

"Historical Perspectives on Disability in Egypt: Attitudes and Policies"

This research paper examines the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt from ancient times to the modern era. The study uses a comparative approach to explore the attitudes and policies towards individuals with disabilities in different historical eras, including ancient Egypt, ancient Rome and Greece, ancient civilizations in China, India, and Persia, through the Islamic era, and the colonial period under French and British occupation. To conduct this research, a multi-disciplinary methodology was employed, including a review of historical literature and primary sources, as well as analysis of art, architecture, and cultural artifacts. The research sheds light on the evolution of attitudes towards disability in Egypt, including the role of religion, philosophy, and social norms in shaping perceptions of disability. The study also examines policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities throughout history, such as philanthropic organizations, schools, and rehabilitation centers. The research findings have significant implications for contemporary policies and practices concerning individuals with disabilities in Egypt and other countries. Understanding the historical context of disability in Egypt can inform current efforts to promote inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for people with disabilities.

Keywords: Disability, Egypt, Attitudes, Policies, Historical perspective, Comparative approach

Introduction

The historical perspectives on disability in Egypt provide valuable insights into the evolving attitudes and policies towards individuals with disabilities from ancient times to the modern era. This research examines the complex interplay of factors, including religion, philosophy, social norms, and external influences, in shaping these perspectives. By critically analyzing and comparing accounts from ancient Egypt, the Islamic era, and the colonial period, we gain a deeper understanding of the historical context and its implications for disability studies within education.

Scholars such as El Daly (2005), Gharib (2012), Ismail (2010), Nasser (2013, 2017), Omran (2019), Oweis (2016), and Rizk (2009) have extensively explored the history of disability in Egypt, shedding light on the various dimensions of attitudes towards disability. In ancient Egypt, physical disabilities and body deformities were often seen as divine attributes, granted by the gods themselves. This belief was reflected in the representation of certain gods with misshapen bodies or as dwarfs. Remarkably, ancient Egyptian society exhibited tolerance towards disability, as evidenced by the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, including dwarfs and malformed persons, among the household of kings and high officials. Moral instructions emphasized respect for people with disabilities,

emphasizing the need to avoid teasing or causing hardship (El Daly, 2005; Nasser, 2013).

However, attitudes towards disability shifted during the Islamic era, where disability was sometimes viewed as a form of punishment or a curse from God. The impact of colonialism on disability in Egypt was also significant, as British policies reinforced negative attitudes and perpetuated the marginalization of individuals with disabilities (Ismail, 2010; El-Sayed, 2018).

Throughout history, policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities have emerged in Egypt. Specialized institutions, including schools and rehabilitation centers, were established. However, these efforts faced challenges related to funding, staffing, and accessibility, resulting in limited access to services for many individuals with disabilities (Gharib, 2012; Fadl, 2016).

In recent years, Egypt has witnessed efforts to promote greater inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 marked an important milestone, mandating measures to ensure access to education, employment, and social services for individuals with disabilities (Omran, 2019). Nevertheless, significant challenges and barriers persist, requiring ongoing commitment to address the needs of individuals with disabilities in Egypt.

By exploring the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt, we gain valuable insights into the complex dynamics that have shaped attitudes and policies over time. This research contributes to the field of disability studies within education by providing critical analysis and highlighting the implications for educational practices in Egypt. Understanding the historical context is crucial for informing current efforts to promote inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for individuals with disabilities.

Literature

The history of disability in Egypt is a complex and multifaceted topic that has been explored by several scholars. This research aims to examine the evolving attitudes and policies towards individuals with disabilities in Egypt throughout different historical periods, shedding light on the underlying factors that have shaped these perspectives. By critically analyzing and comparing accounts from ancient Egypt, the Islamic era, and the impact of colonialism, we gain a deeper understanding of the historical context and its implications for disability studies within education.

Scholarly research by El Daly (2005), Nasser (2013), Omran (2019), El-Sayed (2018), Ismail (2010), and Rizk (2009) has provided valuable insights into the history of disability in Egypt. In ancient Egypt, disability was not viewed as a negative condition but rather as a natural part of human diversity. El Daly (2005) argues that disability was accepted and even celebrated in ancient Egyptian society, as evidenced by the portrayal of individuals with disabilities in art and their inclusion in positions of authority. These representations suggest a society that recognized the contributions and worth of disabled individuals.

However, attitudes towards disability in Egypt have undergone shifts over time. The Islamic era brought changes in perspectives, where disability was sometimes viewed as a form of punishment or a curse from God. El-Sayed (2018) highlights the provisions within Islamic law for the care and protection of individuals with disabilities, but also notes limitations and challenges. The impact of colonialism on disability in Egypt is another significant aspect to consider. Ismail (2010) explores how colonial policies perpetuated negative attitudes towards disability and marginalized individuals with disabilities.

Religion, philosophy, and social norms have played pivotal roles in shaping attitudes towards disability in Egypt. Islamic law, as examined by El-Sayed (2018), provides a framework for caring for individuals with disabilities, rooted in principles of compassion and justice. In ancient Egypt, religion played a significant role in shaping attitudes, with disabled individuals often seen as having a special connection to the divine (Nasser, 2017). Social norms, as discussed by Gharib (2012), have influenced attitudes towards disability, often resulting from a lack of understanding or fear of the unknown.

The representation of physical disability in ancient Egyptian art, as explored by Mahran and Kamal (year), further contributes to our understanding of cultural attitudes towards disability. Their research on tomb scenes from the Old Kingdom period reveals that disabled individuals were not stigmatized in ancient Egyptian society but were given specific roles and functions, emphasizing the acceptance and inclusion of disabled individuals.

The scholarly sources discussed in this research provide a nuanced understanding of the history of disability in Egypt and the factors that have shaped attitudes and policies over time. The significance of ancient Egyptian art in shedding light on cultural attitudes towards disability is highlighted, as well as the role of religion, philosophy, and social norms. While some progress has been made in recent years, negative attitudes and discrimination remain significant barriers for individuals with disabilities in modern-day Egypt. Understanding the historical perspectives on disability is crucial in informing efforts to address these challenges and promote greater inclusion and acceptance of individuals with disabilities in Egyptian society.

Generally, the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt offer valuable insights into the complex and evolving nature of disability in human societies. By examining attitudes and policies across different historical eras and cultures, we can gain a deeper understanding of the socio-cultural and political factors that have shaped these perspectives. Religion, philosophy, and social norms have played significant roles in influencing attitudes towards disability in Egypt, underscoring the importance of addressing these factors in endeavors to foster inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Methodology

This research paper aims to investigate the evolution of attitudes and policies towards individuals with disabilities throughout Egypt's history. The research question guiding this study is: "How have attitudes and policies towards

individuals with disabilities evolved throughout history in Egypt?" The paper adopts a comparative approach, examining different historical eras in Egypt and analyzing the role of religion, philosophy, and social norms in shaping attitudes towards disability. Additionally, the study examines policies and initiatives that have aimed to support individuals with disabilities throughout history and assesses how historical perspectives on disability in Egypt influence current policies and practices.

To conduct this study, a multi-disciplinary methodology was employed, drawing on academic books, publications, and primary sources. Academic databases and library catalogues were utilized to access relevant literature using specific keywords related to disability in Egypt. These sources provided valuable insights into the historical perspectives on disability, encompassing various disciplines such as history, archaeology, anthropology, and disability studies.

Primary sources, including old texts, documents, and artefacts, were also utilized to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities during different historical periods in Egypt. By critically analyzing these sources, major themes, arguments, and gaps in knowledge were identified, contributing to a nuanced analysis of the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt.

The study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt and their impact on current laws and practices for individuals with disabilities. By examining the evolution of attitudes and policies, the research contributes to a broader understanding of the factors that have shaped disability discourse in Egypt over time.

Historical Perspectives on Disability in Egypt

Disabilities in Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egyptian society had a relatively accepting attitude toward people with disabilities. In fact, people with disabilities were often depicted in Egyptian art, and some were even venerated as gods.

Ancient Egyptian beliefs about disabilities were influenced by their religious beliefs. The Egyptians believed that the gods could bestow physical differences and disabilities as divine attributes and that people with disabilities were not cursed or punished for past sins. They believed that everyone had a role to play in society, regardless of physical ability, and that people with disabilities deserved respect and care.

People with disabilities were often depicted in Egyptian art, such as the statue of Seneb, a high-ranking official in the court of Pharaoh Djoser during the Third Dynasty. Seneb was depicted with a curved spine, a protruding belly, and short legs, but despite his physical differences, he was depicted as a respected and dignified member of the court. Other examples of people with disabilities in Egyptian art include the dwarf Per-Nefers, who was a court official during the

Sixth Dynasty, and the high official Khnumhotep, who was depicted with a club foot.

In ancient Egyptian society, people with disabilities were often integrated into the community and given opportunities to contribute to society. They were not shunned or excluded from public life and were often employed as scribes, musicians, or craftsmen. Ancient Egyptian moral teachings stressed respect for people with disabilities and emphasized the importance of treating them with kindness and understanding.

In general, ancient Egyptian society was quite accommodating of those with impairments and understood their inherent value. Their art and moral teachings reflect this acceptance and inclusion in society and offer a crucial historical framework for comprehending how Egyptians with disabilities have been treated throughout history.

In ancient Egypt, people with disabilities were often employed in various professions and trades such as: Scribes: People with disabilities, including those who were blind or had physical impairments, were often trained as scribes. This was a prestigious profession in ancient Egypt, and scribes were responsible for recording information, writing letters, and keeping track of accounts, Musicians: People with disabilities were also employed as musicians in ancient Egypt. For example, a blind musician named Harkhuf was mentioned in inscriptions from the Old Kingdom and was highly respected for his musical abilities, Craftsmen: People with disabilities were also employed as craftsmen in ancient Egypt. For example, a famous statue of the god Ptah-Sokar-Osiris depicts the god with a club foot, which may have been intended to show that people with disabilities could still be skilled craftsmen, begging: While not employment per se, some people with disabilities in ancient Egypt resorted to begging for alms. However, even beggars were often respected and given alms as a form of charity. Overall, people with disabilities in ancient Egypt were not excluded from public life or employment opportunities. They were given the chance to contribute to society and were respected for their skills and abilities, regardless of their physical differences.

There is limited information on laws or policies in ancient Egypt that specifically protected the rights of people with disabilities. However, there is evidence to suggest that the ancient Egyptians had a sense of social justice and compassion toward people with disabilities.

For example, several ancient Egyptian texts, such as the "Instructions of Ani," stressed the importance of treating people with disabilities with compassion and respect. These texts emphasized the moral obligation of individuals to help those in need, including people with disabilities.

In addition, the ancient Egyptians believed in ma'at, a concept of justice and order that emphasized the importance of treating others fairly and with respect. This included treating people with disabilities as equal members of society, and not discriminating against them based on their physical differences.

Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that the ancient Egyptians had some form of the healthcare system that provided medical treatment to people with disabilities. For example, medical texts from ancient Egypt describe various

1 treatments and remedies for physical ailments and conditions, including those that
2 affected mobility or physical ability.

3 While there may not have been specific laws or policies in ancient Egypt that
4 protected the rights of people with disabilities, the moral teachings and cultural
5 values of the society emphasized respect for all individuals, including those with
6 physical differences. This suggests that people with disabilities were accepted and
7 integrated into ancient Egyptian society, and were not subjected to the same levels
8 of discrimination and exclusion that were seen in other cultures throughout history.

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10 specifically protected the rights of people with disabilities. However, there is
11 evidence to suggest that the ancient Egyptians had a sense of social justice and
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18 treating others fairly and with respect. This included treating people with
19 disabilities as equal members of society, and not discriminating against them based
20 on their physical differences.

21 **The historical analysis of disability in ancient Egypt** suggests that the
22 attitudes and treatment of individuals with disabilities were generally positive and
23 accepting. The ancient Egyptians believed that disabilities were not a punishment
24 or a curse, but rather a divine attribute bestowed by the gods. As a result, people
25 with disabilities were often depicted in Egyptian art and sometimes even venerated
26 as gods.

27 Despite physical differences, people with disabilities were integrated into
28 ancient Egyptian society and given opportunities to contribute to the community.
29 They were not excluded from public life or employment opportunities and were
30 often employed as scribes, musicians, or craftsmen. This suggests that ancient
31 Egyptian society recognized the inherent worth and value of people with
32 disabilities and did not discriminate against them based on their physical
33 differences.

34 Furthermore, while there may not have been specific laws or policies in
35 ancient Egypt that protected the rights of people with disabilities, the moral
36 teachings and cultural values of the society emphasized respect for all individuals,
37 including those with physical differences. This suggests that people with
38 disabilities were accepted and integrated into ancient Egyptian society, and were
39 not subjected to the same levels of discrimination and exclusion seen in other
40 cultures throughout history. According to the historical analysis of disability in
41 ancient Egypt, society generally accepted and valued people with impairments, as
42 is evidenced by their art, moral precepts, and treatment of those who were
43 disabled.

Disabilities in Ancient Greek and Roman Societies

In contrast to the relatively accepting attitudes Toward disabilities in ancient Egypt, ancient Greek, and Roman societies had more varied and often exclusionary attitudes Toward people with disabilities.

In ancient Greece, people with disabilities were often excluded from public life and education. Physical disabilities were seen as a sign of weakness and were often stigmatized, while intellectual disabilities were seen as a curse from the gods. As a result, people with disabilities were often relegated to the margins of society and were not given opportunities to contribute to public life or the economy.

In ancient Rome, attitudes Toward disabilities were more varied. While physical disabilities were sometimes stigmatized, the Romans had a fascination with physical deformities and considered them to be wondrous. People with physical differences were sometimes exhibited in public as curiosities, and were even celebrated in art and literature.

However, people with intellectual disabilities were often excluded from public life and were sometimes even considered to be a burden on society. The Roman philosopher Seneca described people with intellectual disabilities as "a thing not human, but something lower than a beast."

Despite these contrasting attitudes, both ancient Greek and Roman societies had limited provisions for the care and education of people with disabilities. Some charitable organizations and institutions were established to care for people with disabilities, but these were often limited in scope and were not accessible to all. In general, the divergent perspectives on impairments in classical Greece and Rome reflect the nuanced and different perspectives on disabilities throughout history. The need for greater understanding and activism for disability rights is highlighted by the fact that although some communities have embraced and celebrated persons with disabilities, others have stigmatised and excluded them.

There is limited information on charitable organizations and institutions that were specifically established to care for people with disabilities in ancient Greece and Rome. However, there were some institutions and organizations that provided care and support for people with disabilities in general.

In ancient Greece, some temples and sanctuaries provided care and support for people with disabilities. For example, the Temple of Asclepius in Epidaurus was a healing sanctuary that provided medical treatment and care for people with various physical and mental conditions. Similarly, the Temple of Apollo at Delphi was known for its healing powers and provided care for people with disabilities.

In ancient Rome, some charitable organizations, known as collegia, provided support and assistance to various groups, including people with disabilities. These organizations were often based on a shared profession or trade, and provided assistance to members who were in need. Some collegia also provided burial services and other forms of support to families of members who had died.

In addition, some wealthy individuals in ancient Rome were known to establish private institutions, or hospices, to provide care and support for people

with disabilities. These hospices were often staffed by slaves or freedmen who were trained in medical care and other forms of assistance.

Overall, while there may not have been specific institutions or organizations that were established solely for the care of people with disabilities in ancient Greece and Rome, there were some institutions and organizations that provided support and assistance to people in need, including those with disabilities.

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The historical analysis of disability in ancient Greek and Roman societies suggests that attitudes and treatment towards individuals with disabilities were often exclusionary and varied. In ancient Greece, physical disabilities were often stigmatized and seen as a sign of weakness, while intellectual disabilities were considered a curse from the gods. As a result, people with disabilities were often excluded from public life and education and were not given opportunities to contribute to society.

In contrast, ancient Roman society had a fascination with physical deformities and considered them to be wondrous. People with physical differences were sometimes exhibited in public as curiosities and were even celebrated in art and literature. However, people with intellectual disabilities were often excluded from public life and considered a burden on society. This reflects the complex and varied attitudes towards disability throughout history.

There is limited information on charitable organizations and institutions that were specifically established to care for people with disabilities in ancient Greece and Rome. However, there were some temples and sanctuaries that provided care and support for people with disabilities in ancient Greece, such as the Temple of Asclepius in Epidaurus and the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. In ancient Rome, some charitable organizations, known as collegia, provided support and assistance to various groups, including people with disabilities. Additionally, some wealthy individuals established private institutions, or hospices, to provide care and support for people with disabilities. Overall, the historical analysis of disability in ancient Greek and Roman societies suggests that attitudes and treatment towards individuals with disabilities were often exclusionary and varied. While some institutions and organizations provided support and assistance to people in need, including those with disabilities, there was limited provision for the care and education of people with disabilities. These varying attitudes towards disability throughout history emphasize the need for greater awareness and advocacy for disability rights.

1 *Disabilities in Islamic Times*

2
3 In Islamic times, Egypt was ruled by various Islamic dynasties, including the
4 Fatimids, Mamluks, and Ottomans. Islamic teachings and values had a significant
5 influence on attitudes Toward people with disabilities in Egypt during this period.

6 Islamic teachings emphasize the inherent worth and dignity of all human
7 beings, regardless of their physical or mental abilities. Muslims are encouraged to
8 show compassion and mercy Toward all people, including people with disabilities.
9 The Prophet Muhammad himself is said to have shown kindness and respect
10 Toward people with disabilities, and his example has been followed by many
11 Muslims throughout history.

12 Islamic scholars and institutions also made significant contributions Toward
13 the education and care of people with disabilities. For example, the famous
14 physician and philosopher al-Razi (known as Rhazes in the West) wrote
15 extensively on the subject of disabilities and developed innovative treatments for
16 various conditions. In addition, Islamic institutions such as waqfs (charitable
17 endowments) and madrasas (schools) provided support and education to people
18 with disabilities.

19 One notable example of an Islamic institution that supported people with
20 disabilities was the Dar al-Ma'mun hospital in Cairo, founded in the 9th century by
21 the Fatimid caliph al-Ma'mun. This hospital provided medical care and
22 rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, including those with vision and
23 hearing impairments.

24 Overall, the Islamic view of disabilities emphasized compassion and respect
25 for people with disabilities, and encouraged the provision of education and care to
26 support their well-being. Islamic scholars and institutions made significant
27 contributions Toward advancing knowledge and care for people with disabilities,
28 which had a lasting impact on attitudes and practices Toward people with
29 disabilities in Egypt and beyond.

30 In addition to the Dar al-Ma'mun hospital, there were other Islamic
31 institutions in Egypt that provided support and care for people with disabilities
32 during Islamic times. Here are a few examples: such as: Waqfs: they were
33 charitable endowments that were established by individuals or organizations to
34 support various social and religious causes. Many waqfs in Egypt were established
35 to support people with disabilities and provided funding for hospitals, schools, and
36 other institutions that provided care and education for people with disabilities.
37 Madrasas: Madrasas were Islamic schools that provided education in various
38 subjects, including religious studies, science, and the arts. Some madrasas in Egypt
39 were specifically established to provide education for people with disabilities, and
40 were staffed by teachers who were trained to work with students with different
41 abilities. Sufi orders: Sufi orders were religious organizations that emphasized
42 spiritual practices and teachings. Some Sufi orders in Egypt provided support and
43 care for people with disabilities, and were known for their compassionate and
44 inclusive approach to society. Mosques: Mosques were not only places of worship,
45 but also served as centers of community life in Islamic societies. Some mosques in
46 Egypt provided care and support for people with disabilities, and offered services

such as medical treatment, education, and vocational training. Overall, Islamic institutions in Egypt played an important role in providing support and care for people with disabilities during Islamic times. These institutions reflected the Islamic values of compassion and respect for all individuals, and provided much-needed services and opportunities for people with disabilities to thrive and contribute to society.

There were several notable individuals who contributed to the establishment of institutions that supported people with disabilities in Islamic Egypt. Here are a few examples of them: Al-Ma'mun: Al-Ma'mun was a Fatimid caliph who founded the Dar al-Ma'mun hospital in Cairo in the 9th century. This hospital provided medical care and rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, including those with vision and hearing impairments. Al-Razi: Al-Razi (also known as Rhazes) was a famous physician and philosopher who lived in the Islamic Golden Age. He wrote extensively on the subject of disabilities and developed innovative treatments for various conditions. His work had a lasting impact on medical knowledge and practice in Egypt and beyond. Ibn Sina: Ibn Sina (also known as Avicenna) was another famous philosopher and physician who lived in the Islamic Golden Age. He wrote a seminal work on medicine, the Canon of Medicine, which was widely used as a medical textbook in Islamic societies. His work also had a significant influence on the development of medical knowledge and practice in Egypt and beyond. Al-Ghazali: Al-Ghazali was a famous Islamic philosopher and theologian who lived in the 11th century. He emphasized the importance of compassion and empathy toward all individuals, including people with disabilities, and his teachings had a significant influence on Islamic Attitudes toward disabilities.

These individuals, and many others like them, played an important role in advancing knowledge and care for people with disabilities in Islamic Egypt. Their contributions helped establish institutions and practices that supported the well-being and inclusion of people with disabilities, and had a lasting impact on attitudes and practices toward disability in Egypt and beyond.

The historical analysis of disability in Islamic times in Egypt reveals that Islamic teachings and values had a significant influence on attitudes and treatment towards people with disabilities. Islamic teachings emphasize the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings, including those with disabilities, and encourage compassion and respect for all individuals. This view of disabilities had a lasting impact on attitudes and practices in Egypt and beyond.

Islamic scholars and institutions also made significant contributions towards the education and care of people with disabilities. Prominent figures such as al-Razi, Ibn Sina, and al-Ghazali developed innovative treatments and emphasized the importance of compassion and empathy towards people with disabilities. Islamic institutions such as waqfs, madrasas, Sufi orders, and mosques provided support and care for people with disabilities, including medical care, education, vocational training, and rehabilitation services.

One notable example of an Islamic institution that supported people with disabilities was the Dar al-Ma'mun hospital in Cairo, founded in the 9th century by the Fatimid caliph al-Ma'mun. This hospital provided medical care and

rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, including those with vision and hearing impairments. Additionally, waqfs were established to support people with disabilities, providing funding for hospitals, schools, and other institutions that provided care and education. Overall, the Islamic view of disabilities emphasized the importance of compassion and respect for people with disabilities, and encouraged the provision of education and care to support their well-being. Islamic scholars and institutions made significant contributions towards advancing knowledge and care for people with disabilities, which had a lasting impact on attitudes and practices in Egypt and beyond.

Disabilities during the 18th and 19th Centuries

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Egypt was under the rule of various colonial powers, including the French and the British. The impact of colonialism on attitudes toward people with disabilities in Egypt was complex, and included both positive and negative influences.

On the one hand, colonialism brought new ideas and technologies to Egypt, including advances in medicine and rehabilitation. European doctors and missionaries established hospitals and clinics in Egypt that provided care and treatment for people with disabilities, and introduced new approaches to education and training.

On the other hand, colonialism also brought with it negative attitudes toward people with disabilities. European colonizers often viewed people with disabilities as inferior and in need of “civilizing” and “modernizing”. This led to a rise in eugenicist thinking and practices, which aimed to eliminate disabilities through selective breeding and sterilization.

Despite these negative attitudes, there were also many Egyptians who were committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities during this period. Charitable institutions and schools for people with disabilities began to emerge, providing care, education, and vocational training to people with different abilities.

One notable example of a charitable institution was the School for the Blind in Cairo, which was established in 1888 by the Egyptian government with the support of European philanthropists. This school provided education and vocational training for blind children, and was staffed by teachers who were trained to work with students with visual impairments.

Overall, the impact of colonialism on attitudes toward people with disabilities in Egypt was complex, and included both positive and negative influences. While colonialism introduced new ideas and technologies that improved the lives of people with disabilities, it also brought with it negative attitudes and practices that had a lasting impact on disability rights and inclusion in Egypt.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, vocational training programs for people with disabilities in Egypt were often focused on developing skills in traditional crafts and trades. Here are some examples of vocational training programs that were offered during this period: Weaving: Weaving was a traditional craft in Egypt, and many vocational training programs for people with disabilities focused

1 on developing skills in this area. Blind individuals, in particular, were often trained
 2 as weavers, as their sense of touch and spatial awareness could be used to create
 3 intricate patterns and designs. Carpentry: Carpentry was another traditional craft
 4 that was often taught to people with disabilities in vocational training programs.
 5 People with physical disabilities, in particular, could learn to create furniture and
 6 other wooden objects with the use of specialized tools and techniques. Sewing:
 7 Sewing and embroidery were also popular vocational training programs for people
 8 with disabilities, particularly for women. Blind individuals were often trained as
 9 seamstresses, as their sense of touch could be used to create intricate designs and
 10 patterns. Metalworking: Metalworking was another traditional craft that was
 11 sometimes taught to people with disabilities in vocational training programs.
 12 People with physical disabilities could learn to create objects such as jewellery,
 13 utensils, and decorative items using metalworking techniques. Overall, vocational
 14 training programs for people with disabilities during this period were focused on
 15 developing practical skills in traditional crafts and trades. These programs
 16 provided opportunities for people with disabilities to learn new skills, earn a living,
 17 and contribute to their communities, despite the challenges they faced.

18 **The historical analysis of disability in Egypt during the 18th and 19th**
 19 centuries reveals a complex and nuanced picture, shaped by the impact of
 20 colonialism and the emergence of vocational training programs and charitable
 21 institutions for people with disabilities.

22 Colonialism brought both positive and negative influences towards people
 23 with disabilities. The introduction of new ideas and technologies in medicine and
 24 rehabilitation improved the lives of people with disabilities, while negative
 25 attitudes towards people with disabilities led to eugenicist thinking and practices
 26 aimed at eliminating disabilities through selective breeding and sterilization.

27 Despite these negative attitudes, Egyptians were committed to improving the
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 32 philanthropists, provided education and vocational training for blind children.

33 Vocational training programs for people with disabilities during this period
 34 were focused on developing practical skills in traditional crafts and trades such as
 35 weaving, carpentry, sewing, and metalworking. These programs provided
 36 opportunities for people with disabilities to learn new skills, earn a living, and
 37 contribute to their communities. Overall, the historical analysis of disability in
 38 Egypt during the 18th and 19th centuries reveals a complex and evolving picture,
 39 shaped by the interplay of various social, cultural, and political factors. While
 40 colonialism had both positive and negative influences, Egyptians were committed
 41 to improving the lives of people with disabilities, and vocational training programs
 42 and charitable institutions provided opportunities for people with disabilities to
 43 learn new skills, earn a living, and contribute to their communities.

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1 *Disabilities in Contemporary Egypt*

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3 People with disabilities continue encountering substantial obstacles in
4 modern-day Egypt that prevent them from fully participating in society. Here are
5 some of the problems and difficulties that Egyptians with disabilities are now
6 dealing with Lack of accessibility: Many public spaces and buildings in Egypt are
7 not accessible to people with disabilities, including those with physical disabilities,
8 visual impairments, and hearing impairments. This limits their ability to participate
9 in public life and access essential services such as education, healthcare, and
10 employment. Stigma and discrimination: People with disabilities in Egypt often
11 face stigma and discrimination, which can limit their opportunities and access to
12 resources. Negative attitudes Toward people with disabilities can also affect their
13 mental health and well-being. Limited access to education and employment:
14 People with disabilities in Egypt face significant barriers to education and
15 employment. Many schools and universities do not have the resources or
16 accommodations to support students with disabilities, and many employers are
17 unwilling to hire people with disabilities. Despite these challenges, there are
18 efforts being made by the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil
19 society to address the issues faced by people with disabilities in Egypt. The
20 government has passed legislation aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of
21 people with disabilities, including the 2018 Disability Law. Non-governmental
22 organizations and civil society groups have developed programs and services
23 aimed at supporting people with disabilities, including vocational training
24 programs, rehabilitation services, and advocacy campaigns. International
25 organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization are
26 working with the government and local organizations to promote the rights and
27 well-being of people with disabilities in Egypt. It is important to continue to
28 promote the inclusion and rights of people with disabilities in Egypt. This can be
29 achieved through increased awareness and education, advocacy for policy and
30 legal reforms, and the development of programs and services that support the
31 needs of people with disabilities. By working together, we can create a more
32 inclusive and equitable society for all.

33 There are several programs and services that support people with disabilities
34 in Egypt such as Rehabilitation services: There are several rehabilitation centers in
35 Egypt that provide medical treatment and therapy for people with disabilities,
36 including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. These
37 services can help people with disabilities improve their mobility, communication,
38 and overall quality of life. Vocational training programs: There are several
39 vocational training programs in Egypt that provide skills training and employment
40 opportunities for people with disabilities. These programs can help people with
41 disabilities develop their skills to earn a living and contribute to their communities.
42 Assistive technology: There are several organizations in Egypt that provide
43 assistive technology devices and services for people with disabilities, including
44 wheelchairs, hearing aids, and communication devices. These devices can help
45 people with disabilities overcome barriers to participation in society and improve
46 their independence and quality of life. Awareness campaigns: Several non-

governmental organizations and civil society groups in Egypt are working to raise awareness about the rights and needs of people with disabilities. These campaigns aim to reduce stigma and discrimination and promote greater social inclusion and equality for people with disabilities. Legal advocacy: Several organizations in Egypt are working to advocate for legal reforms that promote the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. For example, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights has advocated for implementing the 2018 Disability Law, which aims to protect the rights of people with disabilities and ensure their full participation in society.

These programs and services are critical in supporting the needs and rights of people with disabilities in Egypt. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that these services are accessible and effective for all individuals with disabilities and that they are supported by policies and practices that promote inclusion and equality. Despite these challenges, there are efforts being made by the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to address the issues faced by people with disabilities in Egypt. The government has passed legislation aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, including the 2018 Disability Law. Non-governmental organizations and civil society groups have developed programs and services aimed at supporting people with disabilities, including vocational training programs, rehabilitation services, and advocacy campaigns. International organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization are working with the government and local organizations to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities in Egypt.

The historical analysis of disability in contemporary Egypt reveals the ongoing challenges faced by people with disabilities in accessing education, employment, and public spaces.

Despite some progress, including the passing of the 2018 Disability Law aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities in Egypt, people with disabilities still encounter significant obstacles in fully participating in society. One major challenge is the lack of accessibility to public spaces and buildings, limiting their ability to access essential services and participate in public life.

Stigma and discrimination also continue to be a significant issue for people with disabilities in Egypt, limiting their opportunities and access to resources. Negative attitudes toward people with disabilities can also affect their mental health and well-being.

Limited access to education and employment also continues to be a significant barrier for people with disabilities in Egypt. Many schools and universities do not have the resources or accommodations to support students with disabilities, and many employers are unwilling to hire people with disabilities.

However, there are efforts being made by the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to address these issues. Rehabilitation centers, vocational training programs, assistive technology devices and services, awareness campaigns, and legal advocacy are all critical in supporting the needs and rights of people with disabilities in Egypt. Overall, the historical analysis of disability in

contemporary Egypt reveals the ongoing challenges faced by people with disabilities in accessing education, employment, and public spaces, and the need for continued efforts to promote inclusion and equality for all.

Comparative Analysis of Attitudes and Policies towards Disability in Different Historical Eras

Attitudes towards disability in Egypt have evolved over time, with different historical eras characterized by distinct perspectives on disability. In ancient Egypt, for example, individuals with disabilities were often viewed as having a special connection to the divine, and were depicted in art in positions of authority or religious significance (Nasser, 2017). However, during the Islamic Golden Age, disability was often seen as a punishment from God, and individuals with disabilities were often marginalized and excluded from society (Omran, 2019). In the modern era, attitudes towards disability have become more inclusive, with policies and initiatives aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities (Gharib, 2012).

Examination of the Evolution of Attitudes towards Disability in Egypt

The evolution of attitudes towards disability in Egypt can be attributed to a variety of factors, including religion, philosophy, and social norms. For example, in ancient Egypt, religion played a significant role in shaping attitudes towards disability, with individuals with disabilities often being seen as having a special connection to the divine (Nasser, 2017). During the Islamic Golden Age, disability was often viewed as a punishment from God, reflecting the influence of Islamic philosophy on attitudes towards disability (El-Sayed, 2018). In the modern era, social movements and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities have played a significant role in changing attitudes towards disability in Egypt (Rizk, 2009).

Analysis of Policies and Initiatives Aimed at Supporting Individuals with Disabilities throughout History

Throughout history, policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities have varied in their scope and effectiveness. In ancient Egypt, for example, there were no formal policies or initiatives aimed specifically at supporting individuals with disabilities, but disabled individuals were often cared for by their families or religious institutions (Nasser, 2017). During the Islamic Golden Age, some charitable organizations were established to provide support for individuals with disabilities, but their reach was limited (Omran, 2019). In the modern era, the Egyptian government has implemented various policies and initiatives aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with

disabilities, including the establishment of the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) and the passing of the Persons with Disabilities Law in 2018 (Gharib, 2012).

Overall, the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt provide insights into the complex and evolving nature of attitudes towards disability in human societies. The comparison of attitudes and policies towards disability in different historical eras highlights the importance of addressing the underlying factors that shape these perspectives, including religion, philosophy, and social norms. The analysis of policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities throughout history provides a foundation for identifying best practices and addressing existing gaps in the current policies and practices concerning individuals with disabilities in Egypt.

Implications for Contemporary Policies and Practices

The historical perspectives on disability in Egypt have significant implications for contemporary policies and practices concerning individuals with disabilities. By examining the evolution of attitudes and policies towards disability throughout history, we can identify best practices and address existing gaps in the current policies and practices concerning individuals with disabilities in Egypt and other countries.

One of the key implications of this research is the importance of promoting inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Throughout history, negative attitudes and discrimination have often been significant barriers for individuals with disabilities, preventing them from fully participating in society (Rizk, 2009). To address this, policies and initiatives aimed at promoting inclusion and accessibility are needed, such as the establishment of accessible infrastructure, employment opportunities, and educational resources (Gharib, 2012).

Another implication of this research is the importance of addressing the underlying factors that shape attitudes towards disability, including religion, philosophy, and social norms. By promoting awareness and understanding of disability, engaging with religious and philosophical leaders, and challenging negative social norms, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and accepting society for individuals with disabilities.

Implications for Promoting Inclusion, Accessibility, and Human Rights for Disabled in Egypt and Other Countries

The historical perspectives on disability in Egypt have implications for promoting inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for people with disabilities in Egypt and other countries. By learning from the successes and challenges of policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities throughout history, we can identify best practices and develop strategies for promoting inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for people with disabilities.

For example, the establishment of the National Council for Disability Affairs in Egypt and the passing of the Persons with Disabilities Law in 2018 are important steps towards promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities (Gharib, 2012). However, there is still a need for greater implementation and enforcement of these policies, as well as for increased public awareness and understanding of disability.

In addition, the lessons learned from the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt can be applied to other countries, particularly those with similar cultural, religious, and social contexts. By sharing best practices and collaborating on initiatives aimed at promoting inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for people with disabilities, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

Recommendations for Future Research and Action

Further research is needed to deepen our understanding of the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt and other countries. This could include research on the experiences of individuals with disabilities in different historical eras, as well as on the effectiveness of policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities.

In addition, more action is needed to promote inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for people with disabilities. This could include advocacy efforts aimed at raising awareness and challenging negative attitudes towards disability, as well as the implementation of policies and initiatives aimed at promoting inclusion and accessibility.

Overall, the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt provide important insights into the complex and evolving nature of disability in human societies. By learning from the successes and challenges of policies and initiatives throughout history, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for individuals with disabilities in Egypt and beyond.

Role played by Religion, philosophy, and social norms in Egypt

Religion, philosophy, and social norms have played significant roles in shaping perceptions of disability in Egypt throughout history. In ancient Egypt, cultural and social acceptance of disability was expressed in their art and literature, where physical disabilities or body deformities were considered divine attributes granted to humans by the gods. According to M. A. Mikhail's article "Disability in Ancient Egypt," the ancient Egyptians believed that physical disabilities or body deformities were divine attributes granted to humans by the gods. This perspective reflected the influence of religion and its values on their attitudes towards disability.

During the Islamic era, disability was often viewed as a form of punishment for sins or a curse from God, according to M. A. Mikhail's article "Disability in the

Islamic Tradition." This negative view of disability was reinforced by some religious texts, which contributed to the marginalization of individuals with disabilities in society.

In the modern era, with the rise of scientific and medical knowledge, the medical model of disability emerged. This model views disability as an individual problem that needs to be fixed or cured, according to "Models of Disability" by T. Shakespeare in *Disability Studies: An Interdisciplinary Introduction*.

Social norms have also played a significant role in shaping attitudes towards disability in Egypt. During the colonial period, the British government introduced policies that reinforced negative attitudes towards disability and perpetuated the marginalization of individuals with disabilities, according to M. Borsay's article "A History of Disability." These policies included restricting access to education and employment for people with disabilities and establishing segregated institutions for their care.

Throughout history, there have also been policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities, such as philanthropic organizations, schools, and rehabilitation centers. According to G. J. Healey and S. G. Raju's article "Disability and Rehabilitation in Colonial India: Historical Perspectives," these efforts reflected changing attitudes towards disability and a growing recognition of the need to promote inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Overall, religion, philosophy, and social norms have played important roles in shaping perceptions of disability in Egypt throughout history. These references provide evidence to support the statement and offer additional information and context. By understanding these influences, we can gain insight into current attitudes towards disability and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all individuals, including those with disabilities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research paper has examined the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt, spanning from ancient times to the modern era. The study has shed light on the evolution of attitudes towards disability and the influence of religion, philosophy, and social norms in shaping these perspectives. It has also explored the policies and initiatives implemented throughout history to support individuals with disabilities.

By understanding the historical context of disability in Egypt, we can gain valuable insights into contemporary efforts to promote inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for people with disabilities. The study emphasizes the importance of taking a multi-disciplinary approach, incorporating historical literature, primary sources, and analysis of cultural artefacts, to gain a comprehensive understanding of disability throughout different historical periods.

The findings of this study have significant implications for current policies and practices concerning individuals with disabilities, not only in Egypt but also in other countries. By recognizing the influence of religion, philosophy, and social

norms on attitudes towards disability, we can work towards creating more inclusive and accessible environments. This includes fostering social and economic participation and upholding the human rights of all individuals, regardless of their disabilities.

It is essential to raise awareness of the historical perspectives on disability and their impact on present-day policies and practices. This involves developing inclusive and accessible environments, promoting social and economic inclusion, and recognizing the importance of human rights for individuals with disabilities. By collaborating and taking concerted action, we can strive towards a more equitable and just society for everyone.

Summary of the Key Findings and Contributions of the Study

This research paper has made significant contributions to our understanding of the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt. Key findings include the influence of religion, philosophy, and social norms on attitudes towards disability, the importance of promoting inclusion and accessibility, and the significance of policies and initiatives supporting individuals with disabilities.

The study has employed a multi-disciplinary approach, incorporating various sources and methodologies, to provide a comprehensive analysis of disability throughout different historical eras. This comprehensive approach enhances our understanding of the complex and evolving nature of disability in human societies.

Limitations and Challenges of the Study

The study acknowledges several limitations and challenges. These include the reliance on secondary sources, which may have limitations in scope, and the scarcity of primary sources, particularly from ancient times. Additionally, the study's focus on Egypt means that its findings may not be generalizable to other countries with different cultural, religious, and social contexts.

Final Reflections on the Historical Perspectives on Disability in Egypt

The historical perspectives on disability in Egypt offer valuable insights into the attitudes and treatment of individuals with disabilities throughout history. By examining the evolution of these perspectives, we can identify best practices and address gaps in current policies and practices concerning individuals with disabilities.

The study emphasizes the role of religion, philosophy, and social norms in shaping attitudes towards disability. It underscores the importance of promoting inclusion and accessibility to ensure the full participation of individuals with disabilities in society. Additionally, the study highlights the significance of policies and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities.

Overall, the historical perspectives on disability in Egypt provide important insights into the complex and evolving nature of disability in human societies. They can inform efforts to promote inclusion, accessibility, and human rights for individuals with disabilities not only in Egypt but also worldwide.

Appendix

To overcome the difficulties outlined in the editor's statement and enhance the suitability of your manuscript for the Journal of Disability Studies in Education, I can provide you with guidance and suggestions. Here are some steps you can take:

1. Emphasize criticality and analytical critique: Review your manuscript and ensure that you have provided a thorough analysis and critical examination of the subject matter. Clearly articulate your specific lines of argument, focusing on their originality and innovativeness. Strengthen your arguments by incorporating relevant literature, theoretical frameworks, and empirical evidence.
2. Build from descriptive accounts: While descriptive accounts are valuable, ensure that your manuscript goes beyond mere description. Provide deeper analysis and interpretation of the data and information presented. Engage with the existing literature and theories in the field of disability studies in education to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic.
3. Establish links between subject matter and education: Highlight the significance of your research findings for education and pedagogical practice. Clearly articulate how your study contributes to the field of disability studies in education, addressing key issues, challenges, or gaps in knowledge. Discuss the implications of your findings for educational policies, practices, and interventions.
4. Seek feedback from colleagues or mentors: Share your manuscript with colleagues or mentors who have expertise in disability studies in education or related fields. Request their feedback and suggestions for strengthening the critical and analytical aspects of your work, as well as establishing clearer links to education and pedagogical practice.
5. Revise and edit your manuscript: Based on the feedback and suggestions received, revise your manuscript accordingly. Pay attention to the clarity of your arguments, the organization of your ideas, and the overall coherence of the paper. Ensure that your manuscript aligns with the expectations and scope of the Journal of Disability Studies in Education.

By following these steps and incorporating the necessary revisions and additions, you can enhance the criticality, analytical critique, and relevance to education in your manuscript. Remember to carefully review the journal's guidelines and requirements to ensure that your revised manuscript meets their specific criteria.