


Discussion of Arabic Sign Languages (ARSL) from a comparative linguistic point of view, illuminating some of the unity and diversity currently found in perceptions of ARSL and their everyday practice across the Arab world.


Study of 190 children with disabilities attending urban Primary Health Care centres.


Study of 1,981 girls and boys aged 10-16.


http://web.mit.edu/www/mitejmes/

The daily lives are described of four physically disabled women, across the socio-economic
spectrum in Egypt, living in widely different communities.


[Not seen. On the web, the author states (in French) that he has summarised the instructions from Allah concerning disabled people, and hopes that this will enlighten them and their families and carers, about the teachings of Islam in their case.]


“ABDOLAH, Kader” (2006) *My Father's Notebook*. Translated by Susan Massotty. HarperCollins. From Dutch original, *Spijkerschrift*, Breda: Uitgverij De Geus, 2000. This remarkable book by an Iranian emigré is built around a deaf character, Aga Akbar, who was a carpet weaver in a village of Persia, and later moved to the modern world of Teheran. Aga Akbar is the father of the narrator, and together they communicate by 'home sign', which the son interprets to his father's rural world. Reflections on the culture, religion and history of Persia / Iran are cast in the format of a novel about various kinds of communication. The tale is imbued with the Qur'an verses, Persian poetry and ceremonies of rural Muslim life, in a world that begins to change rapidly under political and religious pressures.


ABDULLAH, Mohamed A; SALMAN, Hussain; AL-HABIB, Sulaiman; GHAREEB, Abdulrahman; & ABANAMY, Ahmed (1994) Antithyroid antibodies and thyroid

Thyroid study of 50 children with Down Syndrome and matched control group.


http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/apdrj/journal.htm


Deaf biography.


In a study of 974 schoolboys, aged 6 to 12 years, 2.7% had moderate to severe hearing loss; 26.9% had some ear problem.

Study of 461 children aged 0-12 years with seizures. Patterns were similar to those in European studies.

This book (and journal double-issue) embraces a wide field of scholarly and personal approaches to theology, practical applications, community undertakings, and first-hand accounts, bringing in viewpoints on disability from Orthodox, Conservative and Reformed teaching, with 16 named contributors from four continents, a 'Responsa Committa' of American rabbis, and other group contributions. The various articles have many points of confluence and some of disagreement, as they draw evidence and enter into debate at different moments across 3000 years of slowly evolving social attitudes and religious practices. Some present the highest ideals that Judaism can offer; others are more concerned with the gap between ideal and practice, in the several countries represented.
ABU-AL-HUMOS N (1990) *The reality of educational institutions for people with disability in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. Hebron, West Bank, Research Centre: Association of University Graduates. [Author appears elsewhere as: ABU HOMMOS.]

ABU GHAZALEH, Hatem; ABU GHAZALEH, Kawthar A; & OAKLAND, Thomas (1990) Primary and secondary prevention services provided to mentally handicapped infants, children and youth in the Gaza Strip. *International J. Special Education* 5: 21-27.


ABU NASR J; MAKHOULI, Mary & LORFING, Irini (1980) *The Development of Three to Six Year-Old Lebanese Children and Their Environment*. Beirut Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Monograph No. 3. University of Beirut. x + 147 + 5 pp. Pilot studies on national sample in 1975, by interviews with questionnaire. Cognitive development was tested with a developmental scale standardised at Beirut University College Preschool Laboratory.


AKHLAGHI-KOHPAI, Hossein (1989) Die sonderschulische Förderung im Iran: eine
Critical study of the development of special education in Iran.

Statistical study. [Also may be listed under IKIKI]


Brief historical perspective. Notes the centrally controlled context for educational research, and the available research in special education from the 1990s. Qualitative studies, public awareness and attitude change, and involvement of parents and NGOs are growth areas.


Gives a succinct description of the sources of authority and methods by which moral and ethical issues are discussed among Muslim jurists and scholars, and a consensus may be reached for legal rulings on new issues. As a professional bioethicist, Aksoy examines the Qur'anic basis and some hadiths (reported sayings of the prophet Muhammad), for understanding the status of the human embryo and fetal development, upon which ethical decisions may be taken. Among the most important Qur'anic references are: 32 (as-Sajdah): 8-9; 23 (al-Mu'minun): 13-14. Two hadiths in al-Buhkari's collection explain how the embryo is formed and established. The available texts may suggest either that 'ensoulment' of the embryo takes place 120 days after conception, or between 49 and 55 after conception, with some consequences for issues of stem cell use, and others for questions of abortion.

Study of 63 patients at a psychiatric hospital in Turkey.

ALDEEB Abu-Sahlieh SA (1994) Les Musulmans face aux droits de l'homme. Bochum: Verlag Dr Deiter Winkler. [Note: Author spells his own name as above in his reference list. The title page gives Abu-Salieh]

Detailed, wide-ranging and well referenced work on historical understandings of human rights in Islam and current interpretations and legal practice across the Arab world. In a chapter on Abortion and Birth Control (pp. 42-52), the classical Jurists are shown to have had different positions on abortion, from total prohibition, to permission up to the 40th or the 120th day of pregnancy, or at any time in a special case, e.g. serious risk to the mother. Current Arab laws are mostly prohibitive, but Tunisian law reportedly permits termination in the first trimester. A source states that South Yemen permits abortion when a family with three children has no means to raise further children, or in case of fetal malformation (p. 47). A fatwa of the Academy of Muslim Law, of the World Muslim League, based on legal advice of Muhammad `Ali Al-Bar, issued in 1990, reportedly permits abortion of a deformed fetus in the first 120 days of pregnancy, but no later unless the mother's life is at risk.


Study among Bahraini schoolchildren.


Review of some 70 years of practice in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. In 1997 Turkey had about 800 specialist physiatrists and about 1300 trained physiotherapists. Several relevant journals are produced within the country.


Among 26,662 school children, 182 were found with upper limb disorders.


The legality of abortion, in countries where the Qur'an and the practice of the prophet Muhammad are dominant authorities, varies with the interpretations of religious scholars. Different views are shown (p. 79) on whether a deformity in the fetus, discovered before 120 days of pregnancy, may justify abortion. (This section relies on evidence collected by Rispler-Chaim 1999, q.v.) The author classifies current laws in various Muslim states as conservative, lenient or liberal.


ASSOCIATION of Institutions for the Welfare of Special Categories and the Disabled (1988) Report discussing factors which limit the employment of newly rehabilitation disabled persons. [Cairo]


Study in three areas of Iran with different levels of iodine deficiency.

Study of 36,178 schoolchildren, two years after mandatory salt iodization (1994), suggests that Iran had achieved sustainable control of iodine deficiency disorders.


BAHRAMI, Fariba [1998] Modeling and controlling the movement of paraplegic patients while they want to get up by muscle function of electrical stimulation. PhD thesis, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tehran.


Notes on schools and their functioning, curriculum, teacher training, and innovations c. 1990, with 17 references (in transliterated Arabic).
BAKER GA; JACOBY A; GORRY J; DOUGHTY J; ELLINA V; et al. (2005) Quality of life of people with epilepsy in Iran, the Gulf, and Near East. *Epilepsia* 46: 132-140.


BARAKAT, Robert A (1973) Arabic gestures. *J. Popular Culture* 6: 749-793. Detailed discussion and references (749-71), followed by verbal description of each of 247 Arabic gestures (772-87), and small photographs of the author making most of these gestures (790-93). (Barakat notes on p. 769 his awareness of the limitations of these photographs). This seems to have been one of the earliest substantial published studies of gesture in the modern Middle East. (See also BOUSQUET, GOLDZIHER, under 'Antiquity').


An innovative psychiatrist, writer and humanist, Boucebci pioneered in the 1970s a 'middle way' for people with mental disabilities and learning difficulties, by basing a form of Community Based Rehabilitation in low-cost, locally controlled, 'neighbourhood centres' in urban Algeria. These activities, among his many involvements in psychiatry, exemplify the humane, tolerant and compassionate sides of Islam shown by a Muslim professional of large vision and practical concern. [Professor Boucebci was murdered in 1993, apparently by political extremists.]


Reviews some Islamic viewpoints on disability, the responses of families having a child with disability, the duties owed to the disabled person by the Muslim community, the religious duties of disabled adults and children, and also some traditional, cultural influences in the Arab Muslim world which may be positive or adverse in the upbringing of children with disabilities. Governments have tended to rely on families and non-government organisations to make their own efforts to find help and information, and to overcome any difficulties or social barriers. Government commitments and legislation have begun to increase in recent years, but the gap still exists between official rhetoric and everyday reality.


Includes Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia.

BRIGAUD M; AYMARD M; THOUVENOT D; CHOMEL JJ; MAHMOOD RA; MATHEW PP; & JAFAR AK (1978) Poliomyelitis survey in Middle-East countries. *Developments in Biological Standardization* 41: 149-158.

Results of tests on children with paralysis in Bahrain and Kuwait, mostly under 2 years old.


Based on observations in 1983-84 and 1990; notes some contrast between practices of 'educated' and 'non-educated' mothers.
Brief report on First Middle East Low Vision and Early Intervention Training Course for Teachers of Children with Visual Impairments, Feb. 26 to March 8, 1996.

Analysis of published evidence from parents and professionals on the effects of 'Portage program' early intervention on children with developmental delay. 'Portage' is attractive to parents in many countries, but “empirical support for the Program is both meagre and lacking”. (Some evidence came from Portage in Palestine: see ABU-GHAZALEH, above, and OAKLAND, below).


Multi-disciplinary studies on 811 children in schools and orphanages around Beirut.

Studies of activities and quality in institutions for disabled or orphaned Lebanese children.

[Abstract at: http://www.sign-lang.uni-hamburg.de/bibweb/ (navigate)]

Programme run from the School Health Department, Damascus.

OT college opened at Amman, Jordan, in 1989.

Data on 829 women with leprosy (97% now inactive) registered at Istanbul Leprosy Hospital, many having a high level of disability and weak socio-economic status.

Data on 711 patients (74% male, 26% female).

CANTRELL EG (1979) Assignment Report. Rehabilitation of handicapped children in
While maintaining a traditional reverence for the Qur'an as the word of Allah for all times and places, the authors suggest that modern scientific knowledge in the health care and rehabilitation fields can facilitate a better understanding of the sacred text and of the hadiths of the prophet Muhammad. They explain how some verses can be matched with modern scientific practice, though this interpretation was not open to earlier ages. For example, the story about the Sleepers, in Surah 18 (The Cave), states that “We turned them [i.e. the Sleepers] on their right and their left sides”. The authors suggest this can now be understood in terms of avoiding pressure sores by regular turning of people with paralysis.


Ideological manifesto on disability and rights, based partly on enquiries in Lebanon, Jordan and the region.

Notes on Early Childhood Education Services in Syria, pp. 62-65; some background and situation of nurseries and kindergartens. By 1994, some 10% of eligible children under 6 years of age were reported to be benefiting.


DAVIES, Rhona & HASSERA, Emad Abu (1990) Literacy training as a behaviour modifier: a case study from Palestine. J. Practical Approaches to Developmental Handicap 14 (1) 6-8.


Thoughtful consideration was being given to overcoming, in the planned 2006 census, some difficulties in data collection in decennial censuses (1947-1996), the results of which are summarised and tabulated with some critical review and comparison with other countries. [In 1996, among approximately 262,000 people aged 10 years or more reported as disabled, 36% were able to read and write, or had a better level of education, as against 60% of the total population aged 10+ having such skills (p.6).]


DEMIRCI S; DÖNMEZ CM; GÜNDOGAR D; & BAYDAR CL (2007) Public awareness of, attitudes toward, and understanding of epilepsy in Isparta, Turkey. Epilepsy & Behavior 11 (3) 427-433.


Questionnaire study on attitudes of 120 lecturers and students at the American University of Beirut.


http://www.internationalsped.com/documents/02Diken.doc

Thirteen Turkish mothers, each identifying herself as Muslim and having at least one child with mental retardation, participated in the study by semi-structured interview. The children's disability was attributed by them to a mixture of causes or origins. While bio-medical causation was identified by all, “they also constantly highlighted various religious causal agents ... Fate and God were underlined as causal agents by almost half of the mothers.” Evil spirits, spells, and folkloric superstitions were also mentioned. Several had taken advice from religious agents, i.e. local holy men.


Hospital based study of 131 MS patients.


Chapters review social welfare development and status in Egypt (ASM Kashef), Israel (David Macarov), Jordan (Abraham W Ata), Kuwait (Hassan R Hamoud), and Turkey (Emel Danisoglu), with a broader comparative chapter on 'social security' by Dixon. Reference to disability and infirmity is thinly scattered through the chapters, as indexed under 'aged', 'blind', 'disability benefits', 'handicapped' (intellectually; personal social services; physically; social security), 'invalidity benefits', 'rehabilitation', 'rehabilitation aids', and in tables on pp. 178ff.


Nearly 5,000 entries; broad coverage.

Comparative Studies in Special Education, 44-63. Washington DC: Gallaudet University 
Press.

MA dissertation, Lebanese University of Tripoli.

DUVDEVANY I & ABOUSD S (2003) Stress, social support and well-being of Arab 
mothers of children with intellectual disability who are served by welfare services in northern 

DUVDEVANY I & KEREN N (2002) Thoughts, consideration and future planning for out-
of-home placement among parental caregivers of dependent adult children with psychiatric 

Under “Unwanted Pregnancies”, consideration of fetal “deformities” appears on pp. 86-89, 
105 (not, as indexed, on pp. 84-85, 103).

EDELSTAM, Anne (1984) Socializing the Deaf in Cairo. MA thesis, Department of 
Sociology, Anthropology & Psychology, American University in Cairo. 115 pp.

EGYPT. (See also UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, under 'History, 1751-1970').

EGYPT. Min. Education, Division of Educational Information & Planning (1993) National 
Survey of Teaching Practices and Students Achievements. Cairo.


Saudi Medical J. 12: 129-133. 
Physical abuse diagnosed in 7 cases.

EKER D & ARKAR H (1991) Experienced Turkish nurses' attitudes towards mental illness 

Ophthalmology 77: 413-416.

ELDER M & DE COCK R (1993) Childhood disability in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: 
prevalence, aetiology and hereditary factors. Eye 7: 580-583.

ELRAWADY F; ABDULMAJEED A; EL SHEIKH EI & YOUSEF I (2005) Assessment of 
functional disability in activities of daily living and health perception among elders living in 
Elmahsama village, Ismailia. J. Bahrain Medical Society 17 (2) 77-84.

ERIPEK, Suleyman (2000) An evaluation of the research base about inclusion of special


ESCWA (1992). Proceedings of the Conference on the Capabilities and Needs of Disabled Persons in the ESCWA Region: 20-28 November, 1989, Amman, Jordan. United Nations, Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia, 1992. E/ESCWA/SD/1992/2. 600 pp. Substantial overview of the regional situation. See entries under ABD AL-RAHIM (Oman, Qatar, UAE); ARORA (ESCWA Region); AZOUNI (Syria); EL-BANNA (Egypt); AL-DAJANI (West Bank / Gaza); AL-HUSSEINI (Lebanon); EL-HUSSEINI (Iraq); AL-KHATIB (Jordan); NOSSEIR (ESCWA/Women); QANDIL, (ESCWA); QUEEN ALIA Fund (Jordan); SOFI (Saudi Arabia).


ESIYOK B; KORKUSUZ I; CANTURK G; ALKAN HA; KARAMAN AG; & HANCI IH (2005) Road traffic accidents and disability: a cross-section study. Disability and Rehabilitation 27 (no. 21) 1333-1338.


Study of acquisition of Arabic by 86 infants aged 1-24 months, in Saudi Arabia.


Relates epidemiology of childhood psychiatric disorders in developing countries to system development, with experiences in Lebanon.

Contains 41 contributions concerning 15 countries, including Syria, with coverage of child-rearing, play, education, rights, poverty, health, and gender issues.

Incidence recorded of major malformations at Jeddah was high compared with European data of the 1990s. Difficulties of comparisons with some data in nearby Arab countries are discussed, and genetic counselling recommended.


Detailed observations of attitudes of rural adults towards the child in successive stages from prenatal to youth.


See previous item, annotation. Useful bibliography.


Detailed study from hospital records and staff interviews, of Zahira, born with spina bifida, resulting in paraplegia, chronic renal problems, and frequent hospital admissions. Amidst great familial affluence, technology and modern services, the young girl can be seen experiencing significant poverty of personhood, relationship and dignity. Her physical care was repeatedly passed between the wealthy Arab family, hospital medical staff (from many countries), and the Asian maid who did most of the home care, dealing with recurrent urinary infections and incontinence. Different cultural perspectives, paradigms and practices of these parties turned Zahira's body into a battleground. Her own views slowly began to be heard as
she moved toward teenage.


Critical review of ten years of community based rehabilitation projects, suggesting that the burden of care falls unfairly on the voluntary efforts of women, and the social rights of disabled people are neglected.


Review of strategies where there is a gradient of polio control across intermingling populations. Significant for the situation of Syria and neighbours, as the 'naturally acquired' immunity of the endemic polio situation is replaced by vaccination-dependent immunity.


Mainly descriptive of current concepts and features of impairment and disability in Egypt. Haggrass points out (pp. 154-155) that the “charitable response to disability”, while it may be questioned by campaigning groups in western countries, is perceived as quite appropriate in Islamic countries where religious belief is a major factor in the social context, the practice of Islam prompts individuals to give regularly on a charitable basis, and for many needy people there is no organised alternative source of welfare provision.

HAJRAS, Hiba (2002) Work in the life of a disabled woman. International Rehabilitation Review 51(2) & 52(1): 43-44. [Presumably the same author as in the previous two items, differently transliterated.]


Epidemiological study of 1,736 people under 20 years with congenital malformations identified from medical records and door-to-door survey.


Brief outline of historical disability, and the social roles of disabled women in the modern Middle East.


[Eastern Arab countries]


(Conducted in the United Arab Emirates)


English-Arabic booklet detailing the work in first 25 years of this special education centre.

Based on two years of anthropological fieldwork among 70 families in the 1980s.

HOSSEINI SA (1990) The first six months' conclusions of mental health programme in a region of 20,000 population in North East of Iran. Paper presented at the Eighth International Psychiatric Conference, 11-14 Dec. 1990, Islamabad. Pakistan Psychiatric Society. Among 126 cases treated in an Iranian rural-urban program to add a mental health component to Primary Health Care delivery, 49% were mentally retarded.


HUNT, Joseph M (1982) Towards equalizing the developmental opportunities of infants and preschool children. J. Social Issues 38: 163-191. Lengthy theoretical background, then reviews (pp. 180-188) a ten year program with orphanage children in Iran, with increasing levels of compensatory stimulation.


AL-ISSA, Ihsan (ed) (2000) Al-Junun: mental illness in the Islamic world. Madison, Conn.: International Universities Press. xv + 382 pp. Substantial collection of well-referenced modern chapters on mental illness, with contributions on religion and historical topics (Al-Issa, pp. 3-70); Forensic psychiatry and
Islamic law (K Chaleby, 71-98); Algeria (Al-Issa, 101-119); Kuwait & Qatar (MF El-Islam, 121-137); Iran (F Mehrabi et al., 139-161); Malaysia (MZ Azhar & SL Varma, 163-186); Pakistan (Mubbashar, 187-203); Saudi Arabia (A Al-Subaie & A Alhamad, 205-233); and various types of illness and their treatments in Arab and Muslim cultures (e.g. Al-Abdul-Jabbar & Al-Issa, 277-293).


The author discusses his question at length and in detail, and with a fairly impartial attitude, noting the problems of differentiating causal factors in mental illness or in its remedies. He finds that insufficient research has been reported in Muslim countries for any clear conclusions to be drawn.


Study of 180 children, 74% below 6 years.


Study of 104 patients aged 15-45 years, attending hospital clinic.


Based on three years' suburban child health work 1986-1989, with some disability concerns (see next item).

Prevalence study of 2528 children 0-7 years in suburb of Amman; 7.8% had disability or chronic disease, 2.8% moderately or severely affected.


Study of 203 children with mental retardation (many with further impairments) in an institution near Amman. (NB JANSON S also appears as JANSSON S).


pp. 101-134 concern “Regulations for the Disabled”, with quotations from Qur'an and hadiths, meanings of disability, duties of the Muslim Community towards disabled people, and some discussion of the rights and wrongs of 'western' rehabilitation approaches. Based on work in Arabic by Abd ul-Ilaah Bin `Uthmaan ash-Shaayi and by Abd ur-Rahmaan `Abd ul-Khaaliq.


JORDAN. Min. Social Development (1979) Survey on Mental Retardation. Amman. Survey based on family interviews, apparently without independent verification. (See
JANSON et al., above.)


KANTARCI O; SIVA A; ERAKSOY M; KARABUDAK R; SUTLAS N; et al. (1998) Survival and predictors of disability in Turkish MS patients. Turkish Multiple Sclerosis Study Group (TUMSSG). *Neurology* 51: 765-772. Multi-centre study with 1,259 people having MS.


Well referenced report on post-doctoral research in Turkey.


Study of 935 children at a school at Saida, Lebanon.

Ten children seen at a central hospital from 1986 to 1992, in whom physical and/or sexual abuse was diagnosed.


This international congress reportedly “enlarged the horizon of the non-Islamic participants as to the interrelation between religion and psychology as well as psychotherapy in Islamic countries”, and individual sections of this paper support the claim, with useful observations on the differences of stance among international participants, towards the topics discussed.


Copiously referenced overview of such Islamic healers' work in many Muslim countries.

Interview study of five Dervish healers who treat psychiatric disorders.


Many modern Islamic states are making efforts to modernise and incorporate both the theory and practice of *zakat*, as one means of reducing the gaps between the wealthy and the poor, and of targeting specific needy people among the latter. This chapter reflects on the historical debate and development of the ideas and practices in different periods, and the difficulties of making appropriate use of this 'pillar of Islam'.


[Listed below in 1751-1970 section, with notes on historical material.]

LAQIS (below).

See also LAQIS (below).


Study on non-institutionalised individuals from Bahrain, Burma, DPR Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia.


See also LAKKIS (above).


Care for people with developmental disability in a strictly Orthodox Jewish community in Israel, and some changes in social and practical responses.


Consideration of the cognitive capacities of people with intellectual disability is given in the context of practical problems: the immigration to Israel of families who wish to formalise their status by conversion, and other cases of fulfilling religious observations or contracts. Candidates must appear before rabbinical judges and demonstrate a sufficient level of understanding and volition to take such steps validly. The authors find no textual guidance on mental retardation in the earlier Jewish scriptures, so begin with the 12th century views of Maimonides, and then later teachers. Eventually a differentiation was made between different kinds of mental disorder or cognitive weakness. An intermediary position emerged...
corresponding with the capacity of a child of six years, who can undertake some limited self-care and responsibilities. The historical case of people born deaf or with severe speech difficulties was also used for comparison. The authors find sufficient flexibility, within a wide range of rabbinical opinion, to formulate a view of intellectual disability not dissimilar from that of the American Association for Mental Retardation.


Study of attitudes among trainee teachers in Israel.


Stress in 224 Lebanese children aged 10-16.


[Full version in forthcoming proceedings of the Rehabilitation International Conference, 'Disability, Rehabilitation, and Integration', Beirut, Sept. 2001]


Consultation document by Beirut psychiatric hospital director.
Surveys in detail the rabbinical debates on Jewish law (*halakha*) as applied to people with various categories of disability during the past two millennia. The aim is to expose and suggest ways of reducing some of the mutually contradictory interpretations within Jewish legal practice, and the dissonance between Jewish law and modern euro-american secular beliefs and ideologies around disability.


Includes some applications of Qur'anic passages and hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad to 'modern' issues.


Validated for functional disability by use with patients in Egypt, Sudan and five other Arab
countries.

*Promotion & Education* IV (1) 27-31.

MEKHLAFI GA & AL-QUBATI Y (1996) Retrospective analysis of 194 leprosy cases in the 

AL-MELAIK, Moudi (2001) The role of social services and education departments in the 
provision of social welfare and education services for disabled children: directions for Saudi 

and Gaza Strip. Report for an Evaluation Mission 17 April - 2 May 1996. East Jerusalem: 
Central National Committee on Rehabilitation.

MERHEJ, Rita Mufarrij; CHOUAIB, Jamal; & ZA'ZA', Rima (1997) Lebanon. The Hadicat-
as-Salam Programme for Special Education. In: *First Steps. Stories on Inclusion in Early 
Activities of a small centre in Saida, Lebanon, with background on formal and informal 
resources and community attitudes.

MERRICK Joav; DRACHMAN R; MERRICK G; & MORAD M (2003) Children with 

MERRICK J; GABBAY, Yehuda; & LIFSHTITZ H (2001) Judaism and the person with 

MERRICK J & KANDEL I (2003) Medical services for persons with intellectual disability in 

Based on responses c. 1996 by governments around the world, to a questionnaire intended to 
monitor responses to the UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons 
with Disabilities. The data is presented in several ways. One large section gives “Government 
Replies as Country Profiles”, which includes the following countries of “The Middle East 
and North Africa”: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, 
Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Republic of Yemen. The entire text has also been 
reproduced in the Internet library of:  [http://www.independentliving.org/](http://www.independentliving.org/) [use author index]

103: 29-36.

MIKAELIAN, Disan O & BARSUMIAN, Vergine M (1971) Hearing loss in elementary 
5,020 school children aged 5-15 years in Beirut were screened, and 256 (5.2%) had impaired 
hearing. The proportion more than doubled where additional otoscopy was performed.


The revised article offers evidence and hypotheses for a short cultural history of deaf people, culture and sign language in South Asia and much of the Middle East, using documents from antiquity through 2005. A new appendix shows 110 items on deafness and sign language in the Arab countries of the Eastern Mediterranean and South West Asia.


Study at kindergarten level, Beirut.


Hearing tests were conducted on 196 primary school pupils. The school environment was studied for noise level and crowding. Impairments were found among 24% (by audiometry) and 36% (tympanometry). Half the children with audiometric loss were reported by teachers as poor achievers.


Includes case study from Syria.


Detailed, referenced overview, including a short account of developments since the first educational institutions for deaf and hard of hearing children opened in Saudi Arabia in 1964.

As the 'patient' was able to read and write English, and the gynaecologists were sufficiently patient to communicate on paper, they learnt a lot from her about the human aspects of handling deaf pregnant women.


Presents six short accounts, from deaf people who had grown up in Muslim families in Kuwait, England, USA, Iran, and Somalia, discussing their experience of education and the lack of instruction in Islam, which apparently they did not receive because of their deafness, and the mistaken idea that deaf children would not be able to understand religious teaching.


Study of 65 girls, 35 boys, with neuro-developmental problems, among 1,716 children seen for pediatric consultation. Cerebral palsy (23%) was the most common condition.


Under 'Dissolution of Marriage', some notes are given on mental or physical defects of husband or wife, as understood by the Jurists, and in modern Islamic legal systems (pp. 123-128). Under 'Guardianship' there is a review of 'Legal capacity' and 'Interdiction' (Hajr) of people deemed to have mental disabilities, in modern systems (189-193). Glossary defines relevant terms, e.g. “dhul ghafla”, “hadina, hadini”, “matooh”, “majnoon”, “safeeh” (263-265).


[See: Rehabilitations- und Berufsbildungszentrum (below)]


NITZ N; NAMJOSHI M; DOSSENBACH M; BITTER I; JANKO C; BECKER S; & RICHARDSON J (2002) Mental health services use among outpatients with schizophrenia in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Algeria. *European Neuropsychopharmacology* 12 (supplement 3) 305-306.


Study of 323 children, 90% under 10 years, many with multiple impairment. Emphasizes the lack of early rehabilitation services.


Study of iodine status in national random sample of school children aged 8 to 10 years.


Dr Ouertani, who lost his sight at the age of six, and left Tunisia for Germany at 17, explores the contrasting situations of native Germans with disabilities, and Muslims with disabilities living in Germany after immigration from North Africa.


ONUOHA ARA (1992) The ability to fake on the Attitudes Toward Disabled Person Scale-A as a screening instrument for admission into a physical therapy program. Physiotherapy Canada 44: 34-36.

Study conducted with undergraduates in Kuwait.

ONUOHA ARA & ABDULLA FA (1992) Professional and career satisfaction of physical
therapy graduates from Kuwait University. *Physiotherapy* 77: 295-298.


First clinical multidisciplinary child abuse and neglect team in Turkey reviews data from 50 cases between 1996 and 1998.


OTOM AS; DOUGHAN AM; KAWAR JS; & HATTAR EZ (1997) Traumatic spinal cord injuries in Jordan - an epidemiological study.

Study of 151 TSCI cases at Royal Jordanian Rehabilitation Centre.


Based on 1997 Census.

*PALESTINIAN Disability Survey: West Bank. A study conducted by YMCA East Jerusalem and Beit Sahour Rehabilitation Programme. Main findings.* East Jerusalem: YMCA.


With 5,653 entries, lightly annotated. Some 45 items on special education.

La Medicina del lavoro 69: 491-495.

PASHMI AR (1973) Audiological clinics and deaf clinics in Iran. Silence Jan-April.


PAYNE, Holly (2002) The Virgin's Knot. London: Orion. 303 pp. Novel set in rural Turkey. The heroine is a young woman weaver, Nurdane, who was disabled by polio as a child, was taught to weave by her father, and makes rugs that are credited with powers of healing and good fortune.


POLAT F (2001) Changing attitudes of school psychologists towards pupils with special educational needs in Turkey. European J. Special Needs Education 16: 55-64. Study of 30 Turkish school psychologists, 13 with experience in special educational needs. Attitudes toward disabled persons were measured with a Turkish adaptation of a standard instrument. Exposure to a film presentation, verbal information in training sessions, and group discussion, were followed by significant changes in reported attitudes in the experimental group.


Among 30,159 births in a three year period (c. 1991-1993), 687 (2.3%) had major birth defects.


Comparative study among 184 Arab families with disabled children. The more 'educated', the less positive their attitudes.


Standard reference in this area, based on studies of legal responses or advices (fatawa). Chapters cover abortions, artificial insemination, organ transplant, cosmetic and sex change surgeries, medical aspects of Islamic worship, doctor-patient relations, postmortem examinations, circumcision, euthanasia, AIDS, and a miscellany of other topics. Anticipated disability, among reasons sometimes acceptable for abortion, is considered briefly in pp. 12-16. (See next items).
Describes arguments for and against the citing of epilepsy, or other disabilities, as grounds for divorce petitions, from the early legal schools through to recent cases. Extensively referenced.

Discovery of reliable means to identify genetic or developmental disorders in the fetus at various stages of pregnancy has raised issues around the possibly conflicting rights of the fetus, the mother, other close relatives, and the wider community. The default position in Islam is that abortion is not permitted without strong reason. Rispler-Chaim presents a variety of legal opinions from Islamic scholars (c. 1980-1999), about the permissibility of aborting a 'deformed' fetus during the first 40, 90 or 120 days of pregnancy (or perhaps even later). Uncertainties arise in estimating the severity of handicap predicted from the anticipated deformity, and in opinions about the ensuing 'quality of life' and problems of child-rearing. Some comparison is made with the disadvantaged fetus in a pregnancy after rape.

[This work spans medieval to modern times. See annotation, under 'Antiquity to 1750'.]


Detailed overview, with references, list of existing institutions, and teacher training curriculum.

[Unpublished document.]

Translated AAMD Adaptive Behaviour Scales into Arabic; tested with 150 Jordanian children of widely ranging abilities.

Visits to Father Anderweg Institute for Deaf, Beirut, and Holyland Institute for Deaf, Salt, Jordan.

Based on study of eight orphanages in the early 1980s, with broad discussion of historical-cultural background.
Child rearing in rural Syria.

Study of 2,778 elementary pupils from 25 schools.


Discusses women and disability mostly in Morocco.

Based on needs revealed in a study of Cairo households living in poverty. The Social Aid programme aims to provide income support to people such as the elderly, widows, disabled people, who have no means of self-support. The study suggests some shortcomings in the scheme.

Anthropologist's account of a woman from rural Anatolia bringing up a disabled child in Sweden, caught between different conceptual worlds.


AL-SALEM M; ARAFAT, Abdel Fatah; ISMAIL, Lina; & JARADAT, Mohammed (1996) Causes of blindness in Irbid, Jordan. *Annals of Saudi Medicine* 16: 420-423. Etiological study of 262 members aged 7 to 80 years, of two blind organisations, of whom 185 were blind according to World Health Organisation criteria.

SALIB E & YOUAKIM S (2001) Spiritual healing in elderly psychiatric patients: a case-control study in an Egyptian psychiatric hospital. *Aging and Mental Health* 5: 366-370. Briefly reviews ways in which religious phenomena may be associated with mental illness in popular belief, and various 'spiritual healing' activities, locations and procedures.


EL-SANABARY, Nagat (1992) *Education in the Arab Gulf states and in the Arab world: an annotated bibliographic guide*. New York & London: Garland. xix + 572 pp. Section on special education (pp. 303-307) listing 17 items from Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. (See also pp. 35-36). Syria, Jordan & Lebanon do not appear in the index. Apart from doctoral theses, the bibliography is of published material only, and is entirely English-language.

SANDLER, Wendy; MEIR, Irit; PADDEN, Carol; & ARONOFF, Mark (2005) The emergence of grammar: systematic structure in a new language. *PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America)* 102 (7) 2661-2665. Describes the structure of Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language, which apparently arose in the past 70 years within an isolated community in the Negev, and is used among deaf and hearing people there.


SARI H (2004) An analysis of burnout and job satisfaction among Turkish special school...


Study of 5,000 consecutive outpatients at an ophthalmology department.

[Concerned with blind entertainers in Egypt]


Studies comparing developmental and family outcomes of three programs for young children with mental retardation in the slums of Cairo and Alexandria. The programs were a Community Based Rehabilitation project, an Outreach project with trained professionals, and a project based at a Mother and Child Health centre


Brief review, with notes on history and legal framework. Mainstreaming is the general policy, but without adequate resources to support it.

Reports comparative studies in UK and Iran of learning processes in children considered to have severe learning difficulties. These studies cast light on ways for such children's achievements to increase and for more inclusive educational practice to be fostered.

USWRS was founded in 1992 from several existing institutions, at Teheran, Iran. The programme and progress is described.


Medicine 39: 407-413.
Disabled adults in West Beirut.


SHAKED, Michal (2005) The social trajectory of illness: autism in the ultraorthodox community in Israel. *Social Science & Medicine* 61: 2190-2200. Autism amidst an ultra-orthodox Jewish community is presented as a kind of ultimate disorder contending with a rigidly pursued orderliness. The author (a secular Israeli psychologist) conducted detailed open-ended interviews with members (almost all being mothers) of 30 families with an autistic child, tracing in particular the mothers' efforts to negotiate their autistic child's life and status so as to enhance inclusion and minimise rejection.


University of Cairo 58 (2) 120-126.


SMADI, Ahmad A & SARTAWI, Abdel Aziz (1996) A scale for counseling needs of families with handicapped children in Arab countries. School Psychology International 17: 351-358. Instrument was developed with 143 participating families in the UAE.


Reports data from 1990 IDD survey.


Study of 187 patients at Riyadh attending two of the nine schools for the blind in Saudi Arabia.


TALKING Hands of Palestine [website, accessed 22 March 2006].
http://www.math.kent.edu/~dhaher/page1.html
Several papers concerned with deaf people, organisations, and service development in Palestine from the 1990s on.


Detailed, open-minded paper on Islam and mental handicap. Quotes from the Qur'an and hadiths of the prophet Muhammad, suggesting that Islam approves the integration of mentally retarded people in education, and gives them the right to an appropriate level of support in conducting their lives and managing their own affairs.


Random sample of 3,000 urban & rural subjects; 116 cases of mental retardation, prevalence of 3.9%; with 65% parental consanguinity.


5th International Special Education Congress, University of Manchester, July 2000. (CD-Rom).


TUNISIA: CODES. Codes des obligations et des contrats: http://www.jurisitetunisie.com/tunisie/codes/coc/Coc1018.htm and Code de procédure civile et commerciale, http://www.jurisitetunisie.com/tunisie/codes/cpcc/cpcc1075.htm Current Tunisian civil law holds that deaf people are responsible for damage caused by their action or their fault, “s’ils possèdent le degré de discernement nécessaire pour apprécier les conséquences de leurs actes” (code: Coc1018); and can act as witnesses in court, “par écrit ou par signes ne prêtant à aucune équivoque” (code: cpcc, Article 95). These provisos, while somewhat ambiguous, are important in upgrading the status of deaf people.


VERCH, Klaus (ed) *Hard of Hearing, Deafened, Born Deaf. Ways and Aids to Self-Realization. Contributions of the Turkish partners within the 4th International Bad Berleburger Conference, April 1996, Antalya, Türkiye, and the 2nd Turkish Symposium about Hearing Impaired People*. [Rendesburg, Germany]: International Organization of Rehabilitation Institutions for Hearing Impaired People. c. 210 pp (no consecutive pagination). Broad up-to-date overview of hearing impairment in Turkey; 33 papers, extensive referencing.


Study by mailed questionnaire of all 13 government-established institutions for persons with physical disability or mental retardation, with 2275 beneficiaries (62% male, 38% female).


Notes on Syria (p.31) show Total Goitre Rate of 73.0, the highest country rate in the world. Disaggregated data (p.65), show TGR in school populations from 59.00 to 96.00 (the latter in Damascus Rural area). No cretinism data. Salt iodisation is under way.

Report to WRF of a study conducted in Baghdad, principally concerned with disability, by Arabic-speaking professional staff of WRF-Lebanon.

Dental study of 104 children with cerebral palsy at the Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children, Riyadh.

Suggests that traditional cosmetics and medicines containing lead, still widely used in the region, are a major neurological hazard.


Prevalence and other data on seizures in 378 children at special education centres in Amman, Jordan.


Study of 50 children with chronic illnesses, with 25 controls and western data.


Study of 98 Palestinian Arab families (among 2,000) in which at least one member had hydrocephalus and/or open neural tube defect.