

Picture this. You're in the MRT, and then you notice of a lady, walking through the cabin, saying "Hello?" to everybody but no eye contact made. And then you notice this man over here, who is scrolling through his phone and when he takes notice of that lady, he gives the 'raised eyebrows' look. I was furious at that man's reaction. But what I also noticed was that, that reaction was demonstrated by several people in that cabin. I kept quiet and dwelled on it. I then realized that lady was a special-needs person... so what is special needs? In my opinion, special needs is euphemism for disabled and separate. Disabled, you may have heard it in many places, like disabled individual, person etc. but 'separate'? Have you ever tried to link the word 'separate' to special-needs? So here we are, the normal people community, in this community, we go to normal mainstream school, we got to recreational centers, The families here are in "normal" circles but then. There is this barrier and across this barrier, is a completely different community in which there are the special-needs families. They are being put in a separate environment where the kids go to separate schools, the people are in separate social circles, separate facilities. Everything with the 'separate' in front of it. What is the need of this barrier? This barrier is a discrimination of us people in this community of them(special-needs). Those people there, we have pushed them away! And in this we have harmed ourselves as well. When we push these people away over there, we will never recognize their talents! Take an example of Nick. He is a limb-less person, a great speaker. We embraced his talent, we welcomed with two hands, despite his disability. Suppose a deaf girl, she cannot hear but she can dance so well, maybe better than Michael Jackson, but we will never know she had that talent because we pushed her away. We need to break this barrier! We should merge these two communities together. And at end of my speech, I want to say Judge a person based on his ability, not his disability, because an ability of a person is what defines him or her. Thank you.