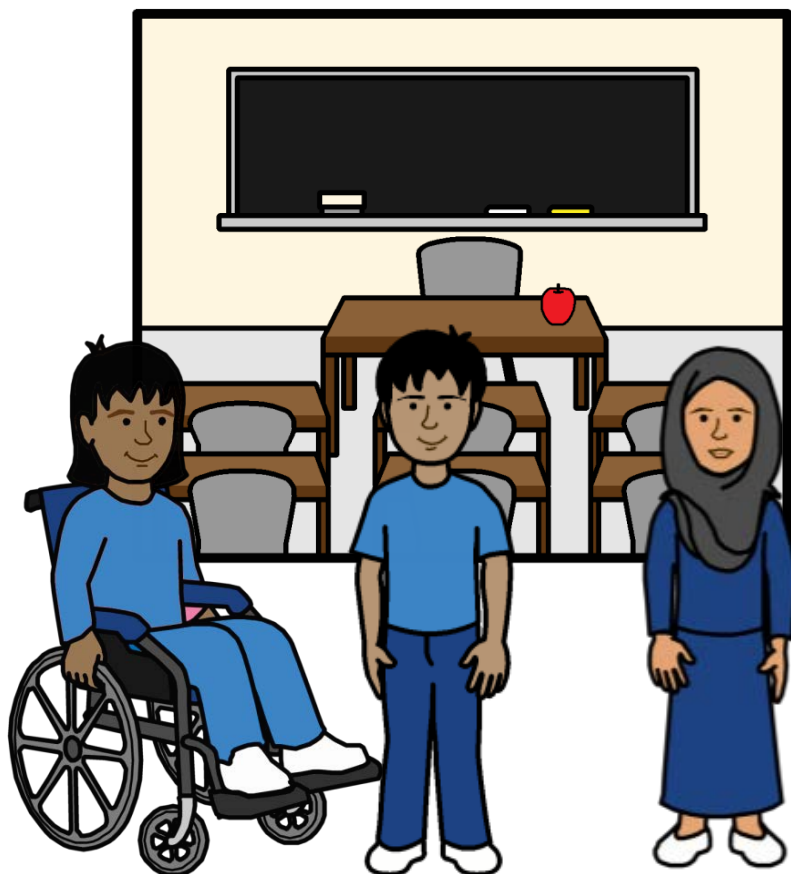




Problems with education for children with disabilities in Iran



“Just Like All Other Kids”: Lack of Access to Inclusive Education for Children With Disabilities in Iran



About us

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

We are two organizations that work on human rights.

We are called Human Rights Watch.

Center for
**HUMAN
RIGHTS**
in Iran

And the Center for Human Rights
in Iran.

About this report



This report is about children with disabilities in a country called Iran.

Iran is in the Middle East.



The report is about problems with education for children with disabilities in Iran.



From 2016 to 2019 we looked at what education is like for children with disabilities in Iran.

We spoke to:

- People with disabilities
- Parents of children with disabilities
- People who support the rights of people with disabilities
- People who work for Iran's government



This report tells you:

- What we found out
- What we want to happen next

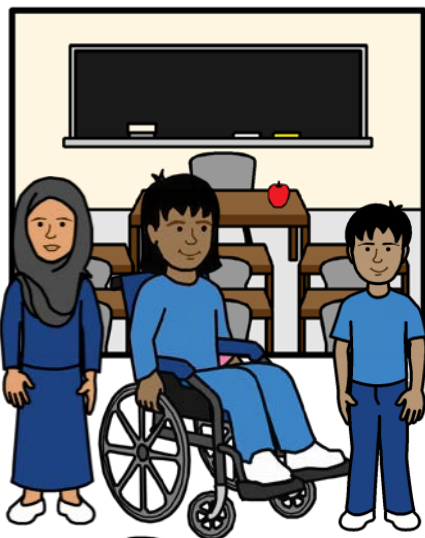


In 2018 we wrote another report about life for people with disabilities in Iran.

It is on this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/Iran-easy-to-read>

What should be happening for children with disabilities in Iran?



Children with disabilities everywhere have the right to:

- Get a good education in schools near where they live
- Learn in the same classrooms as children without disabilities
- Get the support they need to learn and do well

This is called **inclusive education**.



Inclusive education is very important.

It helps people with disabilities to:

- Get their rights
- Take part in the community like everyone else





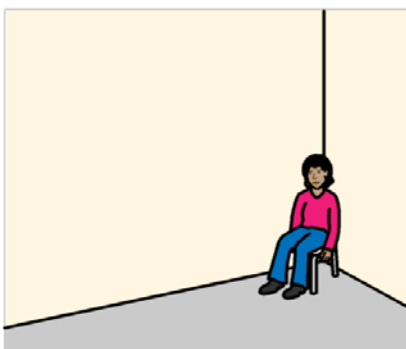
In 2009 the Government in Iran promised to make this education happen.

They signed an important document about it.



But most children with disabilities in Iran do not get this education.

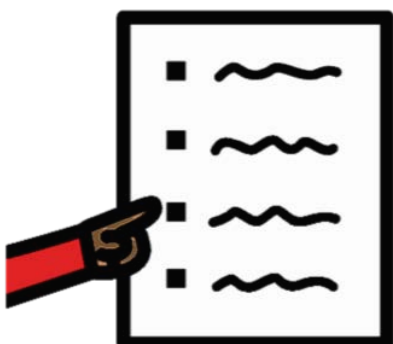
What is education like for children with disabilities in Iran?



Many children with disabilities do not go to school at all.

This is worse for some children.

For example, girls with disabilities and children with intellectual disabilities and autism.



There are many problems that stop children with disabilities going to school and getting a good education.



Medical tests

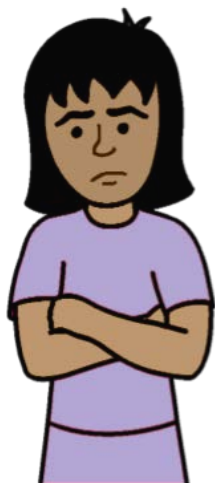
All children in Iran must have a medical test before they can start school.

The test looks at what they can do.

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People use the test to decide if a child is able to learn. This test may not be fair to everyone.

Children get a score when they do the test.

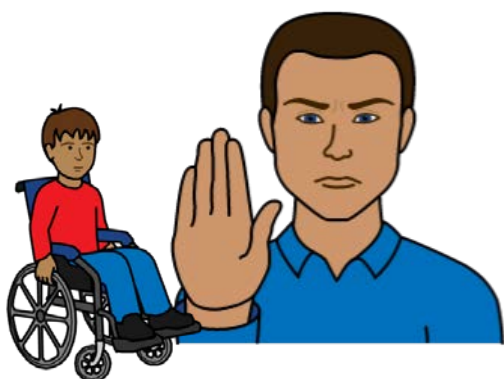


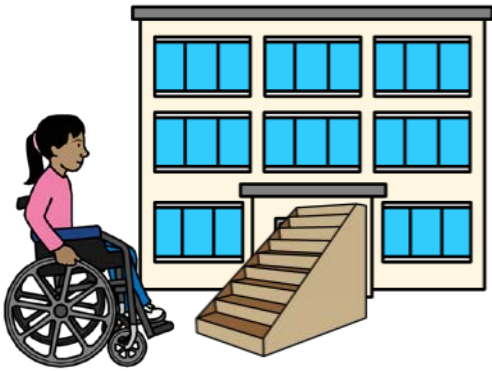
Children who get a low score must go to a special school.

Children who get a very low score cannot go to school at all.

Schools may say no to children with disabilities

Some schools may stop children with disabilities going there even if they pass the test.





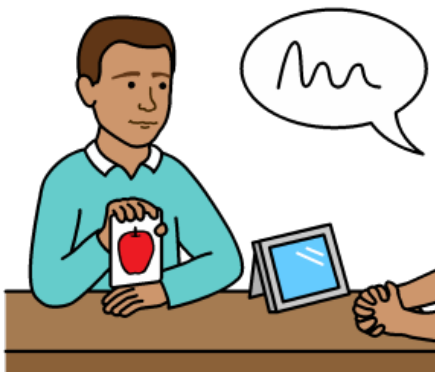
Schools may be hard to enter and move around in

School buildings, classrooms, and toilets are often hard for children with disabilities to use.



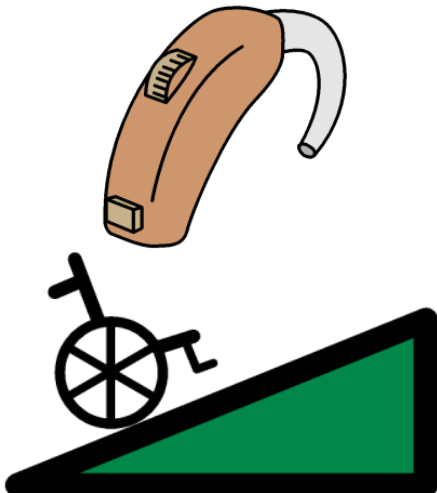
Children with disabilities may not get the right support at school

Many children with disabilities do not get the extra support they need to learn and do well.



For example, children with disabilities may need:

- Books and information in braille, sign language, video, sound or easy words and pictures
- Equipment to help them learn, hear, see, or move around
- Someone to support them in the classroom
- Changes to the school building, like ramps for their wheelchairs





Children with disabilities and their parents may not have the information they need

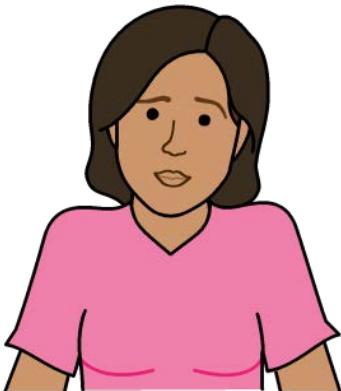
Many children and parents may not know their education rights and choices.

Many teachers and school staff do not have the right training to teach children with disabilities

Teachers can learn how to teach children with disabilities.

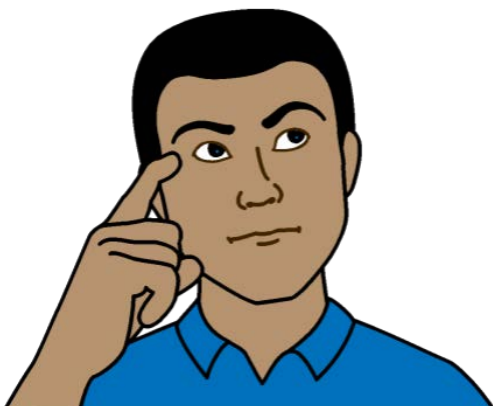
But that is only for children in special schools.

Most teachers don't learn how to teach children with disabilities and children without disabilities together.



People often have wrong ideas about people with disabilities

For example, they may think that children with disabilities cannot learn and do well.





All of these problems mean that:

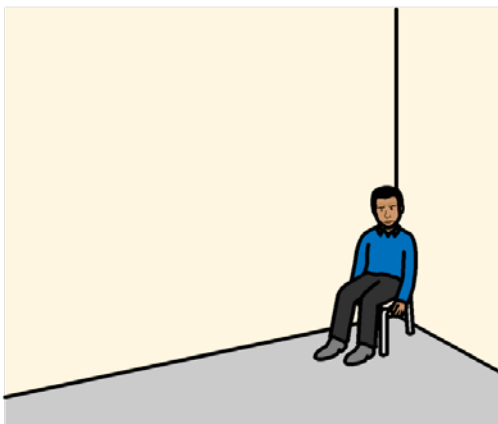
- Some parents have to go to school with their children to support them



- Children with disabilities may have to go to a special school instead.

This stops them learning and playing with children without disabilities.

Some special schools are far away from home. Some children may have to live there



- Some children with disabilities may have to stop going to school.

They may have to stay at home instead

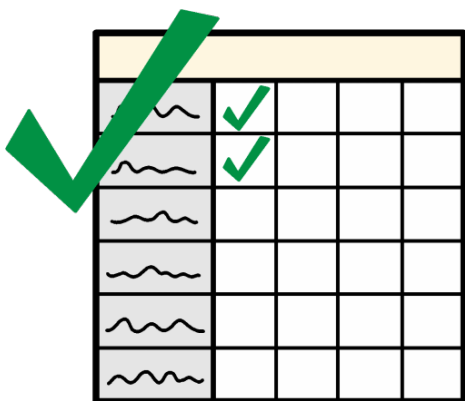
What the Government in Iran is doing



The Government in Iran has made some things better for children with disabilities.

For example:

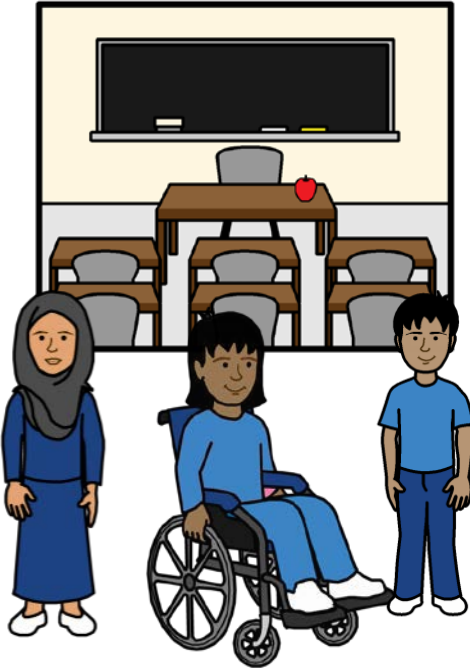
- There is more money for education for children with disabilities
- Some information in schools is easier for children with disabilities to understand



But the Government needs to do much more.

They need to make big changes to education for people with disabilities.

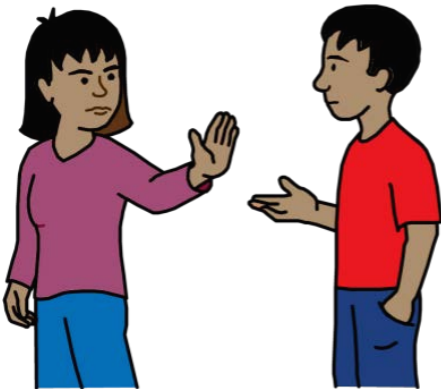
What we want to happen next



The Government in Iran should do the following things:

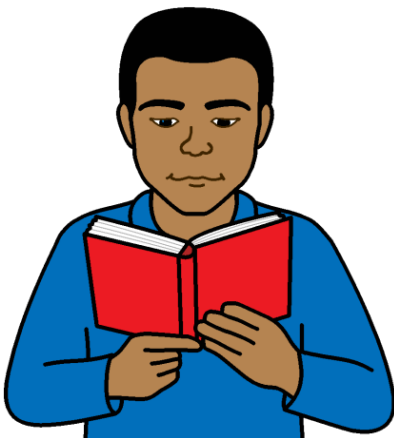
Make sure that all children with disabilities get a good education in the same classrooms as children without disabilities.

This is called **inclusive education**.



Children with disabilities should not have to:

- Learn in separate classrooms
- Go to special schools
- Stay at home



Make sure there are good laws and rules to make this education happen.

Make sure that children with disabilities and their parents have good information about their rights and choices.



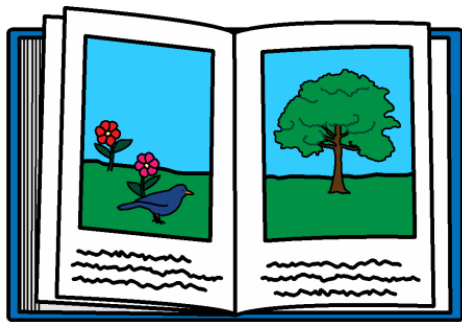
The Government in Iran should do the following things:

Stop medical tests to decide who can go to school.

People use the tests to say that some children cannot learn. But every child can learn.

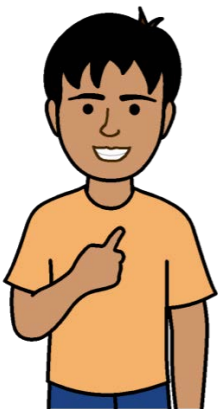


Make sure that everything at school is easy for children with disabilities to use and take part in.

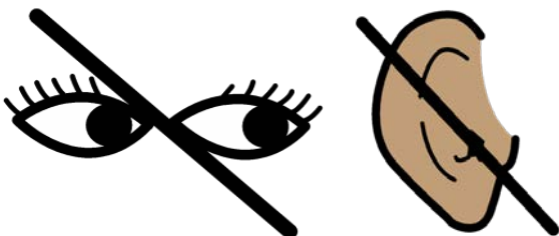


For example:

- School buildings, classrooms and toilets
- Books and information
- Lessons and exams

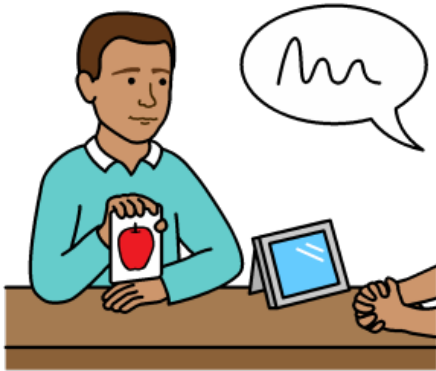


Make sure that every child with disabilities gets support, information, and equipment that is right for them.



This includes children who are deaf, blind, and deaf and blind.

The Government in Iran should do the following things:



Make sure that teachers and school staff have the right training to:

- Teach children with different disabilities
- Teach children with disabilities and children without disabilities together in the same classrooms



Work with children and adults with disabilities to make plans about education for all children.



Help schools, children without disabilities, and the public to understand about:

- The right of children with disabilities to education and why it is important
- What the education should be like



Get and share information about education for people with disabilities in Iran.