

Challenges Faced by Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

School-related challenges e.g. lack of or inconsistent school attendance:

Children with disabilities may have inconsistent access to education due to health issues, lack of appropriate school accommodation, or transport difficulties. This disrupts their learning and can limit their educational and career opportunities in the future.

Health-related challenges associated with disabilities, special needs, and developmental milestones:

Some disabilities come with additional health issues, requiring frequent medical care. Developmental delays can further complicate matters, creating a need for specialized support to ensure the child meets key milestones, which may otherwise be missed.

Accessibility e.g., lack of assistive devices, therapy services:

Children with disabilities often require assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, hearing aids) and therapy (such as speech or occupational therapy) to participate fully in daily life. Limited access to these resources restricts their ability to engage in education and social activities, hampering their development.

Insecurity (e.g., organ harvesting for children with albinism):

In some regions, children with disabilities, especially those with visible conditions like albinism, face unique threats to their safety. Misguided beliefs can lead to tragic exploitation, making these children highly vulnerable.

Abuse and neglect:

Children with disabilities are at an increased risk of abuse and neglect due to societal stigma, care-giver stress, or dependency on others. This abuse can be emotional, physical, or even financial, with long-term effects on their well-being and development.

Lost opportunities:

Disabilities, if not adequately supported, can limit opportunities for education, employment, and social involvement, both for the individuals and for the community. This results in lost potential contributions that could otherwise enrich community life and development.

Family breakups:

The strain of caring for a child with special needs, without community support, can lead to family conflict and, in some cases, separation. This can destabilize families and create additional challenges, affecting not only the immediate family but also the community's social fabric.