

Saifan is an 8-year-old boy with hearing impairment.. He can't walk or talk. He spends most of his time in bed, lying down, and sometimes sitting in a chair. His day consists of lying in bed for as long as 20 hours. As he can't defecate or urinate by his own means, he has to wear a diaper or a cloth for feces and urination. Words can't really justify the miserable life a disabled kid has to have.

Saifan's father, a shop owner in Gobindagonj-Sylhet, Bangladesh, receives a monthly stipend of around 700 tk from the local union council due to Saifan's disability. Which is neither enough to buy the necessary medicine for Saifan nor possible to buy the diapers he has to wear. When Saifan was about 2–3 years old, his parents visited a specialized doctor for disabled children. The doctor didn't recommend any hearing implants or invasive surgery to improve his condition. At 8 years old, it still remains a question whether early intervention could have helped him or whether hearing implants could help him listen. When I asked, the parents declined to seek new doctors or opinions on how to improve Saifan's life or future. Saifan's family is Muslim, and their answer is that Allah will help Saifan.

It's debatable how much the situation could have been improved if Saifan's family lived in a City instead of a rural area and had proper awareness about disability and the means to adequately support him financially. Even though the Bangladeshi government has a lofty budget for disabled kids, how much of it is actually used is still a mystery. A support system created by the government that empowers disabled kids and raises awareness would mean a lot for kids like Saifan.







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RESULT

Mehdi Hasan is a writer & photographer. His works focus on a wide range of area including cultural diversity across countries. This gave him the opportunity to research & photograph a varied group of people and places. As a result, his artistic style and capabilities evolved over the years. Which he is constantly using to develop a body of work that includes various cultures, people and places. Check out his website for more works.

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