need for a greater understanding of how these strategies and tools can enable people with disabilities to communicate with government, policy makers, and this requires a set of formal and informal support to participate and integrate people with disabilities into society.

The study concluded that it was necessary to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in politics and not to be marginalized, and to develop programs that serve their rights in cooperation with organizations concerned with persons with disabilities, in addition to overcoming barriers that may prevent them from participating, such as environmental barriers, i.e. buildings that cannot be accessed to it, transportation and technology, barriers in parks.

The study results revealed that strategies that help the persons with disability should be implemented to obtain this right and it could be achieved by the presence of the disabled persons in the advisory councils and public jobs. The result also indicated that awareness raising can be shown through email writing campaigns, face-to-face meetings and phone calls to lawmakers as well as conducting more scientific research, these efforts will enable people with disabilities to exercise their right to participate in public and political life, and be an effective factor in social change.

### **The results of the study and its discussion:**

#### *1- What is the nature of the rights guaranteed by Jordanian legislation for the persons with disability?*

To answer this question, the contents of the Jordanian legislative texts related to the rights of the disabled in general was examined through reading the Jordanian official legislations to extract the texts that indicated the rights and services guaranteed by the Jordanian legislation for the persons with disability. These rights are represented in seven areas as shown below:

#### **1. Legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in social life and institutional care.**

The Jordanian official legislation derives its foundations from the Islamic religion, which affirmed the respect of man for his humanity and dignity. Allah Almighty said: "*And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea*" {Al Isra:70} . Therefore, the Jordanian legislation guaranteed and protected the rights of all members of the society without distinguishing between them. Article (6/ 5) of Jordan's Constitution of 1952 with Amendments through 2011 stipulated that " The law shall protect motherhood, childhood and the old-aged; and shall avail care for the youngsters and those with disabilities and protect them against abuse and exploitation." Article (3/g) of Jordan Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2007 stipulated "The acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity" and Article (3/a) stated that "The respect for the inherent rights and dignity, individual autonomy and freedom of choice of persons with disabilities." Paragraph (c) of the same Article stress on " Not to discriminate against persons with disabilities on the basis of, or because of, disability."

Where the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article (10) stipulated "They have the right to enjoy life on an equal basis with others." And " To enjoy personal rights and personal security; not to deprive

them of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is consistent with the law. Otherwise, the disability is in no way justified for any deprivation of liberty.” Paragraph (14) of the same article.

Persons with Disabilities have the right to live independently and to establish a family as mentioned in Article (23) a. “The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized; b. The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights.” (the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article (23). Legislation also ensured respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities, as stipulated in Article (22) “No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honor and reputation.” (the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006)

The legislation did not ignore the best interests of the child in his family, as the legislator required the state to provide assistance to persons with disabilities to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities in raising children which is clear when it stated that “States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families” and “to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will.” (the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006, Article 23, paragraph 3-4).

The legislation also stressed on providing training to the families of the persons with disability “training the families of persons with disabilities to deal properly with the disabled person in a manner that does not violate his dignity or humanity, and his integration and rehabilitation care within his family, and in the event that this is not possible, he will be provided with alternative rehabilitation care.” (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, Article: 4 / D.) That is in centers for the persons with disability which provide educational, training, rehabilitation and accommodation services, and these services should follow specific standards as mentioned “The conditions necessary for building the center, in addition to qualified human cadres to work in the center and the services and programs provided by the center shall be according to instructions issued for this purpose.” (System of Centers for Persons with Disabilities No. 40 of 2014, Article: 5). Therefore, rehabilitation centers were established to provide services and care commensurate with the nature of the disability. Vocational training and qualification centers were established to provide, “training and rehabilitation services for the hearing impaired, motor impaired, or people with minor mental disabilities, to be productive members of society.” (Instructions for registration in training and rehabilitation centers, Ministry of Social Development, for the year 2016.) In addition to the centers for disability day-care, it provides, “training and educational services and vocational training for people with mental disabilities of simple or medium degree, autism disorder accompanying mental disabilities during the day-care hours.” (Instructions for registration in centers for persons with day disabilities, Ministry of Social Development, for the year 2016.” While residential centers provide “residential services, health and rehabilitation care, self-care training and independence skills for users with moderate or severe mental disabilities or multiple disabilities associated with moderate or severe mental disabilities, autism disorder associated with moderate or severe mental disability for paving the way for their integration in society.” (Instructions for registration in centers for persons with residential disabilities, the Ministry of Social Development, for the year 2016.) So that the “professional and social rehabilitation and rehabilitation services and support services of all kinds that guarantee the inclusion of persons with disabilities, active participation of persons with disabilities and their families”. (Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4/3/3.) Provided that “community-based rehabilitation programs comply with the policies set by the Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities}. Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4/6/6. Article (19) of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others as it stipulated “Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement; have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community.”

Jordanian legislation sought to protect the lives of people with disabilities in the place where they live if they were denied the benefit of institutional services, so they guaranteed rights and service that met the requirements of their personal conditions and preserved their existence “exempting persons with severe disabilities from paying work permit fees for one non-Jordanian worker for the purpose of serving them in their homes under a system issued for this purpose.” (the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 4/3 ) provided that “The disabled person, his guardian, or trustee undertakes in writing that he does not benefit from the services of residential centers and institutions, and that the non-Jordanian worker will not serve any other entity other than the authorized employer to work for him under accountability.” (The System of Exemptions for Persons with Disabilities, Article: 11 / b.)

On the other hand, the legislation doesn't fail to protect the lives of the disabled if they live in conditions of poverty, because of the negative impact of poverty on them, and therefore must be provided with "monthly aid for the disabled person who are not able to work according to the provisions of the National Aid Law". (Disabled Rights Law, Article: 4/5/5) to protect their lives at various levels.

By examining these texts, we recognize that legislation has guaranteed care for people with disabilities; focused on their rights to psychological, counseling, mentoring, training, and educational care that meet their needs, develop their personality, and help them adapt to others and integrate into society. In addition to providing social, professional, rehabilitative, family, and economic care and services through which they can strengthen their connection with their community, become productive and active members in the society and enjoys living a healthy family life like any ordinary people.

Care and services that are provided to people with disabilities are in line with the modern developmental goals that focuses on social performance and eliminating the feeling of deficiency, weakness more from a pathological aspect and it is concerned with self-realization, interaction and the development of positive behavioral manifestations, more therapeutically. (Fahmi, 2012, pp. 172-174 .)

### **Second: Legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in education and higher education.**

Jordan's Legislation was keen to protect the educational rights of people with disabilities and to train and prepare them in order to become efficient resources instead of consumption. Therefore, it set a legal framework for providing them with the required care as indicated in Article (2) of Rights of persons with disability Law that "a person who has long-term physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, psychological or neurological impairment which may hinder performance by such person of one of the major life activities or hinder the exercise by such person of any right or basic freedom independently." Legislation also affirmed that persons with disabilities are part of the Jordanian society "Jordanian community members have the right to special care, education, training, rehabilitation and work, in a manner that guarantees them to overcome their difficulties and enables them to exercise their lives as a participatory and productive part of society." (Encyclopedia of Jordanian Legislation, National Charter, 1998, Part 14, p. 331.)

Commenting on this Article, the participation of the persons with disability will lead to an increase in the sense of belonging and achieving great progress in human development as well as social and economic development as they are an integral part of sustainable development strategies. The legislation stressed on giving persons with disability the opportunity to perform any work that is consistent with their capability, rather than being a major factor that impedes construction, or a direct cause in Social and economic energy consumption at the level of the family and society, where the disabled category received the legislator's attention by "expanding patterns of education in educational institutions to include special education programs, and those with special needs." (Education Law, Article: 5).

On the other hand, Article (24) of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stressed on that "Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability; access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live; receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education; effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion."

The legislation complemented each other in caring for people with disability as shown in this text "disabled persons who have difficulties or problems in learning and need special individual programs that meet their educational and educational desires according to their abilities, in addition to the programs and services provided to their ordinary peers." (Instructions for organizing and licensing special education institutions and centers, 2002, Article: 2.) The creation of an inclusive educational environment for male and female persons with disabilities was emphasized "Adopting integration programs between students with disabilities and their peers without disabilities and implementing them within the framework of educational institutions, providing general education and vocational education, higher education for people with disabilities and according to disability groups through integration, and conducting educational diagnosis within the overall diagnostic team to determine the nature of disability and indicate its degree and needs, and provide technical cadres eligible to deal with students with disabilities, using modern technologies in teaching and education in the public and private sectors, including teaching mathematics and computer studies." (Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4 / b) it also stressed on the expansion of inclusive education programs and raising their quality in schools of the Ministry of Education, and in institutions that provide services for persons with disabilities in inclusive schools, special education institutions, deaf and blind schools, in addition to voluntary societies working in the disability field. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan The Supreme Council for Disabled Affairs. Programs. Education. 20/1/2017. <http://hcd.gov.jo/ar/content>. And since the right of education for persons with disabilities was not confined to the Ministry of Education alone, but voluntary societies and special education centers stood beside them, in order to expand the base of education so that person with disability can obtain their education. For this reason, the legislation was keen to exempt the schools and special education centers that provide education for the persons



with disability as mentioned in “Schools for persons with disabilities, their centers and institutions affiliated with charitable societies, from all customs fees, the general tax on sales, the building and roof tax, import stamp fees, registration fees for these properties and any other taxes or improvement benefits, if free services were provided to persons with disabilities transferred to them from the Supreme Council for the Disabled, Or from the Ministry of Social Development provided that the foundations and conditions to be met for granting this exemption are specified.”( Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4/4 and 5)

Education for persons with disabilities requires a suitable educational environment that is different from the educational environment of natural persons to enable them to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community and on an equal basis with others. Articles ( 3-4-9) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law confirmed their right to have “reasonable equipment that helps persons with disabilities to learn, communicate, train and move freely, including Braille and sign language for the deaf, by providing forms of assistance including providing sign language interpreters and other necessary equipment.” employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.”(Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4/24).

On the other hand, the legislations are keen on continuing education for people with disabilities and their right to obtain higher education to contribute to the development of their personality, talents and creativity as well as their mental and physical capabilities and enable them to participate seriously and effectively in their society, so it approved it in “acceptance of students with disabilities who passed the general secondary examination, according to conditions agreed upon by the Council of Higher Education for admission to public universities”. (Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4/8.). Or bridging according to the basis of bridging between Jordanian colleges and universities, according to Higher Education Decision No. 2010/40 of 20/20/2010 AD, in addition to supporting university students with disabilities who were accepted through competition and who obtained an average of 65% in the secondary school by providing a discount on university fees within specific conditions to determine the percentage of disability in visual, auditory and motor disabilities, and short stature. (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Supreme Council for Disabled Affairs. Services provided by the Council. Educational Programs Directorate. 01/21/2017 <http://hcd.gov.jo/ar/content>.) The discount rate is 90% at the bachelor's level, and 50% at the master's and doctoral levels. (National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, Action Plans for the second phase 2010-2015, p. 20).

The researcher believes that attention to educational rights and the provision of an appropriate environment and educational services indicate a civilizational and social awareness that affirms the right of the persons with disability to obtain the highest level of education that develop their skills and meet their mental, psychological and cognitive needs. When they obtain the same educational opportunity, they feel equal with others and this reflects on their ability to integrate into the educational environment and contribute to building it and building their society in general.

### **Third: Legislation on the rights of the persons with disability in vocational training and work**

The constitution of Jordan emphasized on the rights to work as stated “Work is the right of all citizens, and the State shall avail it to Jordanians by directing and improving the national economy.” (The Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Article: 23/1). This is considered a reinforcement to the right of the disabled person to work and to have equal professional opportunities like their peers who are not handicapped. It also indicates that persons with disability are employed according to their scientific qualifications, upon the agreed percentage of employment and by providing the appropriate environment for them.

On the other hand, the employer “ should employ the specified percent of the total of his employees and send to the Ministry a statement showing the jobs occupied by handicapped who was vocationally rehabilitated and the wage of each of them.” (Jordan Labor Law, Article:13). And that public organization “government and non-government organizations with at least (25) employees and workers and no more than (50) employees each pledge to hire at least one employee with disabilities to fill out one of its vacancies. In the event that there are more than (50) employees hired by these organizations, (4%) of the relevant vacancies should be assigned to persons with disabilities, according to a decision made by the Ministry of Labor.” (Rights of Persons with disability Law, Article: 4 / c / 3). Legislation has not neglected the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities to achieve the maximum degree of autonomy for them, so training programs that are in harmony with the needs of the labor market was given all attention by focusing on “ providing vocational training appropriate for persons with disabilities and developing their capabilities, according to the needs of the labor market, including training and training of trainers working in this field.” (Disabled Persons Rights Law, Article: 4 / c / 1).

In addition to enabling persons with disabilities to obtain general programs for vocational and technical guidance, and to acquire professional experiences in the labor market, business continuity, career advancement, and safe and healthy working conditions. To ensure a safe environment for the disabled persons, legislation has

exempted “ The equipment necessary to adapt the environmental conditions in terms of location, the provision of equipment, tools and necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their rights on an equal basis with others.” (Disabled Persons Exemption System, Article: 2.)

The right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labor market; Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions; protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances; Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labor and trade union rights on an equal basis with others; ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labor.” (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, article: 27).

Persons with disabilities rights to work is one of the most significant areas that legislation has considered and is one of the best ways that contribute to dispelling their feeling of isolation, because their involvement in the work environment helps them to adapt quickly to the society where they live. It also reveals their idle energies, and then helps them to increase their productivity and contribute to development in its various dimensions. When a person with disability is employed, he will have a regular source of income that helps him to rely on himself, rather than being a source of consumption only and a burden on others. Therefore, the law has stressed on the rehabilitation of people with disabilities in a accordance to their abilities and the need of the market from the workforce. At the same time the law stressed on providing a safe and appropriate environment for their health conditions (Al-Ahmad, 2011, pp. 30-33.)

#### **Fourth: Legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in health care and customs exemptions.**

Legislation of the health rights for persons with disabilities is a very considerable issue because it concerns with the protection of the lives of persons with disabilities, minimizing and preventing further disabilities, including among children and older persons that are caused by genetic, environmental factors, or societal conditions. Therefore, the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, Article: 25 stressed on “ Providing persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to other persons; provide these health services as close as possible to people’s own communities, including in rural areas; provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care; Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.” Strengthening preventive programs, health education and programs to reach children with developmental delay and linking them to disability early detection programs. Giving women with disabilities all the health care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, and providing medical and psychological rehabilitation and treatment services at different levels, and for all the families concerned. (Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 4 / A / 1, 3 and 4.) The treatment services provided for the persons with disability shall be free “No fees for medical treatment for medicines or hospitalization shall be collected from the subscribers, the incapable, and who receives regular assistance from the National Aid Fund, persons with disabilities and any benefactor with them, the blood donor, the recipient of the organ donor card, if he has a valid health insurance card.” (Civil Health Insurance System, Article: 15 / a.) Health rights for persons with disability includes customs exemptions on “Reasonable accommodation designed to be used by persons with disabilities or their organizations or societies and centers, clubs, schools and programs which provide services to them such as medical, sports, and educational materials, aids, tools and machines all these shall be exempted from the customs duties, general sales tax, special tax, stamp revenue fees, and any other taxes (The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, Article 4/1). In addition to customs exemptions on services for the disabled, which protect their lives from being exposed to danger such as “one vehicle allocated for use by a person with a disability shall be exempted from the customs duties, general sales tax, special tax, stamp revenue fees, and any other taxes and it is subject to special tax "zero" set under the General Sales Tax.” (The system of exemptions for persons with disabilities, Article: 5). Where the legislation clarified the cases of total disability that is represented in “Severe mental disability, including cases of severe developmental disorder, complete paralysis, complete blindness of both eyes and severe visual impairment. In the event that a disabled person obtains an exemption due to severe mental disability and does not have the legal capacity or ability to drive a vehicle, he or his guardian must name one or two of his second-degree relatives or any other person with a special work contract for the purpose of using the vehicle to serve the disabled person, provided that any of them obtain a valid driving license, and the persons authorized to drive the vehicle designated for the use of the disabled person, submit a written commitment to use it to serve the exempt owner only.” (Disabled Persons Exemption System, Article: 6.)

By reviewing these legislative texts, we note that they were concerned with persons with disabilities, as they have been keen on providing preventive services at the state level to minimize the percentage of disability cases. Their health care services have extended to provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and

standard of free or affordable health care, medical and treatment services. On the other hand, Legislation afford some services such as customs exemptions, so that they can live at a level appropriate for their humanity and protect them from any danger. However, these rights are still not clear to many members of the community, and this requires concerted efforts among all individuals working in public and private institutions with disabilities to raise social awareness.

**Fifth: Legislation of the rights of the disabled in environmental facilities.**

The availability of a qualified environment is considered a right of persons with disabilities and a requirement of the demands of social, economic and educational integration. The buildings are designed for ordinary individuals and therefore little is taken into consideration for persons with disabilities which is reflected on the disabled person's right in exercising their rights like any other individuals. Society in the social and economic fields and any other services within the community. Ensuring the safety of the persons with disability is a basic requirement, because it assists the disabled person to depend on himself and without the need to help others as much as possible, whether in residential buildings, educational, institutions and ministries or in commercial markets, public places and facilities. To achieve this, consideration must be given to providing the necessary facilities, whether in residential buildings, public buildings, gardens and facilities, such as slopes, widening entrance halls, corridors, and setting specifications for drawers, doors, parking lots, elevators, and interior facilities of buildings, so that it has special engineering specifications that meet the needs of persons with disabilities and enable them to live independently, have an active social participation in its various fields, and access to the surrounding physical environment. Legislations have approved this right through stipulating "apply the official national building code for persons with disabilities issued by the relevant authority in all buildings, in the public and private sectors and available to the public, and this applies to existing buildings as possible." (Disabled Persons Law, Article: 4 / H / 1). And on "Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces; information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services; develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public; provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities; provide in buildings, and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms; provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public" (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 9 / A / 2). To ensure the importance of the existence of all environmental facilities for persons with disabilities in buildings, the legislation confirmed that "No building permits are granted to any entity, except after confirmation of the commitment to apply the building code for persons with disabilities." (Disabled Persons Law, Article: 4 / H / 2 .) The provision of environmental rights to facilities is essential for persons with disabilities as it interferes with their access to other rights such as education, health care, and work, and helps them to move freely and safely. Among the environmental facilities that must be provided for people with disabilities is the means of transportation, information and communications so that the means of transport are manufactured with technical specifications that suit the needs of the persons with disabilities, and enable them to move freely and easily. Persons with Disabilities Law, Article: 4 / H / 3, 4 mentioned that "that each of the public transport companies, tourist offices, and car rental offices provide at least one means of transportation with specifications that ensure that persons with disabilities can use or move with them easily. And it helps them access technology and information systems, including the internet, various audio-visual media, and emergency services including sign language interpreters." In addition to what the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article: 20 paragraphs (c, d ) stressed on "Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities; Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities. "Because the use of contemporary technological means is no longer confined to a specific group of individuals, but rather it is used by people with disabilities who feel their presence in society, because they obtained it early and because they are within their reach without additional or high cost and in ways that are easily accessible and usable.

**Sixth: Legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in sports, culture and recreation.**

Humanitarian concerns at the present time have given their full attention to people with disabilities as they seek to enable them to meet their public and private needs from one side and achieve their self- confidence, acceptance by others and feeling of their importance in building and development of their society on the other side. Thus, to achieve these goals, it is required to develop the persons with disability capabilities; intellectual, artistic, creative and physical which qualifies them for active positive participation in the various activities of human life. Taking advantage of their energies and capabilities can be achieved by qualifying, educating and integrating them into society as productive and effective human forces (Al-Ahmad, 2011, pp. 19-21.)

Notably, the legislations have sought to provide cultural, intellectual, sports and recreational services to enable the persons with disability to prove themselves in public life, to increase their participation in the cultural field and this can be recognized from the texts of Law that address this issue such as " establishing and supporting

sports and cultural organizations with the aim of opening the way for persons with disabilities to practice their different activities, to meet their needs and develop their capabilities. In addition to the inclusion of sports, recreational and cultural programs and activities within the programs of institutions, centers and schools working in the field of disability and working to provide specialized cadres and equipment appropriate to the requirements of each activity. Supporting distinguished sports and cultural disabled persons in national and international activities and conferences. Facilitating the use of libraries, parks and sports facilities for persons with disabilities.” (Persons with Disabilities Law, Article: 4 / c.)

One of the priorities that the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities focused on, for the second phase 2010-2015 CE, was support for sports games and attracting new players, because “caring for people with special needs, investing their energies and providing them with an opportunity assists in organizing the practice of sports activities.” (Law of the Higher Council for Youth, Article: 5 / d.) Recreational and cultural activities shall include enjoyment, safety and suitability for the abilities of the persons with disability. Creating appropriate conditions for exercising sport as their normal peers is another requirement as it works to establish the values of collective and voluntary work for persons with disabilities through the principle of inclusion in activities, which help to meet their basic needs and achieve integrated growth.

When examining this aspect of the rights of persons with disability, to have appropriate environmental conditions that enable them to practice the requirements of their daily lives in a manner free of difficulties and dangers, we can see that legislation has confirmed this. However, Al-Bakri (2019) concluded that it is necessary to develop and amend what is needed in the code of building requirements for the handicapped, because all types of building whether commercial or services need to provide many facilities that serve the handicapped in spending their daily lives safely.

#### **Seventh: Legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in public and political life and litigation.**

The segment of persons with disabilities is a tremendous energy if it is given the necessary attention and if it is qualified to serve the community. How many handicapped people have achieved a lot of creativity and contributed to the development and immortalized their mark in the history record, among them were the cleric, politics, a thinker, a writer, a poet and a scientist. This national wealth must be supported, and their rights must be protected. Therefore, nowadays we can notice the changes in the attitudes at the national level towards the rights of persons with disability; developmental plans included their rights in various fields. Special legislations were stipulated to stress on their private and public rights as included in the persons with disability law “it is impermissible to deprive a person or restrict a person’s right to vote or to run as a candidate in parliamentary, municipal, trade union or any other general election on the basis of, or because of, disability; the Independent Elections Commission will enable persons with disabilities to exercise their electoral right secretly and independently by providing reasonable accommodation and accessibility, including in voting centers and the provision of Sign language interpreters and to enable persons with disabilities to vote through their escorts; it is impermissible to deprive a person or to restrict a person’s right to join trade unions, political parties, and (civil society) organizations on the basis of, or because of, disability.” (Persons with Disabilities Act, Article: 4 ). And for their legal rights their health conditions should be taken in consideration “ The health conditions of a person with a disability in terms of places of detention if the nature of the case requires so, and their circumstances. Providing assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, including Sign-language interpreters.” (Persons with Disabilities Act, Article: 4 / i).

By reading and analyzing Jordanian legislative texts related to persons with disabilities, we note that this attention is an indication of social and cultural awareness and is consistent with a progressive view that emphasizes the rights of persons with disabilities, enabling them to achieve the highest levels that suit their social, educational, health, cultural and intellectual capabilities. So that they can exercise their rights in making decisions of matters that affect their private and public life, integrating them into society and contributing to its construction. Thus, the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was amended in 2007, to be consistent with the international agreement that includes the rights of persons with disabilities. The law adopted in its legislative articles some of the articles mentioned in the agreement. Although the Persons of disability Law has been devoid of the right to protection from violence, exploitation and abuse of persons with disabilities. It also didn’t explicitly mention their private rights and the absence of social awareness about disability. On the other hand, these rights and needs were linked to local development plans. (Hilat, 2013, p. 164.)

The researcher noticed the real harmony between the fields of the rights of the persons with disability and the degree of correlation among them. Actually, it is not possible to separate one field from the other, or considered one field and ignore the other fields, because they are interconnected and each field depends on the other to provide an appropriate environment that support the rights of those with disabilities so as to facilitate their integration into society.

It should be noted that the persons with disability Law remains the only reference for the various governmental and private institutions that are related to the fields of the rights of the disabled person, so special regulations and instructions must be developed for each field of the rights of persons with disabilities commensurate with the nature of the work of these institutions and are adopted in its articles on what came in the

Persons with Disability Law of 2007. Serious follow-up should be implemented to ensure the application of the rights of the disabled persons Where the contents of some legislative texts related to the disabled are scattered in the contents of other legislative texts.

## **2- The answer of the second question. What is the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities stipulated in Jordanian legislation ?**

The media can contribute to change society's perception of the handicapped and moving it out of the circle of compassion to the space for inclusion, assimilation and interaction because the media plays a significant role regarding issues and rights of persons with disabilities that goes beyond the use of sign language in visual newscasts, to a role that contributes to changing society's perception towards disability, presenting them as human beings who enjoy the full rights that is enjoyed by their normal peers. It also contributes to address concerns and rights of disabled persons using a variety of methods. Especially that media has evolved into different stages that started from the conventional that aimed to meet the needs of society to a collective society who uses communication in the field of cultural exchange and then to the mass community until it has reached what it is after the revolution of technical communications, especially in the field of satellite TV and the Internet. This technical progress led to the expansion of the means of communication in terms of quantity and quality and reached large and multiple groups in society as well as many regions. The changes influenced the nature of jobs and roles that media plays to be associated with various intellectual, social and cultural changes, and their impact on individuals and different institutions has increased rapidly. Since it aims to shape the multiple intellectual attitudes of individuals towards the development of knowledge, issues in its various dimensions, and to establish a societal culture which will modify human behaviors by raising awareness and education about what is seen, read or heard of the various information presented or the topics presented (Hilat, 2013 CE, pp.48-61.) Proceeding from the goals that the media seeks to achieve in society, disability issues should be the priority of media attention as the prevailed belief in societies was that persons with disabilities are different from others in personal characteristics and they are unable to work or to be productive.

Accordingly, persons with disability encountered several difficulties such as losing the opportunities in several areas, they lose their self-confidence and they are denied from exercising their lives independently and privately which disrupted a large segment in society and affected the position and role of the handicapped in society as a result of accumulated mental images of disability and the handicapped. The results of the general statistics in Jordan for the year 2010 showed that 8% of the families of the Kingdom of Jordan have at least one person with a disability, and they constitute 2% of the total number of persons, the percentage of males of them is about 59% and the female percentage was 41%. (The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Department of General Statistics, Statistical Analytical Reports. The Reality of Disability in Jordan 2010. Saturday January 28, 2017.) [http://dos.gov.jo/dos\\_home\\_a/main/Analasis\\_Reports/emp/Disability.pdf](http://dos.gov.jo/dos_home_a/main/Analasis_Reports/emp/Disability.pdf).

People's perception of disabled persons has varied, some have treated people with disabilities as a basic category with their rights and duties, and that they are capable of producing as any person in the community, so they should be incorporated into society with others. Some have looked at them with sympathy and inferiority and have dealt with them based on their weakness and inability to perform their simple daily tasks. Some others saw their existence as stigma. And, in addition to insulting them and giving them painful derogatory names, such as freaks and idiots, they kept excluding and concealing them from society. They even refused to deal with them and discouraged them from becoming involved in society. These conflicting attitudes and actions towards the disabled influenced their psychological health, their feelings of social dissatisfaction with their existence, their lack of ability and deficiency in their physical characteristics.

The media have therefore recognized its essential role in shifting the mental images established in society, so that they have sought to raise awareness of the rights and issues of the disabled in different fields and to shift society's perception of their competence and not of what they lack. On the other hand, the media also realized its role in changing the disabled persons view of their society.

Undoubtedly, the media owns its instruments and programs that are capable of making a positive change towards the handicapped whether in presenting the importance of the comprehensive rehabilitation of the handicapped or in changing the negative attitudes towards them by raising awareness of the issues of the disabled and their rights in all social, health, economic, educational, cultural, recreational, sports and human rights fields. People's attitudes and perceptions become the driving actions of human beings in different situations, inasmuch as they serve to standardize behavior and achieve social integration among all individuals without discriminating between them for any reason, and in order for the media to fulfill its role in these matters, their raising awareness of the methods used must vary in a way that attentively draws and elicits.

Another technique the media can adopt to raise awareness is the amplification of information provided that knowledge about disability and the handicapped is correct and it is conveyed in multiple forms to take hold of the minds and become part of the intellectual trend. And to use more than one media, and at appropriate and different timescales, so that these educational messages include the characteristics, behaviors and abilities of the disabled. Besides having supported by some experts who can determine the priority of media information content related to

the issue of disability, spreading the legal culture of people with disabilities. Motivating the disabled to express themselves and their needs. Interviewing successful models with disabilities to show the society their successful stories and they are able to be productive as any other individual. (Hilat, 2013, pp. 116-117).

Media, with its various types of visual, audio and readable, possesses an integrated future vision capable of interacting positively with issues of the disabled, so that it works within specific and clearly defined plans and strategic programs by the institutions concerned with disability or the media institutions. The visual media, for example, can display short films and various dramas that define the position of the disabled in society and guarantee their rights, when enabling the disabled to participate in the acting and dramatic roles and the production of documentary films, these works will have an encouraging and effective impact, and it demonstrates the contribution of the disabled to the rise and prosperity of society. To urge film production companies and websites to submit works that affirm the right of persons with disabilities to life, education, training and work, and to presents them as people with full ability, without focusing on consulting feelings of compassion and kindness. And increasing the space of programs provided and allocated on the issue of disability. In addition to the production of dialogue programs presented by persons with disabilities, directed to the general public and the private audience with disabilities, the production of radio and television programs that are at the appropriate level for people with disabilities, away from the intricacies of language and abstract thought, and the production of various programs that are directed directly to people with disabilities. } Al-Anzi, 2014-2015, p. 61. }

In addition to motivating policy makers, service providers, those in charge of disability-related institutions, society in general, the family of the person with disabilities in particular, and media professionals themselves to deepen the culture of volunteering to work with official and voluntary institutions concerned with disability, to give more attention to the causes of disability and ways to prevent them, and to enhance awareness of the capabilities and contributions of people with disabilities in giving and building, and a positive and general opinion towards crystallization is formed, the disabled form a productive and active social personality, and their confidence in themselves and their potentials is strengthened, and the media should strive to stoke Awareness of disabled rights contained in the legislation of international and national conventions, and they are equal with others in rights and duties in all areas of their lives, like the rest of society. (Hilat, 2013, pp. 215-212.)

### **Recommendations.**

- Promoting media professionals' awareness of disability issues and building their professional capabilities through training courses and workshops.
- Establishing an accurate database about disability institutions to deal with disability issues in various aspects and constantly updating them, as media professionals rely on the provided information including titles and terms that should be used when talking about disability.
- Raising the cultural awareness of human rights at the national level, adopt an integrative approach to protect and promote human rights in general, and particularly the children's rights.
- Conducting scientific research in the disability field and giving it a special priority.
- Holding scientific conferences and seminars that study the various issues of the handicapped, and their rights within society.
- Amending and issuing the legislation related to persons with disability to be in line with international standards in this field.
- Encouraging coordination between all bodies concerned with the disabled persons to improve the level of care, services, activities and programs, based on a comprehensive national strategy and legislation in this field.
- Enhancing the authorities' supervision on the work provided to the disabled persons in terms of their rights and services provided by public or private institutions or voluntary bodies. "Activating Legislations
- Providing rehabilitation training for workers in the voluntary and private institutions concerned with the disabled and forming a partnership among them.
- Holding rehabilitation training workshops for families of the disabled persons
- Allocating special television programs for the deaf and allocating some pages in newspapers in a way suit them.

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