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National Policies for Disabled People

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ABSTRACT

Disability is a significant public health problem, especially in developing countries like India. The increasing trend of non-communicable diseases and changing age structure with increasing life expectancy will increase this problem. The problems are different in developed and developing countries, and rehabilitation measures need to be tailored to the needs of people with disabilities due to social participation. In India, the majority of persons with disabilities live in rural areas and the accessibility, availability, acceptance, and cost-effectiveness of rehabilitation services are major considerations. Researching the burden of disability, appropriate intervention strategies and their implementation in the current situation in India is a major challenge. Current data were collected and analysed by Midline and various other sources. This paper describes various issues and challenges related to disability and rehabilitation services in India, emphasising the enhancement of health care and service delivery to persons with disabilities in the community.

I. INTRODUCTION

It has been found that most people with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

According to the 2001 census, there are 2.19 million persons with disabilities in India, constituting 2.13 percent of the total population. This includes people with visual, hearing, speech, movement and mental disabilities. Seventy-five percent of people with disabilities live in rural areas, 49 percent of the disabled population is literate, and only 34 percent are employed. The earlier emphasis on medical rehabilitation has now been replaced by an emphasis on social rehabilitation. The recognition of the abilities of persons with disabilities and the emphasis on their integration into society on the basis of their abilities is increasing. The Government of India has enacted three laws for persons with disabilities.

in addition to the legal framework, an extensive infrastructure has been developed. The following seven national institutes are working on workforce development in various fields namely:

- Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

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- National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata
- National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.
- National Institute for Hearing Impaired, Mumbai.²

(A) Objective

- To ensure the equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities.
- To provide them barrier free environment and help them in all the other aspects so that they can grow.

(B) Research questions

1. What all steps are to be taken to ensure equal opportunity in field like sports & culture for disabled people?

- Making sports and cultural ,beaches, gyms, halls and etc accessible to them in a very convenient & easy manner.
- Identifying talent amongst person with disabilities in different sports and culture.
- National award for excellence in sports and culture for person with disability shall be instituted to encourage them.
- There shall be a separate organisation for sports and cultural committee's for disabled people to make a systematic decision regarding the same.

2. What social security is been provided to disabled people?

- State government and UT administration will be encouraged to rationalise the amount of pension and unemployment allowance to people who are disabled.
- Life insurance corporation of India has been providing insurance cover to people with specific type of disability.

3. What necessary initiatives are taken to provide them a barrier free environment ?

- use sign language in all the public functions are been encouraged.
- modification of curriculum of civil engineers are undertaken to construct a barrier free buildings for them.
- state transport are undertaking will ensure disabled free features in vehicles.

² Manupatra ,” protecting the disabled people human rights, (January 07,2017) www.manupatra.com accessed august 30,2022.

railway will also provide a barrier free coaches in a proper manner also platforms building toilet & other facilities.

- barrier free banking system are encouraged to meet the needs of disabled person.

II. DRAFTING OF NATIONAL POLICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

The national policies recognise persons with disabilities as a very valuable human resource of this country & there are various several policies focuses on the following aspects such as

1. Prevention of disabilities

- In large number of cases disabilities are preventable but there needs to be a proper emphasise taken into consideration .
- There are many different types of awareness program to create awareness in relation to measures to be taken to prevent disability of people.

2. Rehabilitation measures

Rehabilitation measure can be divided into three different group:

- Physical Rehabilitation
- Educational rehabilitation
- Economical rehabilitation
 - **Physical rehabilitation:**
 - Early detection: here there is an early detection through drugs or non Drug therapy which helps in minimisation of the impact of disability and then necessary facilities would be created at the end of the whole process.
 - Counselling: Counselling basically strengthen the capacity of a disable person and their families by providing them different types of Corrections such as surgical correction, occupational therapy correction, speech therapy , special education and many more . NGO's and local level institutions are also associated with the disabled people & their families.
 - Assistive Devices: This is one of the most important strategy that is providing durable and scientifically manufactured devices or modern aids to disable people such as Tricycles, wheelchair, surgical and

devices for daily activities like hearing aids educational kits canes for blind and many more such products which makes their life easier. Also communication aids , alerting devices and other assistive devices for mentally disabled people.

- **Education for persons with disabilities**

Education is one of the most effective way and vehicle of social and economical empowerment in todays world keeping with the spirit of **article 21 a of constitution** guarantees education as a fundamental right to each and everyone of this country. **Section 26 of person with Disabilities Act 1995** talks about free and compulsory education has to be provided to all the children who has disability up to minimum age of 18 years and according to census 2001 **51%** are literate people ³ institution like **Sarva Shikha Abhigyan** launched by government has goal of 8 years of elementary schooling for all the children between 6 to 14 years.

Government of India providing scholarship to students with disabilities for pursuing the studies as a post school level and disabled people will be provided access to various universities, technical universities and other high level institutions for higher learning and to pursue professional courses in their life.

Government of India is also providing many scholarships to those students who are disabled and pursuing studies at post school level.

Government will continue to support the scholarship and expand its coverage as much as it can. Also there are vocational education design training been given to PWD which boost skill development in various aspect and NGOs will also encourage providing vocational training to them. Vocational training programs are setup for both people who are in rural areas and in urban areas which have increased the opportunities for productive and gainful employment.

- **Economical rehabilitation**

When we talk about economic rehabilitation it comprise of both wage employment in organised sector and self employment & other sectors.

1. **Employment in government establishments:**

The pwd act 1995 provides reservation of 3% employment in the establishment of Government of India and also in public sector undertaking against certain post. The Government of India ensures that the reservation for certain post in government sector including public sector

³ Manupatra ,” protecting the disabled people human rights, (January 07,2017) www.manupatra.com accessed august 30,2022.

undertaking in accordance with the provision of the pwd act 1995.

2. Wage employment Private sector:

Due to the development of appropriate skill of people with disabilities will encourage them to be apart of private sector and to get employed in such sectors Different rehabilitation and training centres engaged in developing appropriate skills among person with disabilities keeping in view the potential and abilities and encourage them to expand their services accordingly.

3. Self-employment:

Due to the slow pace of growth in opportunities of employment in service sectors self employment of persons disabilities are promoted at large. Basically this is done through vocational education and management training further the existing system of providing loans at soft terms form. government has also started encouraging self employment by providing incentives, tax concession, exemption from duties ,preferential treatments.

Priority in financial support will be given to self help groups found by personal disability

III. WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

According to the census 2001 93.01 lack women's are disabled women's which constitute 42.6 percentage of total disabled population basically when we talk about women's with disabilities they are required to be protected against exploitation and abuse.

special programme shall be taken into consideration for education, employment and providing other rehabilitation service to such woman's keeping in view the special needs. Different programs will be undertaken to rehabilitate it abandoned disabled women, girls by encouraging them for adoption in families. support to house and impact them training for gaining employment skills the government will encourage project where representations of women with disabilities ensured at least to the extent of 25% of total beneficiaries.

Also there are hostels for working disabled women and home for aged disable women so that they can live there. It's been noted that woman who are disabled & have serious difficulties at looking after the children , government will take up programs to provide financial support to such women who are disabled and are not able to take care of the children so that they may hire services to look after the children such support will be limited to 2 children for a period not exceeding 2 years.

IV. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities are the most important group and need very special attention the government would strive to:

- a) To ensure that right to care, protection, security for children with disabilities should be taken into consideration in a proper manner.
- b) To ensure that the right to development with dignity and equality creating an enabling environment where children can exercise their right, enjoy equal opportunities in full participation according to the various statutes in the society.
- c) To ensure that there is inclusion of effective access to education, to health , to vocational training allowance specialise rehabilitation services to children those who are disabled.

V. ISSUE OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATES

The government of India has notified guidelines for evaluation of disabilities and procedure for certification the government will ensure that the person with disabilities obtain the disability certificate without any difficulty in shortest shortest possible time by adoption of simple transparent and client free procedures provided to them.

VI. PROMOTION OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The national policy recognised the NGO sector is one of the most important institutional mechanism to provide affordable services to complement government.

The NGO sector is a vibrant and growing one. it has played a very important and significant role in provisions of services for people with disabilities. Some of the NGOs are also undertaking human resource development and research activities to make their lives more affordable and easy. government has actively been involved them in policy formulation, planning, implementation ,monitoring and has been seeking their advice on various issues relating to person with disabilities interaction with NGOs will be enhanced on various disabilities issue regarding planning policy formulation and implementation.

VII. COLLECTION OF REGULAR INFORMATION ON PWD

There is a big need for regular collection compilation and analysis of data relating to socio economic condition of person with disabilities. The national sample survey organisation has been collecting such information of socio economic condition of people or disabilities on a regular basis once in 10 years since 1981.

The census has also started collecting information of person with disabilities from the census 2001.

The National sample survey organisation will have to collect the information of person once in every 5 years.

Responsibility of implementation

- Ministry of social justice and empowerment will be the nodal ministry to coordinate all the matters relating implementation of the policy.
- Ministry of home affair health and family welfare, rural development, Urban Development ,youth affairs ,sports ,railway science and technology, panchayati Raj and department of elementary education ,women and child development, information technology personal training will be setup necessary mechanism for implementation of policies
- A 5 year perspective plan and annual plan setting targets and financial allocation will be prepared by each ministry /department.
- Panchayati Raj institution will play a crucial role in implementation of the national policy to address local level issues and drop suitable programs which will be in granted with the district and state plans.⁴

Table 1: Comparison of profile of persons with disability in India and China.

Demography	India	China
Population	21 million (2011 Census)	85.02 Million (2010 Census)
Percentage	2.3%	6.34%
Part of UN Convention	Yes-2007	Yes-2008
Reservation	3% (Public Institutions)	1.5 (Public & Private Institutions)
Provision in Constitution	Yes	Yes
Approach	Welfare based	Right based
First Law	1987-Mental Health Act	1982 (Constitution)
Employment Rate	37.6%	80%

Source: Census and other Govt. Publications

VIII. CONCLUSION

People with disabilities are at a higher risk for poor health outcomes. There is a clear need for public help efforts. Knowledge about the health status and public health needs of people with disabilities is essential for addressing these and other health disparities. The four Competencies and associated learning objectives will address the knowledge gaps for public health

⁴ Viji ,” policy for disabled people, (Nov 25,2016) www.vikaspedia.com accessed August 30,2022.

professionals about disability, and health disparities. They provide foundational knowledge about the relationship between public health programs and health outcomes among people with disabilities. The Competencies can also be embedded into existing public health curriculum and training programs.

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