



# WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN ODISHA

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## ABSTRACT

Disability is a conundrum that we all experience at some given point in our lives but don't always understand while there are some people who are born disabled, some experience disability when they are youngest most of us become familiar with it later on in life as we age. It is well known fact that disabled people have been a repressed as well as an oppressed group. They have been isolated, stigmatized, institutionalized and also written about. It is widely known that people with disabilities face multiple hurdles in their fight for Equality. Also the effects of social exclusion that both genders face is profound. Although both men and women with disability are subject to discrimination, women are at a further advantage. Women with disability face double discrimination because they face both disability limitations and also gender discrimination. My research paper highlights the different barriers faced by disabled women in Odisha and India. It describes exclusion, discrimination, violence, unemployment and various obstacles that each disabled person faces in their whole life. The study also has emphasized to explore the ways out to bring them into the main stream. It has also described different schemes of central Government and state Government for the uplifting of disabled women and bring them to mainstream. Historically Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are remain in the margin of society. They remained an excluded agenda in all aspects of the development process. This paper also deals with the evolution of the policies framework and concerning approaches that have turned from charity and address the rights of PWDs throughout the country and different policies which are being made for the development of PWDs.

**KEY WORDS :** Disability, Oppressed, discrimination, social exclusion, schemes.

## INTRODUCTION

It was a common belief among Greeks, Romans that Disability is an impurity. It was a sign of punishment inflicted by the angry God's on them. Disability is a conundrum that we all experience at some given point in our lives but don't always understand. While there are some people who are born disabled and some experience Disability when they are young but most of us become familiar with it later on in life as we age.

It is widely known actuality that people with Disability face multiple hurdles in their fight for Equality. Also the effects of Social exclusion that both genders faces profound. Although both men as well as women with disabilities are subjected to discrimination, it is women who are at a greater advantage. They face double discrimination. One is for gender and another is for disability. Women get fewer opportunities in education, Healthcare, employment, as compared to their male counterparts. A disabled women faces a lot of social exclusion, stigmatisation, discrimination, marginalization etc. as compared to men with disabilities and women without disabilities.

According to 2011 census data the total population of the country was 121,08,54,977 . Out of this PwDs constitute 2.21 % of the whole population. In Odisha the percentage of the disabled population is 2.97% to the total population which is higher than the national average. According to National Statistics Official data 69.5% disabled people live in rural areas while rest 31.5 % live in urban areas. But in Odisha the percentage of PwDs residing in rural areas is very high, i.e 85.50% while only about 14.50 percent live in urban areas.

In India the birth of a male child is celebrated however there are no celebrations for a girl child. If the girl child is born with disabilities then it is considered as a curse. The situation for woman with disabilities is much worse. Not only they are looked down they are considered as useless. There is a lack of voice ,proper rehabilitation systems and access to adequate health care. Women with disability are a socially invisible category.

**What is Disability?**

Disability is a condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the persons with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them. It is any condition that makes it more difficult for a person to do certain activities or effectively interact with the world around them. These conditions or impairments may be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory or a combination of multiple factors. Impairments causing disability may be present from birth or can be acquired during a person's lifetime. Often disabled people are unnecessarily isolated and excluded from full participation in society. As a result of impairment people with disability can experience disablement from birth or may be labelled as disabled during their lifetime.

Disability is a contested concept with different meanings in different communities. It has been referred to as "embodied difference" but the term may also refer to physical or mental attributes that some institutions, particularly medicines, view as needing to be fixed. It may also refer to limitations imposed on people by constraints of an ableist society or the term may refer to the identity of disabled people. Psychological functional capacity is a measure of an individual's performance level that guides one's ability to perform the physical tasks of daily life and the ease with which those tasks are performed. PFC declines with age and may result in frailty, cognitive disorders or physical disorders, all of which may lead to labelling individuals as disabled. According to World Report on Disability, 15% of the world population or 1 billion people are affected by disability. A disability may be readily available or invisible in nature.

Disability is conceptualised as being a multidimensional experience for the person involved. There may be effects on organs or body parts and there may be effects on a person's participation in areas of life. Correspondingly, three dimensions of disability are recognised in ICF.

\*Body structure and Function (and impairment thereof)

\*Participation (and Participation Restrictions)

\*Activity (and activity restrictions)

The classification also recognises the role of physical and social environmental factors in affecting disability outcomes. Disability can affect people in different ways, even when one person has the same type of disability as another person. Some disabilities may be hidden, known as invisible disability. There are many types of disabilities such as those that affect a person

\*Vision

\*Hearing

\*Thinking

\*Movement

\*Mental Health

\*Remembering

\*Communicating

\*Social relationship.

In Indian constitution, a person with benchmark disability means a person suffering from not less than 40% of any specific disability as certified by a medical authority.

In Indian Society, women and girls are regarded as a burden for their family, disabled women are at a greater liability. This lies in the fact that there are very limited opportunities related to productive work.

or gainful employment for them. Therefore this enforced financial dependency makes them the most vulnerable group not just in India but also in entire world.

In India poverty is considered to be both the calluses as well as consequence of disability. Disabled women also tended to experience poverty more intensely given the lack of opportunity to escape it, as compared to the disabled men or even women without disabilities. According to World Bank report a quarter of these disabled women in India are rarely able to manage three complete meals a day. (World bank 2007, Addlakha, 2008). Therefore a large number of women with disabilities in India end up facing what is known as “triple discrimination” – gender, disability, and poverty.

In Odisha also the women with disability face a lot of discrimination. But the state government has provided many schemes for the uplifting of these disabled people. Due to various Governmental schemes the PwDs get a better life to lead. The schemes are

### NIRMAYA

It is a health insurance scheme to provide affordable Health insurance

to persons with Autism, cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and multiple Disabilities.

### GHARAUNDHA

It is a lifelong shelter and care scheme providing minimum quality of care services throughout the life of persons with multiple disabilities.

### ARUNIM ( Association of Rehabilitation under National Trust Initiative of Marketing)

It is a marketing federation for development and marketing of products made by persons with Disabilities. The main motto of this scheme is to market the products made by persons with disabilities in the domestic and international market.

### NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

It is a welfare oriented company established by Government of India under the ministry of Social Justice and empowerment department on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1997. The main objective of this establishment is to promote economic development and self employment ventures by ensuring financial assistance to the PwDs for their self employment ventures.

### BANISHREE SCHOLARSHIP

It is a comprehensive scheme for the students with disabilities which was formulated by the ministry of Women and Child Welfare Development under the Government of Odisha in December 2008. The primary objective is to encourage students with disabilities to complete their education and to obtain technical, professional or vocational training to gain employment.

### BHIMABHOI BHINNAKHYAMA SAMARTHYA ABHIYAN

It is a prolonged approach to empower Persons with disabilities by removing the constraints they face in accessing public services. It thus provides multisectoral services to PwDs on a campaign mode through a single window approach.

### TRAINING INSTITUTIONS FOR SPECIAL TEACHERS

Extensive infrastructure has been developed on teachers training in special education by establishing teachers training institutions in collaboration with national institutions. The following three training institutions are functioning for development of manpower in different areas of special education namely Training Centers for the teachers of Visually handicapped, Bhubaneswar. Training centers for the teachers of Deaf, Bhubaneswar and Training centers for the teachers of mentally retarded, Bhubaneswar.

### MISSION KSHYAMATA

To help persons with disabilities to become financially self reliant Mission Kshyamata facilitates formation of exclusive self help Groups of PwDs. It is a sub component of mission Shakti and permits smaller groups to be

formed with five to six members who are PwDor are parents of persons with mental Retardation, mental illness , Autism or cerebral Palsy.

### **MADHUBABU PENSION YOJANA**

This scheme was introduced by the Government of Odisha in January 2008 . It provides pension to widows, leprosy patients ,PwDs whose family income is not more than Rs.12,000.

The enactment of PWDs Act in 1995 and further I 2016 offers new direction by which the issues of the PwDs are addressed. The new realization was daunted even at the public policy level to involve PwDs as equal citizens of the Country. Besides Government has also formulated different policies to address the issues relating to livelihood and educational field.

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