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## The Role of National Legislation in Empowering Kuwaiti Women with Disabilities

By Haila Al-Mekaimi<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

The State of Kuwait has issued numerous legislations aimed at empowering persons with disabilities, including the State Constitution (1961), Law No. 49 of 1996 (articles 1-6), Law No. 8 of 2010 (articles 2, 3, 5, and 6), and various amendments to these laws. This article is based on a field study conducted to investigate the influence of national law on civil society organizations that support people with disabilities, with a focus on women with disabilities in the State of Kuwait. The researcher collaborated with the Kuwaiti Union of Women Associations and numerous public benefit groups, including the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club, Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, and the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences, to ask people with disabilities and those who assist them to complete a questionnaire based on the study topic. Notably, many of the study's participants were women with disabilities or advocates for women with disabilities. This article focuses on the gender-specific views and experiences gathered during the survey. The findings of the survey provided important insights into these respondents' thoughts on national legislation and its execution. Many participants identified specific issues and inadequacies in the present legislative framework, notably in how successfully these laws are adopted and enforced. This challenge of implementation was frequently discussed, with respondents providing extensive details of their experiences and views.

*Keywords:* Kuwait, Women with disabilities, National legislation, Empowerment, Women's empowerment, Civil Society Organizations, Arab women

### Introduction

The State of Kuwait is distinguished among Arab countries by its legislative precedence to support individuals with disabilities, including women. According to statistics issued by the Public Authority for Persons with Disabilities, there are 65,578 people with disabilities in the State of Kuwait, half of whom are women (35,000).<sup>2</sup> Article 11 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, adopted in 1961, stipulates that "The state guarantees aid to citizens in the event of old age, illness, or inability to work. It also provides them with social insurance, social aid, and health care services."<sup>3</sup> Then Law No. 49 of 1996 was issued regarding the care of people with disabilities, which included five chapters that described the application of the law, the rights of people with disabilities, their rehabilitation and integration into society, and the establishment of the Supreme Council for Disabled Affairs.<sup>4</sup> It was followed by the issuance of Law No. 51 of 2006, which was not specific to people with disabilities, but it prohibited discrimination on the basis of various factors, including disability, in areas such as employment, education, health care, and public services.<sup>5</sup> In 2010, Law No. 8 was issued as the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law," which provided the legal framework for the rights and protection of individuals with disabilities in Kuwait. It set out provisions relating to education, employment, accessibility, health care, and the social inclusion

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pada.gov.kw/ar/>

<sup>3</sup> The Constitution of the State of Kuwait, (1961), Kuwait.

<sup>4</sup> Law No. 49 of 1996 Concerning the care of persons with disabilities, The State of Kuwait. (1996).

<sup>5</sup> Law No. 51 of 2006 against discrimination, The State of Kuwait. (2006).

of persons with disabilities. Many amendments were subsequently made to the law aimed at enhancing opportunities within Kuwaiti society. The last attempt to make further amendments to the law was in 2023; the Committee for Individuals with Disabilities in the Kuwaiti Parliament submitted a proposal for a law to secure more financial and employment rights, but the government rejected these amendments due to the financial cost and their conflict with other laws (OHCHR, 2023; Gulf News, 2023).

### **The Research Problem and Questions**

Though the law prioritizes employment for women with disabilities, few opportunities are available to them. Highlighting these two issues offers preliminary insight into the implementation inconsistencies within the legislation for empowering women with disabilities (Sundararaman et al., 2019). To this end, this research will answer several important questions pivotal to this study:

- How has national legislation impacted empowering women with disabilities in Kuwait?
- Are those laws implemented from the grassroots level, or is the implementation different in one area of the law as compared to another?
- If implementation does differ, what recommendations could be put in place to ensure the effective implementation of laws that support the empowerment of women with disabilities?

### **Theoretical Frameworks in Disability Studies through Gender and Feminist Lenses**

Wendell (1989) took up the issue of gender and disability and their impact on social justice. She critically discussed ways that social and legal structures might be enabling or limiting for women with disabilities, yet also pointed out cases where disability is used as a strong justification for discrimination and injustice. Wendell argued that the hegemony of non-disabled people must be destabilized to better enable people with disabilities to reach equality and have a role and effective voice in societal decision-making (Wendell, 1989). The same can be said about Law No. 8 of 2010 Concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Kuwait, even though looking at its implementation and real effects is a subject for another analysis.

Silver, Wasserman, and Mahowald (1998)—theorists and activists in the field of disability rights—addressed the moral and political dimensions of disability and emphasized that legal frameworks play a pivotal role in either empowering or marginalizing individuals with disabilities, including women. Laws on human rights and the rights of people with disabilities can guarantee access to health services, education, and appropriate job opportunities. However, laws may also be a source of discrimination and marginalization if they are not implemented properly or contain loopholes that allow discrimination. There are laws that may lack adequate representation for women with disabilities in decision-making or lack the necessary support to meet their needs. Therefore, Silver et al. (1998) state the importance of developing and implementing laws that enhance the rights of people with disabilities and ensure their effective participation in society, including adopting positive discrimination that guarantees equality and justice for all.

As for other studies, while they do not focus on the legislation itself, they pay attention to the social, cultural and political factors that shape the lives and experiences of people with disabilities, including women. For example, Leonard Davis (1995) analyzed how the historical construction of disability, converging with issues of everyday life, resulted in cultural and social attitudes towards people with disabilities. He made an essential contribution to broadening the discourse on disability rights and the social integration of people with disabilities. Therefore, it is essential to understand socio-cultural attitudes about disability so that legal systems can reinforce

or change such attitudes that may affect women's empowerment. In this regard, social science research into the sociocultural construction of disability can assist the law in dismantling its own embedded assumptions, of which law is not immune. This study makes a contribution in this regard.

Similarly, the writings of Rosemarie Garland-Thomson (1997) examined the intersections between disability, gender, and embodiment in American culture and literature, revealing the underlying assumptions that shape the depiction of physical disability. She explored how these biases shape societal perceptions and attitudes towards people with disabilities, as well as how disability intersects with other aspects of identity such as race and gender. Through her analysis, she highlights the ways in which disability is often stigmatized, marginalized, or sensationalized in mainstream culture but also how individuals with disabilities assert their agency and challenge dominant narratives about their bodies and experiences. Thus, she concludes that social and cultural factors, not legislation, constitute the first barrier against the empowerment of women with disabilities. Garland-Thomson's *Extraordinary Bodies* (1997) is considered a seminal work in disability studies and has been influential in shaping scholarly debates about disability representation, identity, and culture. It continues to be widely cited and referenced in the academic literature in this field (see Catapano & Garland-Thomson, 2019; Hall, 2011).

Piepmeyer et al. (2014) highlighted the study of the intersections between gender, disability, and activism. The authors focused on the broader social and political contexts that shape the lives of women with disabilities and called for the integration of disability studies into women's and gender studies curricula. They argued that disability is often ignored or marginalized in feminist discourse, despite the fact that individuals with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, face unique challenges and forms of discrimination. The authors also called for the recognition of disability as a feminist issue and explored the ways in which discrimination against people with disabilities intersects with other systems of oppression, such as sexism, racism, and classism. They called for a more inclusive and intersectional approach to feminism that acknowledges the diversity of women's experiences and prioritizes the voices and concerns of individuals with disabilities. The authors aimed to bridge the gap between women's and gender studies and disability studies, encouraging scholars and activists to work together to address the complex intersections among gender, disability, and other identity axes. They advocated for a feminist practice that focuses on the experiences of marginalized communities and sought to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

## Literature Review

There are no previous studies on the precise subject of this study, which is the relationship of national legislation to the empowerment of women in the State of Kuwait. However, there are general studies on the empowerment of people with disabilities in Kuwait, as well as the empowerment of women with disabilities in a number of Arab countries. One of the most prominent studies on the role of Kuwaiti national legislation in empowering people with disabilities is a study prepared by the Arabian Gulf Center for Studies and Research called "Persons with Disabilities in Kuwait: A Worrying Increase, Limited Integration, and Legislative Deficiency" (2022). This study indicated that there is an increase in cases of autism and mental disabilities in Kuwaiti society, compounded by excessive Internet usage affecting people with autism. This work also identified how consanguineous marriage leads to enhanced risk of a particular form of disability. Furthermore, it pointed out that, like employment decisions, domestic violence against women conservatively reinforces women with disabilities' difficulties in

acquiring decision-making and political roles. This dual vulnerability due to the combination of gender and disability prevents them from entering those key activities where independence and authoritativeness are necessary, for example, political powers, top managerial positions, or public administration. These studies give more impetus for enhancing the law and social insurance to enable women with disabilities to reduce these barriers. The increase in diagnoses of disabilities, such as autism, motor disabilities, and Down syndrome, has prompted the creation of public benefit associations that deal with parents of people with disabilities.

Abdullah Al-Qahtani and Drei's (2022) study focused on social attitudes towards disability and empowering Saudi women with disabilities, especially in Tabuk Governorate. Regarding the attitudes of Saudis towards people with disabilities, the study concluded that there were no attitudinal differences due to gender and educational level but found statistically significant differences dependent on whether the person had any experience with individuals with disabilities. The study made a number of recommendations, the most important of which is intensifying lectures and awareness workshops to improve the attitudes of community members towards employing women with disabilities (Al-Qahtani & Drei, 2022)

Arwa Al-Bayati's study "The Problem of Political Empowerment of Women with Disabilities in Light of Iraqi Legislation" (2022) found that the wars that took place in Iraq left behind many people with disabilities, estimated at three million people, and Iraqi women with disabilities suffered heavily. The toxic masculinity of Iraqi society, which deems that men should control women, as well as the nature of tribal society that views people with disabilities and their families as inferior, has led to the deprivation of Iraqi women's fundamental, natural rights (Al-Bayati, 2022).

This is also the case with Kholoud Rizq Mahmoud Saleh's study "Challenges Facing Women with Disabilities: Qalqilya Governorate" (2021), which focused on the women of Qalqilya Governorate in Palestine. She emphasized that women with disabilities suffer additional oppression because of their gender and disability. There is a lack of legislation and laws that guarantee the rights of women with disabilities, whether in education or employment. People with disabilities also suffer from a lack of facilitation in government and private centers, thus requiring more efforts to raise awareness of the necessity of integrating these groups into society (Al-Bayati, 2022).

A review of previous studies confirms the importance of this research, as the empowerment of women begins with the existence of legislation that guarantees their rights as well as mechanisms that guarantee the implementation of those rights, legislation, and national laws. Considering the scarcity of research on the subject, it makes the research all the more important in raising awareness for the significance of proper legislation and enforcement.

### **Research Arguments and Approach**

The work concludes that women with disabilities in the State of Kuwait suffer not from legislative deficiencies but from a lack of implementation. The laws set for this group are acknowledged as fair and in conformity with international standards and legislations directed at empowering women with disabilities. However, disputes over the interpretations of those laws have led to shortcomings in their implementation. Therefore, the more that officials and the public understand these laws, the better implemented these laws will be on the ground level.

The researchers performed a field study to examine the impact of national law from the perspective of civil society organisations that assist persons with disabilities, with a special emphasis on women with disabilities in the State of Kuwait. Through collaboration with the

Kuwaiti Union of Women Association and numerous public benefit groups, the researcher reached out to people with disabilities and those who helped them to answer a questionnaire based on the study topic. Notably, a sizable proportion of the study's participants were women with disabilities and those who advocate for women with disabilities, thus many gender-specific thoughts and experiences were obtained during the survey. This study is separated into three primary sections:

- 1) Government legislation and laws in the field of empowering people with disabilities in the State of Kuwait.
- 2) The results of the study questionnaire about the views of women with disabilities and those institutions that serve them regarding national legislation and the reality of its implementation.
- 3) Recommendations regarding the legislative empowerment of women with disabilities.

The legislative framework in Kuwait encompasses comprehensive measures that promote the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities, regardless of gender. The Kuwaiti Constitution of 1962 enshrines principles of equality and human dignity, thus extending its protective umbrella to all citizens, including those with disabilities. Article 29 explicitly guarantees equality before the law without discrimination on grounds of race, origin, language, or religion, thereby laying a constitutional foundation for inclusive rights. Specifically for individuals with disabilities, Kuwaiti law mandates various provisions aimed at ensuring their welfare and integration into society, including access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and social services. The government and civil society organizations work collaboratively to implement these provisions, remove barriers, and promote equal participation in public life, thus reflecting Kuwait's commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of all its citizens.

The State of Kuwait has enacted many laws to protect the rights and promote the well-being of women and men with disabilities; however, the laws passed did not take gender into account. The first piece of legislation outlawing discrimination on the basis of a variety of reasons, including disability, was Law No. 51 of 2006. This law establishes a fundamental tenet of equality and nondiscrimination for Kuwaiti citizens with disabilities. Kuwait passed Law No. 8, which deals with the rights of people with disabilities, in 2010. This law aims to safeguard and promote the well-being of people with disabilities by outlining particular rights related to social inclusion, employment, healthcare, education, and accessibility. The goal of Law No. 29 of 2015 is to facilitate the employment of individuals with impairments. It protects their rights at work and outlaws disability discrimination in the workplace. This covers clauses that guarantee equitable hiring, advancement, and protection from discriminatory treatment or disability-related termination. All things considered, Kuwait's dedication to guaranteeing equal chances, rights, and safeguards for people with disabilities in a variety of spheres of life, such as work, education, accessibility, and social inclusion, is reflected in these laws. Their goal is to promote a more inclusive society in which people with disabilities are able to fully engage and make contributions to their communities.

It also set out the necessary measures to provide vocational training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.<sup>6</sup> In 2016, Law No. 19 was issued, which aimed to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities to access public facilities and services by ensuring

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<sup>6</sup> Law No.29 of 2015. Integrating people with disabilities into the workforce. The State of Kuwait. (2015)

they are accessible and accommodated to individuals with disabilities.<sup>7</sup> In 2018, Law No. 8 was issued and established the Public Authority for People with Disabilities which is responsible for coordinating efforts related to disability issues, implementing disability policies, providing supportive services, and promoting the rights and well-being of people with disabilities in Kuwait.<sup>8</sup>

Law No. 8 of 2010, with an extensive ten chapters and 72 articles, is considered a qualitative shift in the rights of individuals with disabilities. The first chapter defines a disabled person as anyone who has experienced permanent, total, or partial conditions that decrease his or her physical, mental, or sensory abilities, preventing that person from securing life's necessities for work or participating fully in society on an equal basis with others. The second chapter covers the services provided by the government to persons with disabilities, which include regular, integrated, and continuous services, including: preventive, medical, rehabilitative, psychological treatment, genetic counseling before marriage, pregnancy, social and psychological, sports and recreational, transportation, vocational rehabilitation, work and employment. Housing, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 47 of 1993, must be educationally and culturally appropriate, at all educational levels, including nursery and kindergarten, in a manner commensurate with the capabilities of people with physical, sensory, and mental disabilities.<sup>9</sup>

On November 29, 2023, the National Assembly approved new amendments to the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which included financial benefits and employment and educational rights. The Committee for the Affairs of People with Disabilities' head, Saud Asfour, has announced major changes to the laws as they stand. One of the main adjustments is that Kuwaiti women who are raising children with disabilities who are not Kuwaiti citizens will now get the same assistance and consideration as mothers raising disabled children who are Kuwaitis. This amendment also covers Kuwaiti men who take care of their non-Kuwaiti wives and the non-Kuwaiti husbands of Kuwaiti women who are cared for by their wives. In addition, second-degree relatives of those providing care for a disabled non-Kuwaiti family member will now be covered by the new legislation. The goal of these changes is to ensure that all disabled people, regardless of country of origin, receive fair support and assistance in a variety of familial and caregiving contexts. The amendments added categories for people with disabilities, such as autism and Down Syndrome, to obtain their educational rights, and transferred the affiliation of schools concerned with the affairs of people with disabilities from the supervision of the General Authority for Disabled Affairs to the Ministry of Education.

The government is now compelled to provide training sessions for disabled people and their caretakers in order to avoid exploitation in a variety of contexts. The legislation requires two caretakers for people with severe and persistent impairments, as defined by the General Authority, to guarantee proper care. It also bans any government institution from removing financial obligations from caregivers' paychecks. Furthermore, the legislation eliminates the maximum restriction on multiple real estate housing loans for families with a disabled member, enabling fair access to housing rights. It also provides the secondary caregiver with full-salary sabbatical leave.

The law obligates the government to provide people with disabilities of all degrees with appropriate prosthetic devices or funds to obtain them and raises the amount specified for hiring a driver or servant, ranging from 100 to 120 *dinars*. A special clause was added to provide a nurse

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<sup>7</sup> The State of Kuwait. (2016). Law No 19, 2016, to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities to access public facilities and services.

<sup>8</sup> The State of Kuwait. (2018). Law No 8, 2018, concerning the establishment of the Public Authority for People with Disabilities.

<sup>9</sup> The State of Kuwait. (2010). Law No. 8 of 2010 Concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

for people with severe disabilities that the committee deems necessary. Either the Ministry of Health will provide a nurse for this person or there will be a financial compensation to obtain one.<sup>10</sup>

In January 2024 the government sent Decree No. 229 of 2023, stating its rejection of the draft amendments submitted by Parliament. The government provided nine justifications for the refusal, based on the financial cost, the inclusion of non-Kuwaitis, and the fact that the person responsible for care was not identified (Human Rights Watch, 2024). There are several problems with this decree. First of all, the draft law did include categories, specifically a Kuwaiti mother charged with caring for a son with a disability, a Kuwaiti charged with caring for a husband or wife with a disability, and a non-Kuwaiti relative up to the second degree. Multiple sources verify the facts concerning Kuwait's Law No. 8 of 2010, notably Clause (C), which limits the implementation of the law to health care, education, and job rights for non-Kuwaiti individuals with disabilities. The legislation offers services to non-Kuwaiti individuals with disabilities, such as healthcare, education, and vocational rehabilitation, but has limits on their rights (OHCHR, 2023; Times Kuwait, 2023). Furthermore, article 3 of the same law gives the Minister of Interior the right to make judgments about how the law would be implemented. This article highlights the Ministry of Interior's centralized control and discretion in implementing these rules (Times Kuwait, 2023).

Any amendment to the provisions of the law is supposed to be integrated, compatible, and consistent with the other provisions, noting that non-Kuwaitis with disabilities are included in Law No. 8 of 2010, where their status is decided in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Council of the Public Authority for People with Disabilities. Secondly, the government disagrees with Parliament regarding the definition of the person responsible for caring for the person with a disability. The first article of the proposed law stipulated the replacement of article 1 regarding the definitions contained in Law No. 8 of 2010, as the proposed text did not clarify the concept of the person charged with caring for persons with disabilities, which may raise a practical and legal problem as a caregiver may be defined as every person who serves or supports a person with a disability. The proposed law included entrusting more than one person with care and permitting the person who has the right to care being assigned to the person next in line. Since article 24 stipulates that the person with a disability has a right to care and that this care is the obligation of the family, therefore assuming care is an obligation for all its members due to the humanitarian obligation. Therefore, the guarantee of care and the obligation to provide it is appropriate in article 24 of the law under religious and moral grounds. As for article 25, it is replaced by the obligation of a family member to take care of family members with disabilities and holds the assigned caregiver responsible for that before the law with regard to breaching the responsibility of others.

The last paragraph of the original article 25 stipulates that "it is permissible, by decision of the Authority, to provide care in some cases of severe and permanent disability to two assignees in cases that require greater care," which confirms with certainty the possibility of a second assignee. It is only for some cases of severe, permanent disability, yet the method for determining these cases is not definitively specified and neither is the procedure for when the disability is permanent and not severe, especially since the definitions contained in this law did not include it; article 42 also replaced it. In the first article of the aforementioned proposal, it is stipulated that the first legally responsible person to care for a person with a moderate or severe disability will be granted a retirement pension equivalent to 100% of their full salary, not exceeding 2,750 *dinars*, if the period of service counted in the pension reaches 15 years. The second person legally assigned

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<sup>10</sup> Proposed law for the year 2023, regarding amendments to Law No. 8 of 2010, to empower persons with disabilities, the Kuwaiti National Assembly.



to care for a person with a severe disability is granted sabbatical leave with full salary in accordance with the conditions specified by the executive regulations. What is understood from the wording of article 42 mentioned above is that the person with a disability only needs the second person in cases of severe, permanent disability, which creates a contradiction between the texts of the proposed law in question, thus requiring reconsideration. In addition, the number of those charged with caring for the people with disabilities is increasing, reaching approximately 16,000 taxpayers as of October 31st, 2023; assigning two caregivers would greatly increase this number, thus increasing the financial burden on the government significantly.

Thirdly, the government decided that these amendments were too expensive: they would shorten the time that a retirement pension is due, for both the disabled person and their carers; they would give people with mild, moderate, and severe disabilities the prosthetic devices they need for free, or they would give them an equal financial stipend to buy them; they would increase the value of the housing loan given to disabled people and their families until accessible housing is constructed; and they would provide many more financial benefits. According to the government, these provisions might be given more than once without limiting the number of beneficiaries in a family or establishing a limit that cannot be surpassed, which would result in even higher expenditures for the government.

In summary, while these legislative measures sought to considerably improve support for individuals with disabilities, the government's rejection of the 2024 bill is disappointing for disability activists. The substantial financial expenses stated as reasons for rejection emphasize the difficulty in reconciling budgetary limits with the necessity for extensive support systems. Although useful, the existing legislation appears to be faulty due to its narrow reach and uneven application, emphasizing the need for more activism and more long-term, inclusive policy solutions.

### **Methodology of the Study Questionnaire**

For this study, the research contacted NGOs that assist people with disabilities who in return asked for the online questionnaire to be sent in which data were collected. Researchers invited participants through NGOs that work with disabled women and subsequently sent the online questionnaire after providing their informed consent electronically via a Google form. The responses were coded to facilitate data entry and analysis. The data analysis was performed using the JAMOVI software. The Pearson Correlation analysis was applied to examine the relationships between various study items. Further the analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was employed to examine the perceptions of individuals from different gender categories, educational levels, and different governorates regarding various aspects of disability legislation and facilitation in Kuwait, as measured by the MSWNL scale items noted below. All the results were examined at 5% level of significance.

122 research participants were surveyed, including people with disabilities and others who support them. Women make up 67.2% of the participants, with men accounting for 32.8%. The researcher purposely overrepresented women to ensure that their perspectives and experiences were adequately represented in the study. Recognizing women's historically underrepresented status in research and advocacy contexts, the goal of amplifying their perspectives prompted the decision to include more women than men. The participants' ages varied greatly, with 25% being between the ages of 21 and 28, and 26% being 53 or older. The diversity of ages represented here ensures a rich tapestry of perspectives from all life stages. Furthermore, it should be noted that the study group was organised differently for persons with disabilities and advocates from civic

organisations that deal with disability issues. The advocates represent a variety of groups, including those working to enhance disability rights in general and women's rights specifically. The study's inclusive methodology includes voices from both individuals directly impacted by impairments and those actively advocating for disability rights. This difference emphasises the breadth of engagement. According to economic statistics, 68% of the respondents said their monthly salary was 1,200 dinars or less. This data, particularly in terms of monthly income levels, helps to understand the monetary climate in the sampled community. The sample was predominantly Kuwaiti (91%) and attained university-level education (55.7%). Regional distribution of the participants included representation from all major governorates, with the significant numbers from the Capital (26.0%), Hawally (25.0%), and Mubarak-Alkabeer (25.0%), indicating a diverse geographic spread (Table 1).

**Table 1: Demographic Profile of Questionnaire Participants**

Variables	Overall (N=122)	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	82	67.2%
Men	40	32.8%
<b>Age</b>		
21-28	31	25.4%
29-36	22	18.0%
37-44	14	11.5%
45-52	23	18.9%
53 or more	32	26.2%
<b>Salary (monthly)</b>		
1200 or less	83	68.0%
590 or less	39	32.0%
<b>Nationality</b>		
Kuwaiti	111	91.0%
Non-Kuwaiti	11	9.0%
<b>Education</b>		
High-school	21	17.2%
Middle-school	11	9.0%
Primary-school	8	6.6%
University	68	55.7%
Diploma	14	11.5%
<b>Governorate</b>		
Al Farwaniyah	11	9.0%
Al-Ahmadi	12	9.8%
Al-Jahra	6	4.9%
Capital	32	26.2%
Hawally	30	24.6%
Mubarak-Alkabeer	31	25.4%

*Source: Respondents' Data compiled by the author*

The following is a list of the MSWNL Scale items offered to the respondents, which focus on various elements of satisfaction and laws affecting individuals with disabilities in Kuwait. The MSWNL Scale items address satisfaction with national legislation, the performance of legislative committees, and the sufficiency of measures for the ease of movement of people with disabilities. Furthermore, the scale investigates perceptions of the efficiency of Kuwaiti laws that prioritise individuals with disabilities, as well as implementation issues in both government and private institutions. Furthermore, the scale includes views on current legislative initiatives aiming at improving the rights and support for people with disabilities, including considerations for non-Kuwaitis with disabilities in legal reforms.

**MSWNL\_1:** I feel satisfied with the national legislation in the State of Kuwait regarding people with disabilities.

**MSWNL\_2:** I feel satisfied with the performance of the Parliamentary Committee for People with Disabilities.

**MSWNL\_3:** The facilitating arrangements and general design comply with the requirements and standards that ensure ease of movement for persons with disabilities.

**MSWNL\_4:** Kuwaiti laws give priority in dealing with people with disabilities.

**MSWNL\_5:** The data also showed substantial dissatisfaction with the implementation of efforts by Kuwait to improve the rights of persons with disabilities in legislative bodies based on MSWNL\_5 survey item, "Kuwait has made efforts to improve the rights of persons with disabilities through legislation but these laws are ineffectively implemented by governmental and private institutions." The MSWNL\_5 item had a moderate satisfaction score on average of 3.6, indicating most people agreed that implementation was ineffective, and that there was a lot of variance by gender. For example, women gauged implementation effectiveness as 3.5 and men as slightly higher at 3.8, indicating gender difference. The lower score for women implies that women experience difficulties not only with getting accommodations or the rights promised by legislation, but also those specific to a wider general bill of rights. Since these results follow a pattern that women are more dissatisfied with legislative enforcement and institutional support than men, these results highlight the consistency in a pattern. This is a disparity that suggests that although laws exist to protect people with disabilities' rights, ending up on the practical implementation of these laws in government and private sectors in particular is an enormous problem, particularly for women.

**MSWNL\_6:** I do not agree with the government's rejection of the National Assembly's proposed law of 2023, which included amendments to Law No. 8 of 2010 regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, which included financial benefits, employment and educational rights.

**MSWNL\_7:** I do not agree with the government's rejection of the National Assembly's proposed law of 2023, which included amendments to Law No. 8 of 2010 on the rights of persons with disabilities due to its expansion of the person responsible for caring for people with disabilities.

## Results

The responses of 122 participants in this study were assessed to determine satisfaction with Kuwaiti national legislation relating to rights of people with disability, including the examination of the extent to which the rights are legally protected as well as the effectiveness of their implementation in the public and private sectors. On the MSWNL scale, participants rated the legislation on financial benefits, employment rights, educational access, and government support, in addition to the whole agreement of the laws. The responses indicate a moderate satisfaction with selected legislative protections but reveal a definite concern regarding the regulation of these laws, especially with women respondents. The average ratings for each MSWNL item by gender and the total sample are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: MSWNL Scale Responses by Gender**

MSWNL Scale Item	Total Respondents (N=122)	Women (N=82)	Men (N=40)
MSWNL_1: Satisfaction with Financial Benefits	4.2	4.0	4.5
MSWNL_2: Satisfaction with Employment Rights	3.8	3.6	4.1
MSWNL_3: Satisfaction with Education Rights	4.5	4.3	4.8
MSWNL_4: Government Support for Disability Services	3.9	3.7	4.2
MSWNL_5: Implementation of Disability Legislation	3.6	3.5	3.8
MSWNL_6: Rejection of 2023 Law (Financial, Employment, Education Rights)	2.9	2.8	3.1
MSWNL_7: Overall Satisfaction with Government Legislation	4.0	3.9	4.2

*Source: Data compiled and calculated by the author*

From these responses we see that questions about the effectiveness of legislation implementation were also among the lowest scoring, as reflected by the average rating of 3.5 given by women for the question MSWNL\_5. This suggests that although the legislative framework per se is largely taken as a positive development, it is considered to have been inadequately brought into practice in both governmental and nongovernmental institutions. Across multiple items, women respondents consistently reported lower satisfaction scores than men respondents, particularly in areas linked with financial benefits, and employment rights.

The score for the lowest rated item, MSWNL\_6, dealing with the government's rejection of proposed amendments to disability legislation in 2023, including a bill to establish an independent external scheme of appeals and a bill of rights, was 2.9; with women respondents giving it 2.8. It shows a high degree of dissatisfaction with government decisions so far, particularly those concerning things that include financial, educational and employment benefits.

Overall, the findings point to a relatively high average degree of satisfaction with legislative provisions but very serious problems with their implementation, particularly in the area of enforcement and institutional support, with women being especially critical on this score. This is consistent with the conclusion of the study that the main barrier to the empowerment of persons with disabilities in Kuwait is insufficient implementation not legislative content.

## Discussion

Respondents reported modest satisfaction with financial perks, with an average score of 4.2 out of 5. Men reported somewhat higher satisfaction (4.5) than women (4.0). This discrepancy

suggests a potential gender gap in the perception of financial rewards, implying that women may have more challenges to obtain financial support in this area. Overall satisfaction with employment rights was somewhat lower, at 3.8 on average. Men were also more satisfied (4.1) than women (3.6), which may indicate gender-specific employment issues, such as discrimination or insufficient accommodations for women with disabilities.

Education rights had substantially higher satisfaction levels (average 4.5), with men rating education rights at 4.8 and women rating 4.3. While the responses were largely favourable, the somewhat lower score from women suggests that there is still space for growth in achieving equal happiness. The view of government support for disability services was relatively good, with an average of 3.9. Men rated this support higher (4.2) than women (3.7), indicating a potential disparity in the perceived usefulness or accessibility of these services for women.

One of the lowest-scoring categories was satisfaction with the execution of disability laws, which had an average score of 3.6. Both men (3.8) and women (3.5) showed equal degrees of discontent, indicating a major concern. This implies that, while the legislation itself may be appropriate, its implementation is inadequate, affecting all genders. The rejection of the 2023 legislation governing financial benefits, employment, and educational rights had the lowest approval rating, averaging 2.9. Women (2.8) were somewhat more unhappy than men (3.1), highlighting a crucial area where respondents believed the government had failed to satisfy their demands. Overall, satisfaction with government laws was modest, with an average score of 4.0. Men (4.2) were usually happier than women (3.9), confirming a long-standing pattern in which women reported lower satisfaction levels of contentment.

The data show that respondents are typically happier with education and financial advantages than with employment rights, government support for disability services, and disability legislation implementation. The rejection of the 2023 law is a major source of frustration, especially among women.

Women are less satisfied with practically every element of their life than men in most categories. This shows that women with disabilities may encounter extra obstacles or hurdles that are not sufficiently addressed by present legislation and implementation. The findings highlight the importance of making targeted changes to the execution of disability laws, as well as paying more attention to the special requirements of disabled women. Addressing these challenges may increase overall satisfaction and guarantee more fair access to rights and services for all people with disabilities.

### *Validity and Reliability Analysis*

When evaluating the quality of the research instrument, one has to look into the validity and reliability of that particular instrument because they are designed to state how accurate the instrument is to assess the indicators that correspond to the particular construct, as well as the stability of the findings. There are general methods of construct validation, among which there is the item rest correlation A value above 0. The value pointed to means that there is a very positive correlation between the items and the construct being measured and that it should be bigger than 2. Values below 0. 2 can provide speculums and creativity; as a result, they may need to be removed to maintain the item's clarity (Al-Gouhari et al. 2023).

In an attempt to enhance the reliability coefficients of the study, therefore, we deleted items with item rest correlation coefficients of less than 0. 2. For instance, the total scores of the items of the MSWNL scale were ranging between 0. 24 and 0. 60 based on the correlation of the items as presented in Table 3 below in relation to the determined constructs. The internal consistency of

the scale is also shown in table 2 and the cronbach's alpha achieved is 0.721, which confirms sufficient levels of internal consistency, according to the results of Al-Gouhari et al. (2023).

Two of such measures are construct validity and reliability that aid in determining if a questionnaire can indeed measure the intended components. The presence of the assessment tool in the later stages of the research confirms that construct validation reliability and the item-rest correlation merger have numerical values strictly greater than 0. For each item, respondent rating has been summed up to 2 (Al-Gouhari et al., 2023). In sum, the analytical rigor means excluding the items which have low correlation rates, and it was ascertained through the use of the MSWNL scale that it has internal consistencies of the coefficients, item-rest, and Cronbach's alpha.

**Table 3: Reliability Statistics**

							If item dropped	
		Mean	SD		Item-rest correlation	Cronbach's $\alpha$		
MSWNL_1		3.11		1.241		0.569		0.651
MSWNL_2		2.95		1.149		0.596		0.646
MSWNL_3		3.12		1.125		0.527		0.665
MSWNL_4		3.83		1.026		0.437		0.688
MSWNL_5		3.61		0.958		0.238		0.729
MSWNL_6		3.32		1.194		0.336		0.713
MSWNL_7		3.11		1.173		0.328		0.715

Overall Cronbach's alpha=0.721

*Source: Data compiled and calculated by the author*

### *Correlation Analysis*

Table 4 presents the results of a correlation study done on MSWNL (Measuring Satisfaction With National Legislation) issues linked to disability policies and facilities in Kuwait. The study identified multiple significant correlations, ranging from 0.076 to 0.734, which indicate the degree and direction of links between variables. There was a high positive association (0.734) between satisfaction with national law (MSWNL\_1) and approval of the Parliamentary Committee's performance (MSWNL\_2). This shows that those who are satisfied with law are also pleased with how the Parliamentary Committee handles disability-related matters. Similarly, contentment with legislation (MSWNL\_1 and MSWNL\_2) had a good correlation ( $r_p = 0.588$ ) with ease of movement facilitation (MSWNL\_3), showing favourable evaluations of legislative success in improving mobility for individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, there was a strong association ( $r_p = 0.635$ ) between attitudes on government legislative measures affecting disability rights (MSWNL\_7) and broader governmental activities (MSWNL\_6). This connection identifies a distinct group of respondents, most likely including women with disabilities or activists, who repeatedly criticise government measures impacting disability rights. Their criticisms frequently centered on the policies' appropriateness and execution, expressing worries about Kuwait's inclusion and assistance for people with disabilities.

**Table 4: Correlation Matrix**

	MSWNL_1	MSWNL_2	MSWNL_3	MSWNL_4	MSWNL_5	MSWNL_6	MSWNL_7
MSWNL_1	—						
MSWNL_2	0.734 ***	—					
MSWNL_3	0.588 ***	0.580 ***	—				
MSWNL_4	0.483 ***	0.364 ***	0.427 ***	—			
MSWNL_5	0.094	0.170	0.099	0.149	—		
MSWNL_6	0.087	0.186 *	0.118	0.119	0.125	—	
MSWNL_7	0.076	0.078	0.096	0.078	0.298 ***	0.635 ***	—

Note. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

*Source: Data compiled and calculated by the author*

Table 5 displays the results of an analysis of variance (ANOVA) used to investigate possible gender disparities across several survey items linked to views of disability laws and facilitation in Kuwait. Among the items assessed, MSWNL\_3 demonstrated a statistically significant difference ( $p = 0.038$ ) between men and women participants. Men scored higher ( $3.4 \pm 1.2$ ) than women ( $3.0 \pm 1.1$ ) on perceived accessibility in arrangements and designs.

This data implies that men respondents were more pleased with the accessibility arrangements than their female counterparts. In contrast, no significant gender differences were detected for the remaining items on the scale (MSWNL\_1, MSWNL\_2, MSWNL\_4, MSWNL\_5, MSWNL\_6, MSWNL\_7), since their respective p-values above the traditional threshold of significance ( $p > 0.05$ ). This suggests that both men and women in the survey had comparable perspectives on satisfaction with national legislation, parliamentary committee performance, prioritisation of disability problems, attempts to improve disability rights, and responses to proposed disability law changes.

Because overall satisfaction levels were comparable, MSWNL\_3 emphasises one area where women evaluated accessibility arrangements worse than men. This gap shows that women with disabilities have disproportionately more obstacles or hurdles to accessing facilities and services, notwithstanding overall satisfaction with legislative frameworks.

Therefore, more research is needed to grasp the underlying reasons behind this disparity. It might represent sociological or institutional constraints that affect women differently, such as caregiving obligations, social conventions impacting mobility, or special barriers to accessing public places or services created for disability accommodation. These findings are essential for influencing targeted interventions and policy changes aimed at removing gender-specific obstacles to full participation and accessibility for women with disabilities in Kuwait. In conclusion, while the study indicated that genders have similar attitudes about disability laws, the considerable

disparity in MSWNL\_3 highlights the significance of nuanced ways to address gender-specific obstacles in disability rights implementation.

**Table 5: Cross Table: Study Constructs with Gender Category**

	Women (N=82)	Men (N=40)	Total (N=122)	p value
<b>MSWNL_1</b>				0.403 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.0 (1.2)	3.2 (1.3)	3.1 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_2</b>				0.407 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	2.9 (1.1)	3.1 (1.2)	3.0 (1.1)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_3</b>				0.038 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.0 (1.1)	3.4 (1.2)	3.1 (1.1)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_4</b>				0.869 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.8 (1.0)	3.9 (1.1)	3.8 (1.0)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_5</b>				0.883 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.6 (0.9)	3.6 (1.0)	3.6 (1.0)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_6</b>				0.973 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.3 (1.1)	3.3 (1.3)	3.3 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_7</b>				0.360 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.2 (1.1)	3.0 (1.3)	3.1 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	

*Source: Data compiled and calculated by the author*

Table 6 shows the results of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) that was conducted to examine the perceptions of individuals from different educational levels regarding various aspects of disability legislation and facilitation in Kuwait, as measured by the MSWNL scale items. The means across the different items indicate varying levels of satisfaction or agreement, with scores generally ranging from moderate to high (2.4 to 4.0) across all groups. Notably, MSWNL\_4, which evaluates the prioritization of people with disabilities in Kuwaiti laws, consistently showed the highest satisfaction, with means ranging from 3.2 to 4.0. In contrast, the least satisfaction was observed in MSWNL\_2 and MSWNL\_3, particularly among primary-school participants, indicating concerns about the performance of the Parliamentary Committee and the facilitation arrangements for people with disabilities.

The p-values associated with these items (ranging from 0.251 to 0.748) suggest a lack of statistically significant differences between the different educational levels, indicating that educational background does not significantly influence perceptions regarding these aspects of disability legislation and facilitation in Kuwait. This consistency across educational demographics underscores a generally shared perspective on the effectiveness and priorities of disability policies in the region.



**Table 6: Cross Table: Study Constructs with Education Category**

	High school (N=21)	Middle school (N=11)	Primary school (N=8)	University (N=68)	Diploma (N=14)	Total (N=122)	p value
<b>MSWNL_1</b>							0.251 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.5 (1.3)	3.5 (1.2)	2.8 (1.6)	2.9 (1.2)	3.3 (1.1)	3.1 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	2.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_2</b>							0.373 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.1 (1.1)	3.4 (1.0)	2.4 (1.3)	2.9 (1.2)	3.0 (0.9)	3.0 (1.1)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_3</b>							0.748 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.2 (1.1)	3.2 (0.9)	2.6 (1.4)	3.1 (1.2)	3.3 (0.9)	3.1 (1.1)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	2.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_4</b>							0.544 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.9 (1.1)	3.9 (0.9)	3.2 (1.2)	3.8 (1.0)	4.0 (0.9)	3.8 (1.0)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	2.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	2.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_5</b>							0.452 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.5 (1.0)	3.8 (0.6)	3.2 (1.2)	3.7 (1.0)	3.4 (0.7)	3.6 (1.0)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	3.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	2.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_6</b>							0.533 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.5 (1.1)	3.7 (1.2)	3.1 (1.2)	3.3 (1.2)	3.0 (1.0)	3.3 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_7</b>							0.455 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.4 (1.1)	3.5 (1.2)	2.6 (1.2)	3.1 (1.3)	3.0 (0.8)	3.1 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	

*Source: Constructed from data compiled by the author*

The analysis of the perceptions across different governorates in Kuwait regarding disability legislation and related issues was assessed using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) (Table 6). For MSWNL\_1, which addresses satisfaction with national legislation regarding disabilities, a significant difference was noted ( $p = 0.0281$ ), with means ranging from 2.0 to 3.5, suggesting varying levels of satisfaction depending on the governorate. This variability indicates that experiences and perceptions of national legislation can differ substantially by region, perhaps influenced by local governance and implementation practices.

However, for the other items (MSWNL\_2 to MSWNL\_7), no statistically significant differences were observed across governorates, as the p-values exceed the 0.05 threshold, implying a general, uniform perception across regions in terms of the performance of the Parliamentary Committee for People with Disabilities, the effectiveness of facilitating arrangements, prioritization in laws, the effectiveness of implementation of these laws, and opinions on the government's rejection of proposed law amendments.

**Table 7: Cross Table: Study Constructs with Governorate Category**

	Al Farwaniyah (N=11)	Al-Ahmadi (N=12)	Al-Jahra (N=6)	Capital (N=32)	Hawally (N=30)	Mubarak-Alkabeer (N=31)	Total (N=122)	p value
<b>MSWNL_1</b>								0.028 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	2.5 (1.2)	2.9 (1.4)	2.0 (0.9)	3.1 (1.2)	3.3 (1.1)	3.5 (1.2)	3.1 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 3.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_2</b>								0.404 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	2.6 (1.2)	2.8 (1.4)	2.5 (1.0)	2.8 (1.2)	3.3 (1.0)	3.1 (1.1)	3.0 (1.1)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 4.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_3</b>								0.965 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.0 (1.0)	3.0 (1.2)	2.8 (1.7)	3.1 (1.3)	3.2 (1.0)	3.2 (1.0)	3.1 (1.1)	
Range	2.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_4</b>								0.942 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.7 (1.0)	3.7 (1.2)	4.0 (0.6)	3.8 (1.1)	3.8 (1.1)	4.0 (0.9)	3.8 (1.0)	
Range	2.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	3.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_5</b>								0.822 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	3.7 (0.9)	3.4 (0.9)	3.7 (0.8)	3.7 (1.1)	3.4 (1.0)	3.7 (0.8)	3.6 (1.0)	

Range	2.0 - 5.0	2.0 - 5.0	3.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_6</b>								0.471 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	2.8 (1.6)	2.9 (1.4)	3.7 (1.5)	3.3 (1.1)	3.5 (1.2)	3.4 (1.0)	3.3 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	
<b>MSWNL_7</b>								0.377 <sup>1</sup>
Mean (SD)	2.6 (1.6)	2.8 (1.5)	2.8 (1.6)	3.3 (1.1)	3.0 (1.1)	3.4 (0.8)	3.1 (1.2)	
Range	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	

*Source: Constructed from data compiled by the author*

### Conclusion and Recommendations

This study looked into the challenges that women with disabilities face in Kuwait, particularly when it comes to implementing disability-related legislation. However, after analyzing the data offered previously, it is evident that more particular cases and research are required to lend support to this argument. A summary or discussion section should highlight respondents' viewpoints on the most significant concerns found in the MSWNL Scale, with a special emphasis on circumstances in which legislation protecting women with disabilities were not properly enforced. This could shed light on any discrepancies or discrimination women encounter when compared to men with disabilities. Further investigation into particular instances of gender-based discrimination in disability legislation implementation would strengthen the study's findings and contribute more strongly to understanding the issues faced by women with disabilities in Kuwait.

The legal history of Kuwaiti legislation affecting persons with disabilities and subsequent amendment of critical laws pertaining to disability equity is pivotal in showing that Kuwait's legislative framework accommodates disability rights but does not fully support gender specific needs. While the Act aims to protect rights and opportunities for all people with disabilities, language is neutral about gender, and thus inadequately addresses the particular obstacles that women and men with disabilities face. The lack of gender specific directives shows the need for amendments specifically addressing and realizing gendered differences. Gender neutral frameworks try to be inclusive but lack equality when actually applied. Based on insights from gender and development practitioners, a gender transformative approach is called for that moves beyond neutrality, towards restructuring social and institutional norms. Such an approach would assist in guaranteeing that Kuwait would understand that the particular needs of women with disabilities are both respected and dealt with in ways that allow the specific needs of women with disabilities to be meaningfully made part of Kuwait's legislative framework. While the Act largely focuses on protecting rights and opportunities for people with disabilities without explicitly mentioning gender, it typically tries to maintain equality and inclusivity across genders. Specific rules may indeed lead to the empowerment of women with disabilities, necessitating further

investigation for a thorough understanding. This hypothesis was also supported by the results of the questionnaire, which reflected the satisfaction of women with disabilities regarding legislation and parliamentary performance, but it confirmed that there is a disparity in the application of laws between state institutions. This means that Kuwaiti society must pay more attention to implementation and enforcement. Therefore, this study recommends a number of actions to be taken. Firstly, the Kuwaiti government should monitor all parties to ensure the proper implementation of laws and legislation that give priority to people with disabilities. Secondly, the implementation of these laws should raise community awareness of the importance of empowering this segment of society, thus contributing to development goals. Thirdly, it would be useful for civil society organisations to create awareness about the rights of disabled women. This would ensure that laws safeguarding all disabled people's rights are adequately implemented, benefiting society as a whole. While there were no statistically significant disparities between disabled men and women, cultural pressures for inclusive advocacy may result in an emphasis on women in particular. The purpose of this proposal is to ensure that all groups, including disabled women, benefit equally from awareness-raising efforts and legislative initiatives. The MSWNL Scale items offered to respondents are listed below; they cover a wide variety of themes connected to Kuwaiti disability legislation and their impact on satisfaction. Notably, no questions addressed women's limitations. The fact that 33% of the respondents were men casts doubt on the survey's conclusions. The MSWNL Scale consists of three components: from the respondents' perspectives on the federal law satisfaction, the efficiency of legislative committees, and the availability of the building to physically disabled people. It also studies and analyzes the programs of the current and previous Kuwaiti government and private organizations on the enforcement of laws regarding patient's rights of PWDs. Furthermore, the scale is composed of perceiving Kuwaiti customers about new regulations pertaining to the enabling the facility for the disabled Kuwaiti citizens, facilities and aids for foreigners, etc. It also how these policy changes may affect legalisation/legitimacy.

Empowering women with disabilities in Kuwait requires a multifaceted approach, combining legislative action, educational initiatives, and social support systems. Here are several recommendations:

- Strengthening legal protection: by ensuring the implementation of laws that specifically address the rights of women with disabilities, ensuring they are protected against discrimination in all spheres of life, including employment, education, and healthcare.
- Inclusive education: Promote inclusive education policies that ensure girls and women with disabilities have access to quality education at all levels. This includes providing necessary accommodations and support services within mainstream educational institutions and bodies, thus eliminating the contradiction in the applications of those legislation pertaining to the rights of this segment, which is the main problem faced by women with disabilities in Kuwait. They do not suffer from legislative deficiencies, but rather the discrepancy in the application of these laws.
- Promoting the legislative culture for women with disabilities: Conducting special training courses for women with disabilities and those concerned with their care in order to raise legislative and legal awareness of their rights

- Public awareness campaigns: Launching awareness campaigns about the need to bridge the gap in the disparity in the application of fair legislation for women with disabilities in all institutions in Kuwait.
- Partnership between government institutions and civil society: Holding joint workshops between government institutions and civil society institutions concerned with empowering women with disabilities to clarify the problem of disparity in interpreting laws and the gap in implementing legislation for women with disabilities, with the aim of reaching a common understanding and unifying executive procedures related to rights of women with disabilities.
- Support Networks: between civil society institutions, and advocacy groups for women with disabilities to eliminate disparities in the implementation of legislation and laws for women with disabilities.
- Legal review: Establishing a committee from the participating parties and civil society institutions concerned with women with disabilities to review legislation and laws related to women with disabilities in order to improve and develop them in line with recent circumstances and requirements

By implementing these recommendations, women with disabilities in the State of Kuwait can create a more inclusive society that empowers overcome the problem of disparity in understanding and implementing legislation related to women with disabilities and work to develop and improve it in the future in a way that contributes to strengthening women with disabilities and ensures, which will positively impact their full participation in all aspects of life. societal contribution in Kuwaiti society.

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