

Disable Women: The Most Neglected Area among Women

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Abstract

Women with disabilities are the most neglected part of society. Disable girls are involved in household chores. They are employed in jobs that do not provide employment or improve their social status. Just like ordinary girls disabled girls does not get access to education. In fact, physically handicapped girls can learn in an inclusive manner, yet awareness about education is not found even among handicapped girls or their parents. The marital status of disable women is more worrying than that of disable men, because not only all male members but also disable men are not ready to accept disable women as wives. While studying the status of women with disabilities, she has much physical, mental, economic, social, marital status. This research paper deals with their economic, social and marital status.

Introduction

About 15% of the world's population suffers from some form of disability. The incidence of disability is on the rise due to frequent natural and man-made disasters in the world. As a result, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact extent of disability, especially among men and women. According to a World Bank report released in 2019, more than 2 billion people worldwide are disabled. In India, according to the 2011 census, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities who constitute 2.21% of the world's population. Among the disabled population 56% (1.5 Cr) are males and 44% (1.18 Cr) are females. In the total population, the male and female population are 51% and 49% respectively.

Disability is an obstacle in life and environment. There is a wide gap between the handicapped and the normal person which can be found in all levels starting from daily needs and services to education, job and business. In a country like India where a girl is still 'unwanted', if she is born with a physical disability, she is unwanted, double. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2005 has noted that women and girls with disabilities face numerous and interrelated risks, both at home and abroad; Such as, Violence, Negligent Behavior, Inferior Behavior, Physical and Mental Abuse, Immorality etc. The 23rd session of the Beijing Council highlighted that discriminatory treatment of women with disabilities is an obstacle to the realization of human rights. Disabled women and girls face a double whammy, which leads to gender-based violence, sexual harassment, injustice, exploitation, abuse. They suffer from inequalities in education, health care, employment as a means of livelihood and social, civic opportunities and community participation, social stigma, lack of housing, lack of mate.

This research paper will focus on the social, educational and marital status of physically challenged women on the basis of study of 7 cases. Cases are studied with the help of that person as well as her family and teachers.

Woman and disability

Both the Disability Rights Movement and the Women's Movement have never paid much attention to the Disabled Women's Movement. The idea that women with disabilities can be more complex or pervasive than men with disabilities needs to be considered separately. The Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations highlight the need to focus on the gender needs of persons with disabilities, and to ensure that their human rights and fundamental freedoms remain unaffected. Marriage and family, health and reproductive rights, violence and oppression are critical questions.

According to a UNESCO report, most of the world's disabled people are from developing nations. It is also found that in countries with educational backwardness, the rate is higher. About 30% of the world's disabled people are evicted by their families and live on the streets. In addition, most people living on the streets are disabled. (Report, UNESCO) Rehabilitation of those individuals is a question facing any civil society. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi used the word 'Divyang' for the traditional term 'disable' and at the same time launched a number of schemes which could bring development to the disabled persons and bring them into the mainstream. But he did not change the situation, as the schemes have not yet reached out to persons with disabilities, especially women. Although many changes and improvements have taken place and a lot of awareness has been created, the disabled person still has to struggle at all levels of life. Women have to struggle more because of the discrimination they face on the basis of their gender and disability.

Globally, women with disabilities have similar problems in almost all nations; For example, the difference between the availability of daily services and facilities. Disabled women do not get the same facilities

as disabled men. (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2005) Only 20% of women are rehabilitated, and the remaining 80% of women face physical, social, educational, economic, professional, family, cultural, marital and religious problems. They have to face more issues than men in terms of education, employment, health, living space. They have to be paralyzed due to lack of means of subsistence. The human rights of women with disabilities are more neglected than those of ordinary women, especially when it comes to educational, economic, professional and social success. Their social, economic and political rights are denied and they are constantly confronted with cultural, legal, physical and institutional issues. (Report, General Assembly, United Nations, 2017) In some nations, this distinction is rooted in the laws. Some nations recognize the right to marry a mentally retarded man, but the same nations deny the right to marry a mentally retarded woman. Even in advanced nations like Canada, disabled men have more opportunities than disabled women; For example, the means of income are not made available to women as much as they are made available to men. As a result, women with disabilities face more poverty than men with disabilities. (Stubbs Daniel & Tawake Sainamili, 2009) Disabled women do not have much knowledge of information technology and they do not have much awareness about using information technology in their daily work. (Rahemaan Arifur Mohammad, 2015) In all these situations, rural women in rural nations like India have to face innumerable problems and difficulties. There is a gap between the status of disable women in urban areas and disable women in rural areas. (Magada Zarota, 2016)

Awareness among persons with disabilities about legal protection, benefits of schemes, availability of facilities; its velocity is very low, but the purpose of this research is to check whether there has been any conscious change in the status of women.

Research Method

This paper is based on the qualitative method, and case study technique is used for research. There are 21 types of disability according to the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016. In this paper, 7 cases of 4 types are studied. 3 locomotor disabled women, 2 visually impaired, 1 hearing impaired and 1 cerebral palsy are take for the case study.

Social psychology

Generally, a person gets social prestige through her academic career, professional success and financial stability, just like a disabled woman. But to achieve all this, a crippled woman is not as favorable as an ordinary person or an ordinary woman.

It is never easy to reach the top level in the element at the very bottom. Disable women are at the very end of this ladder. Not only the disabled but also the individual has to prove him/herself while gaining a place in the society. But the society gives it easily to the common man, to some extent to the ordinary woman, but to the crippled woman- who is below all these in this slope, she has to find such an opportunity. There are instances in the society where a handicapped woman can achieve social prestige by proving herself. Therefore, this social mindset should be changed and the disabled woman should be given the same trust as any ordinary person, they should be given educational and professional opportunities.

Special and Inclusive Education

Attainment of disable women is less than that of disable males. The proportion of disable women in vocational courses is very low; their proportion is also low in self-employment, industry. Education is a way out of the vicious cycle of social backwardness. However, even this path is not as easily accessible to women with disabilities as it may be to the average person. If disabled women want to break the cycle of social evil, they have to follow the path of education. Educational facilities are provided for disabled women and girls, they and their families should take advantage of them. Special or inclusive education should be taken as required.

In National Education Policy, 2020, special and inclusive education is given priority. In fact, inclusive education is a difficult process to accommodate all types of disabilities. Orthopedic type can be accommodated, but, while accommodating visually impaired, hearing-impaired and person with multiple disabilities at the same time, the general teacher is expected to be an expert in all these matters, i.e. ordinary teachers need to be aware of Braille, Sign Language, which is not easy in practice. Therefore, the educational policy should consider special education - especially special education for girls with disabilities, emphasize on imparting skill based education to girls with disabilities, with a view to implement some training programs. These training programs should be employment based and should provide employment to the trained women. Activities for general women should have separate provisions for disabled women.

Ways of education and self-reliance-marriage

If disabled girls become well-educated and self-reliant, their marital life can be settled. Therefore, girls should be careful about their own education. Even if their family situation is not very favorable, they should

know the plans for girls and get educational facilities. Skill-based courses should be given priority in girls' education, employment oriented education should be given. It is said that when nature gives less, it gives more, Disable girls should find out what skills they are aware of and take education based on them so that they can become self reliant and this will help them in getting married. Financial independence can lead to parallel status at the family level. In today's social situation, getting married has become a matter of concern for all. Sustaining marriage is also a social challenge. Therefore, every disabled girl should be financially independent before marriage and her parents should be careful about that.

Marriage is the most serious issue facing disabled women. Because not only un-disable but also disable men do not want to marry disable women. Care must be taken in certain matters when marrying a crippled girl; As such, it is important to be careful that marriage is not just for her job, salary. Although financial independence is a criterion for determining marriage, it should not be the primary criterion; otherwise it can only be used for financial reasons. The role of a boy marrying a crippled girl should be clear, whether he is crippled or not. It is necessary to explain that care will be taken to ensure that her human rights and feelings are not violated. Against this background, counseling of the bridegroom and in-laws should be done.

Disable Women Self-Help Group

Part 24 (3) (d) of the fifth chapter of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 states that, 'Adequate governance will help women with disabilities to earn a living and raise their children within the limits of their financial capacity and development'. The government needs to take some concrete steps in this regard. Self-help groups for disabled women are set up at almost all Zila Parishad levels, but they are not active, only paperwork is produced. In fact, it does not benefit women with disabilities. Through these self-help groups, women with disabilities will be able to work hand in hand, gain financial independence and live with dignity, for which self-help groups need to be strengthened and they need to be more active. The members of these self-help groups should try to include other disabled women in their own way so that they become self-sufficient.

Proper Benefit of Reservation

Persons with disabilities are given reservations in education and employment. The aim is to make them self-sufficient and make their lives easier. However, just because there is a reservation does not mean that all persons with disabilities can have access to financial independence. Disabled women face the question of double denial on the one hand, and the double opportunity of development on the other; Despite receiving double reservation for disable and women, disable women also face the same problem of unemployment as others. Also, there are no examples of such reservations being made in practice. Just as a Scheduled Caste and a woman get a reservation for a Scheduled Caste woman, a disabled woman does not seem to get it. Nevertheless, it may be possible for disabled women to make their living easier by availing the facilities available to them with proper education. For this, the government should increase the reservation for persons with disabilities and provide separate reservation for women with disabilities.

Organized Effort

In Indian society, there are numerous specialized organizations working for women, according to their needs, according to the nature of the problem; but organizations that work specifically for women with disabilities do not exist. Non-governmental organizations working for women with disabilities should be set up in parallel with organizations working for persons with disabilities and they need to address the issues of women with disabilities in the society. The government should support and encourage the creation of such an organization with a united voice for women with disabilities.

Awareness of Laws, Policies, Programs

Women with disabilities are not aware of related laws, schemes, programs, policies for them and they do not take much advantage of that. It is necessary to do special provision in the Disability Rights Act, 2016 for women with disabilities so that they can enjoy social protection, turn to education and become self-reliant. Disabled women should be aware of the law, the development plans for them. In fact, not there physic, but expecting someone to come and tell them every time makes more dependent and disable. Women and their families should be aware of the programs and activities being implemented for women with disabilities. Laws related women or laws related disability don't know how to treat disable woman, they don't even get counseling like that. The family of a crippled girl should accept her being a divine organ. Her rehabilitation should be considered rather than disrespecting her. Teach her, make her self-reliant. But if this is not possible in case of multi-disabled girls, if it is not possible to give them schooling, then at least skill-based education should be given, so that she can earn a minimum and not be a burden on the family. The family should be counseled to have a family mindset of accepting responsibility.

Mainstreaming

Even after disabled women prove their abilities, they are not fully trusted in the workplace. If women with disabilities are to be included in the mainstream of society, they should be given the same responsibilities as the common man. It is important not to be unnecessarily safe as they should be treated as inferior. This inclusion at the general level while joining the society will avoid showing undue compassion and empathy.

Conclusion

Physical weakness is natural, even if it is caused by birth or an accident or disaster. It is inhumane to treat a person unnaturally for a physical limitation that comes without any guilt. That is why it is inhumane to deprive a person of his/her human rights and the human rights of others due to physical infirmity. The National Disability Rights Policy, 2016 underscores that persons with disabilities are a valuable human resource of the nation. Therefore, it is necessary to create an environment that will give them equal opportunities, protect their rights and make them fully involved in the society. Again woman is double-denial. If women are to be developed, if they are to be brought to the same level, then more efforts will have to be made for the empowerment of women with disabilities, otherwise this element of women remain neglected and parallel development of women cannot be achieved.

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