

HUMANITY HUGS HANDICAPPED – A RAY OF HOPE

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ABSTRACT

The coined-word, Persons-With-Disabilities (PWD), refers to the persons with a permanent illness, incapacity or, injury that makes it a constraint for them to apply that part of their body wholly and freely. If somebody's ability to speak, hear or, see is damaged before (Born Disablement) or, after the birth (Disablement After Birth)- such persons are called speech, visually or, hearing Impaired. Life of such a person is not so simple, it is rather, very tough and challenging. When I see a psychologically sound and stout PWD, passing a smile, on their sullen silent face, I see GOD in his/her appearance. Around 2.68 crore PWDs in India (2.14% of India's total population of 1.25 billion), gaze at us with greater expectations for their welfare in the fields of Sports & Skill, Education & Employment, etc. Numerous National, International, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations have been doing a lot more, still it is just like a few drops of water on a hot-plate. There is a lot more to be done in this direction. However, we should not see only one's Disability, we must see one's ability and capability to do, for one's betterment as well as for the Humanity as a whole.

KEYWORDS: **AAV:** Acid Attacked Victims, **ADIP:** Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of fittings of Aids and Appliances, **DDRS:** Dindayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, **IDDC:** International Disability and Development Consortium, **IEDC:** Integrated Education for Disabled Children, **IOSD:** International Organizations of Sports for Disabled, **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organizations, **NHFDC:** National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation, **PWD:** Person With Disability, **SBA:** Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan, **SIPDA:** Scheme for Implementation of PWDs (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995), **SSA:** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, **SSI:** Sight Savers, India, **USICD:** United States International Council on Disabilities, **WBU:** World Blind Union

INTRODUCTION

It is the balance of Nature- if shortens the physical strength of human beings, imparts on the other hand, surely something supplements to his /her brain- box-power. As a result, a sudden good idea is cropped-up. Humorously, one becomes smart, clever, brilliant and bright to brush-up brain, for doing something experimental than other common people to encompass the physical inferiority. And, such Persons with Disability do the next-to-impossible, which becomes a miracle and just beyond the human imagination. They so become the exemplary personality in the society, inspiring youngsters to follow.

Since Man is essentially, enlightened by Nature Divine, all human beings are all, a very good and exact replica of GOD. Therefore, such 'Disabled Ables' must arise, awake and manifest to appear or, become noticeable the Divinity within, instead of feeling frustrated or, inferior to anyone. Human life with 'a-bliss- of-smile' is very precious but short and uncertain, nobody knows what is going to happen in the next moment, world-life is transient, it is true, but it is also true

that those who live here in the physical world brilliantly, they create a History- the rest are more dead than alive. By virtue of education and training, yes-we can treat PWDs at par.

‘Disability’ is understood as a physical or, mental condition of a person that means one can’t use a part of one’s body easily completely. ‘Disabled’ is very commonly accepted term to refer to the persons with a permanent illness, incapability or, injury that makes it difficult and constraint for them to apply the part of their body wholly and freely. If somebody’s ability to speak, hear or, see is damaged before or, after one’s birth but not damaged into, such persons are named as speech, visually or, hearing impaired. The state of being disabled is called ‘Disablement’ which may be referred to either ‘Born Disablement’ or, ‘Disablement after Birth’. Persons with Physical Disability (after birth) are identified additionally as thus, under the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016 –

- Leprosy cured Persons but suffering from loss of sensation, manifest deformity and extreme physical deformity,
- Muscular Dystrophy, causing weakness of muscles, and -
- Acid Attacked Victims(AAV) means a person disfigured due to violent assault(s) by throwing of acid or, similar corrosive substance.

Punjab Govt. has made a provision of ‘Pension’ to AAVs. In this direction ‘Amar Ujala’ has come forward, to manage the Relief from Punjab Govt. to AAVs and created e-mail ID: chd_coordination@chd.amarujala.com (Mobile#95694-92729). Anybody may inform about such cases and help to those who are grappled with darkness and don’t want to live longer. And also, to those who have passion to live and live up to their expectations. Pain of AAVs may not be realized by others because –

- Hatred is increased in themselves,
- Depression dominates and irritation persists,
- They prefer to live in isolation,
- They are grappled by many more psychological feelings, and -
- It won’t be out of place to mention here that AAVs intend to commit suicide, if not supported by family or, friends.

We worship the GOD because that exists, can be seen and observed by our sensories, connected with our physical senses in the form of big & icy mountains, a lush-green vegetation, blossomed fragrant flowers on a tree or, bush, fruits beneath/above the earth having pleasant various tastes(bitter, sour & sweat) and flavors, sporting running water, chirping flying birds and various amazing loving and living creatures, including human beings with their beaming faces, overwhelmed with a wide, happy and sweat smile, which is brought here in the physical world well with divinity. All are equally and considerably respected, irrespective of souls of all races and species, Abled or, Disabled. If someone is born disabled or, disabled after birth but found psychologically sound, stout and committed to do something of one’s liking with complete determination, s/he should be properly supported and imparted right education and training at the right time for the right cause- they shall shine brilliantly, as others in general – let them come forward to the main social stream. We should acknowledge them with confidence for their abilities not for their disabilities.”

Disability is nothing but a state of mind.” (Robert M.Hensel)

Earnestly, if we extend right education, training under skill development schemes, employment along the social security with different devices, as per their requirement, economic/ financial assistance and barrier and hassle-free environment, undoubtedly ‘Disabled Ables’ (now-a-days known as ‘Divyangjan’) shall be benefitted and apprehended for equality, justice, freedom and their dignity. They should thus be motivated equally throughout to become independent morally, socially and economically developed. Indian Constitution too, supports for the same.

Undoubtedly, PWDs may lead a better and brighter life, if they have an easy effective access to their opportunities for rehabilitation and employment etc. Government instituted number of institutions throughout the country for their rehabilitation and welfare, as detailed below –

- National Institute for Empowerment of PWDs, Chennai.
- National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.
- National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training & Research, Cuttack.
- National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.
- National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata.
- National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
- National Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
- All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mumbai.
- All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore.
- Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi
- National Institute of Medical Health & Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru.
- National Handicapped and Finance Development Corporation, Faridabad.

Additionally, certain state govt. institutions are also providing rehabilitation services, panchayat raj institutions, at village/ district level have been entrusted with the welfare of PWDs. It is remarkable that, Indian Govt. is also a signatory to “The Declaration on the full Participation & Equality of PWDs in Asia Pacific Region” and “Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights Based Society”. India is also holding negotiations on “The UN Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of PWDs”. Govt. did a lot of efforts in this direction. However, there is always ample enough scope of improvement and development open every time on every field. We may do it more for betterment of PWDs. On the other hand, we may adopt the preventive measures too, to make Disability preventive during pregnancy and thereafter. Early detection and minimizing the impact of Disability is also desirable by experts and professionals, especially rural/thrust area. Central Govt. is also planning to expand coverage by establishing Distt. Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs) duly supported by state govt.

A need has been felt for mainstreaming of PWDs in General Education System. SSA includes PWDs too, to educate them

Free of fee- charge in the age group of 6-14 years. In the age group of 15-18,

They are provided free education under IEDC Scheme. Under SSA, number of Learning Aid and Tools, Mobility Assistance and other support services are being made available to them, conveniently. There is also a candid provision of Scholarships to these extraordinary brilliant students, with a view to expand its coverage. PWDs are being provided access to universities/ technical universities/ Institutions of higher learning to pursue higher professional courses. Economic Rehabilitation, consisting of 'Wage Employment' and 'Self Employment' of PWDs, is also in the focus of the Govt., by extending necessary training through Skill Development Programs across the Nation. Women are being accommodated by the Govt. equally by providing convenient hostels and homes for stay during training to them. In this direction, NGOs are also recognized by the govt. with a view to provide affordable services to PWDs, complementing the endeavors of the Government.

In the era of digital knowledge society, lap-tops, computers and mobile- apps play a very important role today, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is making efforts significantly so that every PWD gets suitably exposed to its usage. Some Model/ special schools are being introduced by the govt. for promoting education of PWDs. Concrete steps are also being taken for employment of PWDs, facilitating modifications in the design of machinery, work stations and work environment necessary for such persons to operate without barriers in training centers, factories, industry and variegated offices. Public buildings (including Toilets, Terminals, Playgrounds etc.), Transportation (roadways, railways, waterways, airways, subways etc.) have been taken care of by the govt. and made them disability-friendly and well tried to provide barrier-free environment to grow them and groom. Now-a-days, our current banking system is being digitally encouraged by the govt. to meet the needs of PWDs. Govt. has set- up rehabilitation technology centers for coordinating and undertaking the Research & Development, developing new technologies, to focus upon socio-cultural aspects of Disability, covering personal mobility, verbal, non-verbal communication, design-changing in everyday usage of devices, meant for PWDs. Formation of sports organizations, cultural societies and various TV Programs are being encouraged by the govt. in the welfare of such persons.

Indian Govt. has further made a provision in the Rights of PWDs Bill-2016 to impart free education to every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 06-18 years. Reservation in vacancies for PWDs in govt. jobs has been increased from 03- 04 percent. The Bill-2016 highlights the creation of National and State Fund to extend the financial support to PWDs, on the other hand, the Bill provides for penalties against those who commit the offence(s) to PWDs. Other welfare schemes introduced by the central govt. for PWDs are –

Table 1

Welfare Schemes for PWDs	About the scheme	Funds for 2007-2008	Funds for 2008-2009	Funds for 2009-2010
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme(DDRS)	Funds are provided to NGOs for various Projects	70.00	79.00	79.00
Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Fittings Aids/Appliances(ADIP)	Aids/Appliances are distributed to needy PWDs	70.00	70.00	70.00
Nationals Institutions (NIs)	Ministry supports 07 Autonomous NIs for Rehabilitation services	49.00	49.00	49.00
The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. (NHFDC)	It provides concessional credit to PWDs for self - employment	7.00	9.00	9.00
Scheme for implementation of PWDs (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights& Full Participation Act,1995(SIPDA)	Funds are provided to state govt. instt., for supporting Rehab. Centers	18.00	20.00	20.00
Schemes for Incentives to employees in Pvt. Sector for providing employment to PWDs	Govt. reimburse EPF & ESI in respect of PWDs employed in Pvt. Sector	-	15.00	15.00

Source:www.pib.nic.in>newsite>printreleases

Some notable International Disability Rights Organizations and NGOs are also working and contributing significantly on equalization of opportunities for PWDs as mentioned below –

Table 2

International Disability Alliance	www.interdisabilityalliance.org
United Nations International Council on Disabilities	www.usicd.org
NGOs and UN Agencies Assisting PWDs	www.unhcr.org
Mobility International, USA	www.ngoaidmap.org
PUNARBHAV-Disability India & International	www.punarbhav.in
International Disability & Development Consortium	www.iddconsortium.nic.in
Rehabilitation International	www.riglobal.org
Australian Federation of Disability Organization	www.afdo.org
International Organizations of Sports for Disabled	www.iosd.org
Disabled People's International	www.dpi.org
World Blind Union	www.worldblindunion.org
Sight Savers, India	www.sightsaversindia.in
United Cerebral Palsy	www.ucp.nic.in
Handicapped International	www.handicappedinter.org

Here, through these national as well as international organizations and NGOs is dealing with Disabled-Ables equally but differently promoting their psychic inner strength. Divyangjans are thus, motivated equally throughout, to make them independent, self-reliant and economically developed. In India, PWDs are reasonably supported with logical legislations. Need is to inculcate necessary changes in educational curriculum in academic institutions to cope-up the social market requirements so that as soon as they come out of the institute, they may not face any problem in getting and during the employment. Indeed, the handicapped persons today need humanitarian touch, adrenalized after going through the related provisions laid down in The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 passed by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI, and New Delhi.

It will be appreciable if the necessary arrangements of special education, training and Skill Development programs are made for these special Divyangjans, Disability are not a curse, if brain is sharp and brilliantly intelligent. Otherwise too, if internal will is strong and firm, any miracle may be met out. It has been observed in number of cases, detailed here as under. These are inspiring stories of some extra-ordinary brilliant disabled Indians who are nationally/internationally renowned, shined brightly, despite different odds–

Table 3

Sl. No.	Name of the Personality	Disability	Brilliance of the Personality
01.	Ravindra Jain	Born Visually Impaired.	Superhit Hindi Song Composer launched various Pvt.Albums.
02.	Sudha Chandran	One leg amputee.	Bharatanatyam Classical Dance Performer.
03.	Arunima Sinha	First Woman Amputee.	Climbed Mount Everest.
04.	Dr. Suresh Adwani	Polio Paralytic.	First Indian Oncologist, Padma Bhushan Awardee (2012).
05.	Rajendra S.Rahelu	Polio Hit Person.	Silver Medal Winner at Commonwealth Games (2014).
06.	H. Ramakrishnan	Polio in both the Legs.	Renowned Musician, currently CEO of SS Music TV Channel.
07.	H. Boniface Prabhu	Unable to use his arms & legs	Wheelchair Tennis Player, Padmashree Awardee (2014).
08.	Shekhar Naik	Blind.	T-20BlindCricketWorldChampion, Having 32- Centuries in his name.
09.	Girish Sharma	One Leg Amputee.	A Badminton Champion.
10.	Malathi Krishnamurthy HOLA.	Completely Paralyzed belowtheWaist.	GoldMedalWinner in 200m Shotput Discuss&JavelinThrowatDenmark (1989),Arjuna/Padmashree Awardee.
11.	Sai Prasad Vishwanathan	Completely Paralyzed belowtheWaist.	1 st Sky Diver with name in Limca book of Records,Co-founder of 'SAHASHRA',Risk Consultant at Delloit US in India.
12.	Sadhana Dhard	Height3.3 Ft., Suffering from bone disease.	Brilliant Painter & Photographer won state/national awards, imparting coaching to Disabled Ables at her home.
13.	Priti Srinivasan	Unable to use her arms & legs.	She captained an under-19 TN Women's Cricket Team.
14.	Javed Abidi	Bears Permanent Nerve Damage.	Director of National Center for Promotion of Employment to Disabled Persons (NCPEDP).
15.	Satyendra Singh	Polio Paralytic.	Made ATMs Disabled Friendly,Founder of Infinite Humanity DisabilityGroup.
16.	Akbar Khan	Visually Impaired.	A National Award Winner for extending the welfare Schemes to PWDs.
17.	Shubhneet Kaur	Lost her leg in an accident.	One legged Dancer from Sangrur,Pb.qualified for 2 nd Round in India's Got Talent.
18.	Sachin Sharma	Blind.	Passed UGC Exam. With 70% marks, got Scholarship of Rs. 30,000 pm, doing MPhil in music for becoming a Lecturer.
19.	Rahul Gajjal	Visually Impaired.	Run the number of Companies in Mumbai, people recognize the especially abled as equals in society.

Yes, we salute their ability, skill and spirit of such Indian Heroes who did it to match up to standards worldwide.

The National Policy recognizes that PWDs are valuable Human Resource and seeks suitable environment, which extends equality in opportunities, rights and participation in the society. As per Census-2011, there are 2.68 crore PWDs in

India which constitutes 2.14% of total population (2, 68, 10,557/1, 25, 00, 00,000*100). It covers Persons with Visual, Mental, Locomotor, Hearing and Speech disabilities. 75% of PWDs live in rural area, 49% is literate and only 34% are in jobs. (Source: www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in)

Education is to be imparted to PWDs in India under National Policy of GOI as Free and Compulsory up to the age of 18. According to Census of PWDs-2011, 51% are literate which draw our attention to it, as it is an attractive percentage under SSA.

To Overcome these Odds and for their Betterment, Following Suggestions/Pointers are Placed Here,

- According to a study, in case of acid-attack-victims, even plastic surgery is failed to bring original skin therefore, there is a need to make an advanced continuous research for the skin-refinement.
- According to the census, such strict rulings in law should be framed, nobody can dare to do that, before committing such heinous crime, one should be forced to think ten times.
- Economical as well as motivational doses should be given doubled, increased enormously enthusiastically
- They need respect and recognition which can be attained through special educational courses and training through special centers for them.
- They are advised to adopt Yoga. By awakening this divine bliss of health and happiness, one should try to accept one's life as gift from Devine and remain in a state of equilibrium under all circumstances as equality, fraternity and humanity.
- They should not be discriminated on the ground of disability- equal protection, a comprehensive social security, safety and opportunities be extended in case of risk, war- situations, emerging and natural disasters etc.
- Enhancement of subsidy/scholarships, as shown in Micro & Small-Scale Self-employment Scheme, reasonably so that they should see their life a success, every moment of life as new and every day as a day of up-lift and up-surge. Let us make it happen. Yes, we can try to add a 'human touch' to their skill, self- speaking- smile, and self- psyche-strength.
- Establishment of Mobile Intervention Units with equipment's and skilled professionals to provide required services to differently-abled at their door -steps in all the districts.
- Disabled-Ables should be given preference- in- promotion, if in the service of government/ private sector. And, in case of election, they should be exempted from election -duty.

Despite progress in advocacy, Science & Technology, Disability of all kinds are yet to be equated and respected. On December 03, 2015 (International Disabled Day) the PM of India has launched the Accessible India Campaign known as SSA and announced that PWDs should now, be called as 'Divyangjan', instead of 'Disabled/Handicapped', and their role/fate in India is going to be changed now, very fast. We too, should try to remove and replace all those physical odds from the life of Divyangjan, which restrict them to come to the main national stream. Every Indian Citizen should come forward with joy, to bring PWDs dreams come true and make it all- A Personal Mission, rejigging the society into a disabled- friendly- network. There is no higher religion than human-service. To work for the common good, is the greatest

creed” – Albert Schweitzer said. Therefore, we may ask ourselves one simple question – “How May I Serve? “ All humanitarians have all understood about the humanity -may serve ‘

Divyangjan’ selflessly, adding incredible value to the society.

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