

Inclusive Development of Persons with Disabilities in India: A Situational Analysis

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Abstract

In India around 2.68 Cr persons are disabled which constitutes 2.21% of the total population. Therefore Inclusive development of the disabled persons has been initiated by the government by implementing various welfare and development measures for comprehensive development of persons with disabilities in the country. In international level UN convention of Person with Disabilities indicates that Persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy human rights and fundamental freedom without any barrier. Even SDGs also addresses the issues concerning to disabled persons with its aim of Leaving No One Behind. In spite of many efforts right from Nation to Globe still Persons with disabilities are more vulnerable and they face multiple problems in terms of accessibility of social services, education, health, rehabilitation and support system at community level. Therefore there is an urgent need to take serious calls to strengthening this able population on priority basis. The present paper has been planned with view to discuss the situation of disabled persons in terms of their empowerment and also focuses on various policies and welfare measures related to Inclusive development of Person with disabilities and to suggest proper measures for achieving comprehensive development of Persons with Disabilities.

Keywords: Inclusive Development, Persons with Disabled, Polices, Welfare, UN Convention, Situational Analysis

Introduction

In the world, developing countries have disabled person's population higher than developed nations. At around 15% of the globe population are suffer from various disabilities. This special population of each nations experiences social exclusion in their day today life. Most of the disabled persons have poor living standards, lack of access to proper education, less access to health care facilities and lack of livelihood opportunities. This entire component contributes to poor quality of life of this important asset of the nation.

In the context of India there are around 2.68 Cr the population belongs to the disabled person's category which is around 2.21% of the gross population of the country. Government has given maximum emphasises on welfare and development of the disabled persons by initiating the concept of Inclusiveness of disabled persons in India. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities have initiated many schemes and programme to address the needs of the disabled persons to empower them. In spite of the schemes and programmes with budgetary allocation, inclusive development of this special human resource still remained challenged especially in rural India, since the majority of the population of disabled persons belongs from rural areas. There is a need to put maximum efforts to create maximum facilities and services to make this population more productive by giving them equal opportunity.

“Divyang” a new concept is introduced by India to mainstreaming them in development which can lead social inclusion with worth and dignity.

Data and Method

This paper is based on secondary source of data and nature of paper is descriptive and analytical. Main aim of this paper is to discuss the situation of disabled persons in terms of their empowerment and also focuses on various policies and welfare measures related to Inclusive development of Person with disabilities and to suggest proper measures for achieving comprehensive development of Persons with Disabilities. The statistical and conceptual data used in it is purely from secondary sources like various reports of the government and papers according to the need and in the light of the objectives of the study.

UN Convention and Persons with Disabilities

The UN convention on the Persons with disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted on 13 December, 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This important convention came into force in the year 2008 around the world. The main aim of this convention was to promote and protect persons with disabilities with social justice and human rights. Social and economic development of disabled was the main priority area. According to UNCPWD every disabled population with all kinds of disabilities have the right to enjoy human rights. Equal accesses and inclusiveness of abled population in decision making is core and fundamental component of the United Nation to lead comprehensive and holistic development of abled population.

Constitutional Safeguard of Disabled Persons

The Constitution of India through its Preamble has given equal constitutional rights of its all citizen of the nation which includes equality, social right, economic right and political right without any discrimination. Constitution also says that every person have right to freedom of thought and equal opportunity.

Table 1 Constitutional Rights of Disabled Persons

Constitutional Articles	Rights of Disabled Persons
Article 41	Protection of rights to work, education, social and economic development of citizens including disabled persons. Every state should have made proper provision to protect these rights of people.
Article 243-G	Social welfare of Disabled Persons along with other citizens of the nation.
Article 243-W	Protecting interest of weaker sections of society including intellectual disabled population

Table 2 Legislative Safeguard of Disabled Persons

Legislation	Objective
The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995	To give equal opportunity in education, employment, and rehabilitation as well as elimination of discrimination and to give proper social security to disabled persons.
The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992	To facilitate research, training and special education for creation of human resources to cater the need of disabled population and make them empower by education.
The National Trust, Act, 1999	To empower disabled persons by giving them vocational training and financial support to make them self-reliant.
Mental Health Act 2017	To give proper treatment and care of mentally ill persons, even in rural and remote are under the PHCs
The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016	The types of disabilities increased up to 21 and also to give reservation for disabled persons from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher educational institutes.

Welfare Provisions of Disabled

The government has taken many initiatives and efforts through welfare schemes and programmes to comprehensive development of disabled population. But somehow these programmes and its benefits are not fully reaching up to this special population of the country especially in rural areas. Each department concerning Welfare and Development of disabled peoples must ensure its transparent and accountable service delivery for inclusive development of the disabled population. Table No.03 is highlighting welfare provisions of Disabled Persons.

Table 3 Welfare Provisions of Disabled Persons

Welfare Scheme	Objective
Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunity, equity, social justice and employment of persons with disability
Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids / Appliances (ADIP)	To make comprehensive rehabilitation of disabled persons especially social and economic unsound by providing them appliances and improve their economic condition. https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/
Establishment of Disability Rehabilitation Centres Schemes	To build capacity of disabled persons by awareness campaign and giving them training and guidance through professional experts to make their comprehensive rehabilitation.
National Fellowship Programme	To increase opportunities to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M. Phil and PHD in any university recognized by UGC. https://www.ugc.ac.in

Pre-Metric scholarship and Post Metric Scholarship for students with Disability	To provide financial assistance to the students with the disabilities for studying in the pre-metric level Class IX and X and Post Metric level (Class XI, XII and up to Graduate Degree / Diploma level).
National Overseas Scholarship for students with disabilities	To provide financial assistance for the disabled students for pursuing Master's Degree and PhD at globe level.
Incentives to private sector employees for providing employment to persons with disabilities (2008-2009)	To encourage employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector
Scheme for Awareness Generation and Publicity (2014)	To sensitize people especially in rural and remote areas about causes of disability and prevention measure at early stage.
National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2014	National Awards on individuals, institutions, districts etc. for the developmental contribution in the field of disabled.
Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	To implement various provisions of persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995. http://disabledhelpline.org/

Demography of Disabled Persons in India

In India out of 121 cr. Population 2.68 Cr. Persons are disabled (2.21%) of the total population. Majority of the population belongs to males followed by female disabled population in India. As per the census disabled population is higher in rural areas than urban areas which consists 1.86 Cr. (69%) in rural areas and 0.81 Cr. (31%) in urban areas respectively.

Table 4 Overview of Disabled Population in India

Total Population in India (In Cr.)			Disabled Persons Population in India (In Cr)		
Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
58.76 (48.52%)	62.32 (51.47%)	121.08 (100%)	1.18 (44.02%)	1.5 (55.97%)	2.68 (100%)
Disabled Population in Rural and Urban Area					
Disabled Population in Rural Area			Disabled Population in Urban Area		
Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
0.82	1.4	1.86	0.30	0.51	0.81

Source: Census of India 2011

If we see the statistics of the disabled population across the country including rural and urban India in the context of Male and Female, Male population is higher than female population.

Table 5 Types of Disability in India as per Census 2011

Types of Disability	Percentage (%)
In Seeing	19
Hearing	19
In Speech	7
In Movement	20
Mental Retardation	6
Mental Illness	3
Any Other	18
Multiple Disability	8

Source: Census of India 2011

The Table 5 depicts the types of disability among the disabled persons in India according to census 2011. 20% of the disabled persons affected with in movement disability, 19% of the disabled persons having disability of hearing and seeing respectively. 08% are affected with multiple disabilities in India.

Overview on Disabled Persons Development Budget

Table 7 Budget Estimate for Disabled Development (In Cr.)

Schemes	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances	220	220	230
SIPDA	00	315	252
DDRS	70	75	130
Research on disability related technology	01	00	00
RCI	07	05	06
Indian Sign Language, Research and Training Centre	05	05	00
National institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation	14	20	00
NHFDC	34	41	0.01
ALIMCO	5	60	50

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com>

Table 6 Statistics of Literacy status of Disabled Persons in India

Literacy Level	Female	Male	Total
Illiterate	65,56,401	56,40,240	121,96,641
Literate	52,70,000	93,48,353	146,18,353
Literacy Status of Rural and Urban Area			
Literacy Level	Rural	Urban	Total
Illiterate	91,26,033	26,70,608	121,96,641
Literate	91,10,325	55,08,028	146,18,353

Source: Census of India 2011

Above table depicts the clear picture of the educational status of disabled population in the context of male and females across India. It clearly shows that around 1.46 cr. Population is literate out of which total percentage of female literacy rate is around 45% and male is around 62% respectively.

If we compare literacy rate among the disabled population according to Rural and urban, it shows that urban literacy rate of disabled is higher than rural literacy rate of disabled, around 67% and 49 % respectively.

Above budget depicts that the budget estimate Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) has been reduced by Rs. 63.50 Cr. Compared to the financial year 2019-2020. The committee on the Rights of Person with Disabilities by the Government has suggested that there should be a proper action plan for Implementation of the convention and the legislation in the country with adequate financial resources. In spite of this, estimate of budget for the same has been reduced. Budget estimates have been declined for other important schemes such as Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP), Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD). There are lack of availability of funds for research and development programmes for disabled pollution across the country.

Accessibility	Accessibility in government as well private establishment for disabled is a major challenge. Many establishments have not built disabled friendly infrastructure since it's mandatory under the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act. Infrastructure in rural areas are absence of disability friendly especially local panchayat.
Discrimination	A person with disabilities faces many kinds of discrimination from the society.
Ineffectiveness of Implementation of Schemes and Programmes	There is lack of will power and accountability to implement welfare schemes and programmes for comprehensive development of special populations.

Issues Concerning with Disabled Persons

Table 8 Overview Issues of Disabled Population

Health	Lack of accessibility of health care services and rehabilitation centres especially in rural areas. Absence of trained professionals in health care centres since it is mandatory to provide mental health care services at village level too under the Mental Health Act 2017
Education	There is no provision so far to set-up special schools in rural areas. Inclusive education is a remaining challenge due to Lack of access to special schools and special teachers especially in rural India.
Employment	Since it is mandatory to give reservation for disabled in Government jobs as well as private sector respectively. But due to the lack of will power the majority of disabled persons are not employed as per reservation criteria. Even most of the educational institutions have not filled reserve sets of Disabled persons.

Suggestive Mechanism

- Everyone has to develop a productive attitude towards people with disabilities and ensure their full inclusiveness.
- Priority should be given to Educational development by making proper teaching planning to address their needs and maximum efforts should have been taken to be inclusive in education.
- Every government and private establishment should strictly follow reservation provisions in context of education and employment.

Positive Discrimination

- Early intervention is needed to address the issues of abled population right from the local to global.
- Need to sensitize the young generation to involve them for comprehensive development of this special asset of the Nation.
- Need to estimate a special budget for comprehensive rehabilitation to disabled peoples.
- There should be a proper mechanism to monitor policies and programmes of persons with disabilities for effective enforcement.
- Government should be made legally binding to make government as well as private infrastructure disabled friendly.
- Concern departments and stakeholders should

be accountable and should be transparentive towards development of disabled at every stage.

- Need to develop Working Together Approach towards Inclusive development of Persons with Disabilities.

Conclusion

Disabled Persons are the special asset of our Nation and they are key actors in the mainstream of development. Therefore it is a collective responsibility of everyone to make disabled friendly society which can really lead to Inclusive development with a Working Together Approach. Persons with Disabilities are blessed with a variety of intellectuality. The only thing is that we need to address this talent and support them to be inclusive in the mainstream of development. There is needed to make accountability and transparency among the stakeholders about comprehensive development of this special population. Disabled population of country is a major strength which Leads Nation Progress. So this is our collective responsibility to make sure that all the programs and policies are effectively implemented for their benefits which they deserve. The need of the hour is to provide them quality of life and promote and protect their rights by giving them equal opportunities to lead social inclusion in a real sense.

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