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Disability Law Issues

Several issues go against the legal disparities that are put up by the ADA concerning students with disabilities. One emerging issue is the use of technology by colleges and universities, whereby they use electronic book readers, which are not suitable for blind students or students with vision issues. It does not consider these students since the technology does not have a text-to-speech option where a blind student can benefit a little from it. Hence, using such technology in a classroom where there are blind individuals or students with vision problems has gone against ¹ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504). It has also gone against ² the laws put up in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) that protects disabled students. This means that the institutions have discriminated against disabled students (U.S. Department of Education, 2010).

This issue is likely to evolve in the coming years because technology is advancing day by day, and mostly it does not consider people or students with disabilities. Most technological advancements are made for people with normal functions, making it hard to incorporate or include individuals with disabilities. Thus, as time goes by, more technological advances will be developed, and more colleges and universities will incorporate them into their learning. Still, most students with disabilities will be left out. Hence, any institution that would include technological advancements for learning which does not include students with disabilities or does not provide other accommodations that would help them be included in the technology is practicing discrimination against students with disability.

Therefore, for this issue to be solved, students with disabilities should be included or provided for modifications or accommodations that would allow them to be given all the benefits offered by the educational technology in a manner that is equally integrated and effective.

Reference

U.S. Department of Education. (2010). Dear Colleague Letter: E-texts

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20100629.html>

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