

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

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Definition of Disability

- A disability is often defined as the malfunctioning, disturbance or loss in the normal functioning of physical, mental or psychological processes, or a difficulty in the ability to learn, or adjust socially, which interferes with a person's normal growth and development.

Definition of Handicap

- Handicap is a difficulty experienced by a person because of the nature of the environment in which she finds herself.
- For instance, even if an individual has a locomotor disability she will still be mobile as long as she can get around in a wheelchair. However, if the building in which she has to work has no ramps or lifts which accommodate wheelchairs, she is handicapped by the environment of the building. On the other hand an able bodied person who does not know how to swim or row a boat is handicapped when he has to cross a river unless he can find someone to ferry him across.
- Hence, handicap refers to an environmental factor that an individual finds difficult to overcome.

Definition of Impairment, Disability and Handicap (WHO, 1976)

- “an **impairment** is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function;
- A **disability** is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being;
- a **handicap** is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or a disability, that prevents the fulfilment of a role that is considered normal (depending on age, sex, social and cultural factors) for that individual”.

Examples to illustrate the differences among the terms "impairment," "disability," and "handicap."

•

CP example: David is a 4-yr.-old who has a form of cerebral palsy (CP) called spastic diplegia. David's CP causes his legs to be stiff, tight, and difficult to move. He cannot stand or walk.

- **Impairment:** The inability to move the legs easily at the joints and inability to bear weight on the feet is an impairment.
- **Disability:** David's inability to walk is a disability. His level of disability can be improved with physical therapy and special equipment. For example, if he learns to use a walker, with braces, his level of disability will improve considerably.
- **Handicap:** David's cerebral palsy is handicapping to the extent that it prevents him from fulfilling a normal role at home, in preschool, and in the community.

Causes of Disabilities

- The most common causes of impairment and disability include chronic diseases such as -
- diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer;
- injuries such as those due to road traffic crashes, conflicts, falls, landmines, mental impairments, birth defects, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

Types of disabilities

- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Locomotor impairment
- Cerebral palsy
- Mental retardation
- Mental illness
- Autism
- Multiple disability



Visual impairment

- Generic term
- Terms like blind and low vision also used
- Blind- Total absence of sight
- Low vision- Less visual functioning but can be used with appropriate assistive devices





Hearing impairment

- Difficulty in hearing various degrees of sounds
 - Conductive hearing loss
 - Sensori- neural hearing loss
 - Mixed hearing loss
 - Central hearing loss





Loco-motor disability

- Disability of the bones and joints leading to restriction of movement of limbs
- Conditions leading to loco-motor disability are polio, amputation, Injuries to spine and head, fractures, muscular dystrophies
- Cerebral Palsy- Brain damage early in life leads to co-ordination, movement and balance



Mental retardation

- Limitations in communication, self care, home living, social skills, self direction, health and safety and academics
- Manifests before 18 years of age
- Types: Mild, Moderate, Severe and Profound



Autism

- **Autism** is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior



Mental illness

- Occurs due to stressful experiences
- Leads to abnormal behaviours
- Can be cured through appropriate treatment by Psychiatrists and medicine



Multiple disability

- Combination of two or more disabilities
- Deaf blindness
- Cerebral palsy with mental retardation
- Cerebral palsy with autism



Disability, Poverty and Exclusion

- Disability affects approximately 10 - 12% of every country's population
- Less than 5% of people with disabilities have access to services.
- 80% of people with disabilities live in low income countries.
- Disability and poverty are directly linked: poverty increases the risk factors which lead to disability, and people with disabilities are more likely to be poor because they lack access to health, education, political and socio-economic opportunities available to others in the community.

- It is estimated that 15 to 20% of the poorest in the world are people with disabilities.
- The disability-poverty cycle is directly linked to community development, or rather, exclusion from development occurring in the community:
- The poor are excluded from programmes and services and are therefore more likely to be exposed to conditions that lead to impairment; persons with disabilities are excluded from programmes and services and therefore remain, or become, poor.

Disability Statistics

- The country's disabled population has increased by 22.4% between 2001 and 2011.
- The number of disabled, which was 2.19 crore in 2001, rose in 2011 to 2.68 crore —1.5 crore males and 1.18 crore females.
- Rural areas have more disabled people than urban areas.
- In Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim, the disabled account for 2.5% of the total population,
- Tamil Nadu and Assam are among those where the disabled population is less than 1.75% of the total population, as per the 2011 Census.

Disabled Population by Sex and Residence

India : 2001-11



Disabled Population by Sex and Residence India, 2011			
Residence	Persons	Males	Females
Total	26,810,557	14,986,202	11,824,355
Rural	18,631,921	10,408,168	8,223,753
Urban	8,178,636	4,578,034	3,600,602

Decadal Change in Disabled Population by Sex and Residence, India, 2001-11						
Residence	Absolute Increase			Percentage Decadal Growth		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	4,903,788	2,380,567	2,523,221	22.4	18.9	27.1
Rural	2,243,539	997,983	1,245,556	13.7	10.6	17.8
Urban	2,660,249	1,382,584	1,277,665	48.2	43.3	55.0

Disabled Population by Sex and Residence India : 2011



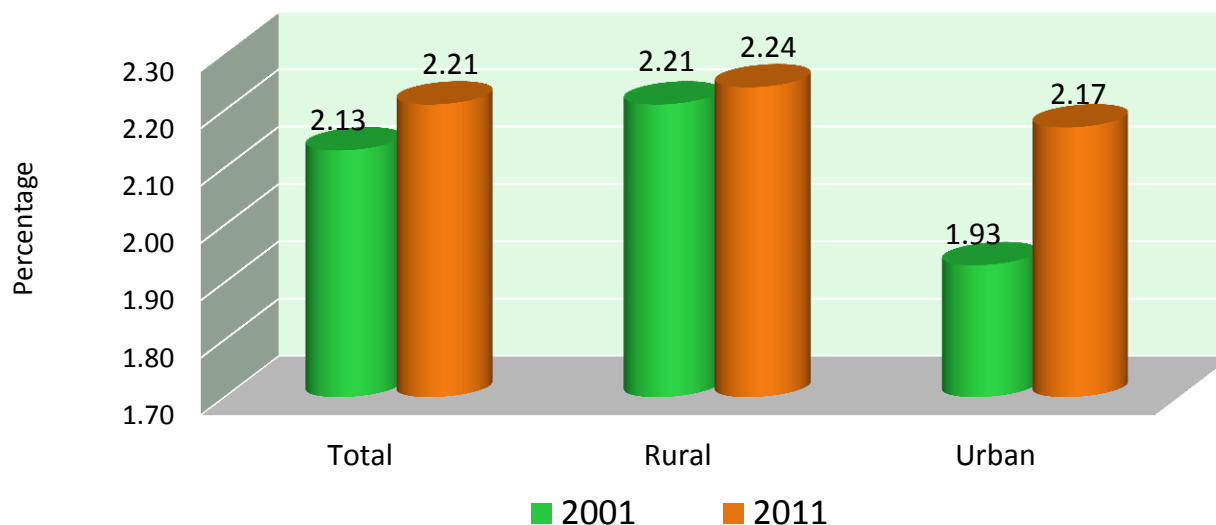
Percentage of Disabled to total population India, 2011			
Residence	Persons	Males	Females
Total	2.21	2.41	2.01
Rural	2.24	2.43	2.03
Urban	2.17	2.34	1.98

Percentage of Disabled to total population India, 2001			
Residence	Persons	Males	Females
Total	2.13	2.37	1.87
Rural	2.21	2.47	1.93
Urban	1.93	2.12	1.71

Disabled Population by Residence India : 2001-2011



Proportion of Disabled Population by Residence
India : 2001-11



- Percentage of disabled persons in India has increased both in rural and urban areas during the last decade.
- Proportion of disabled population is higher in rural areas
- Decadal increase in proportion is significant in urban areas

Disabled Population by Sex

India : 2001-2011

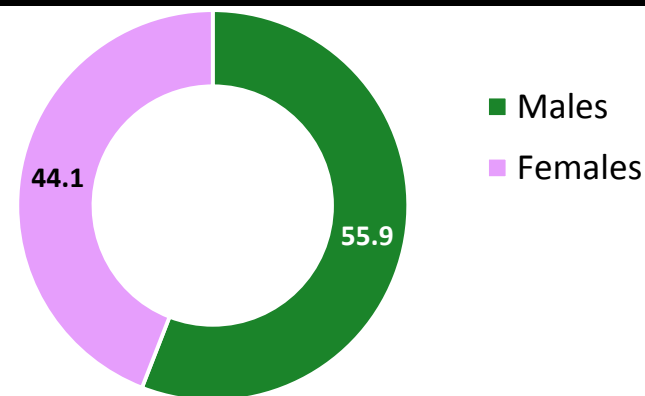


Proportion of Disabled Population by Sex
India : 2001-11

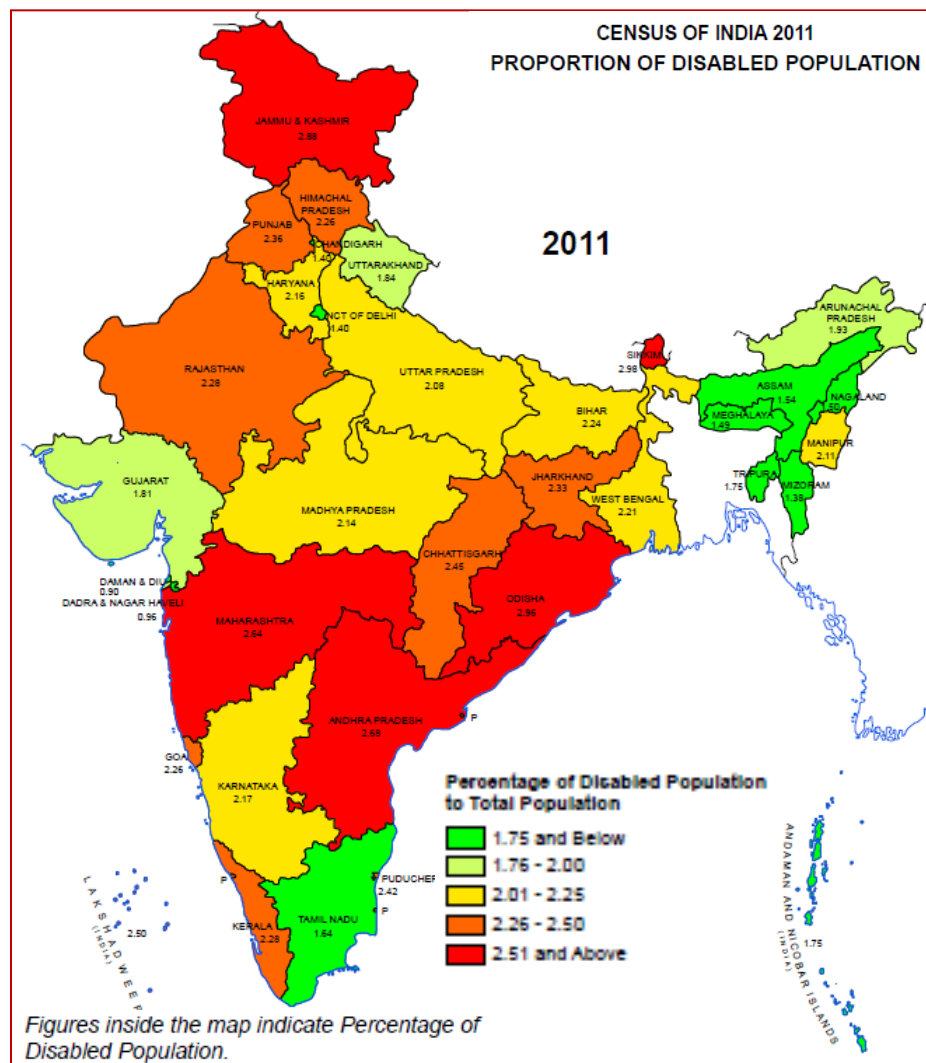


- Slight increase in disability among both the sexes over the decade
- Proportion of disabled population is higher among males
- Decadal Increase in proportion is higher among females

Percentage Share of
Disabled Population by Sex
India, 2011



Proportion of Disabled Population India and States/UTs : 2011



Disability by Social Groups

India : 2011



(%)

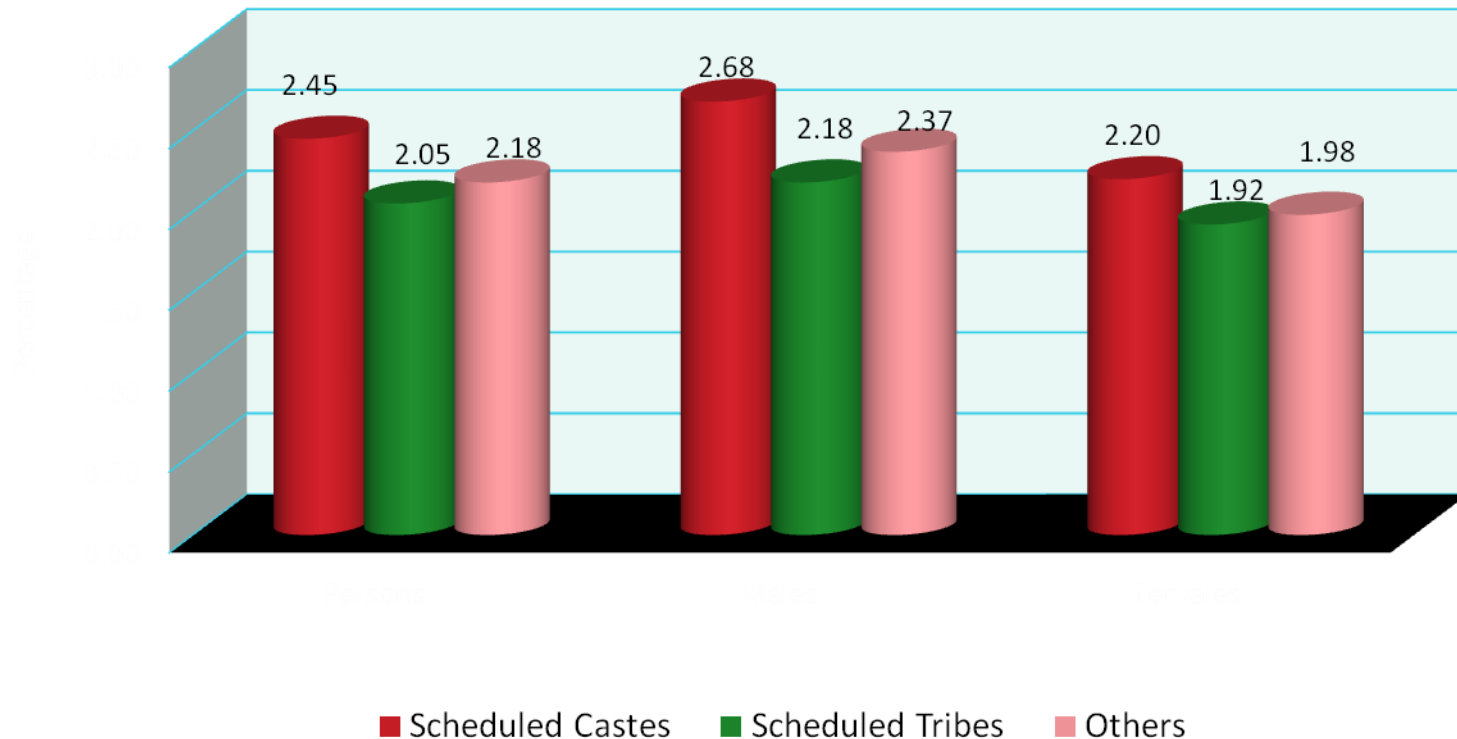
Proportion of Disabled Population by Social Groups India, 2011			
Social Group	Persons	Males	Females
Total	2.21	2.41	2.01
Scheduled Castes	2.45	2.68	2.20
Scheduled Tribes	2.05	2.18	1.92
Other than SC/ST	2.18	2.37	1.98

Disability by Social Groups

India : 2011



Proportion of Disabled Population
by Social Groups, India, 2011
(%)



Disabled Population by Type of Disability

India : 2011



Disabled Population by Type of Disability India : 2011			
Total	26,810,557	14,986,202	11,824,355
In Seeing	5,032,463	2,638,516	2,393,947
In Hearing	5,071,007	2,677,544	2,393,463
In Speech	1,998,535	1,122,896	875,639
In Movement	5,436,604	3,370,374	2,066,230
Mental Retardation	1,505,624	870,708	634,916
Mental Illness	722,826	415,732	307,094
Any Other	4,927,011	2,727,828	2,199,183
Multiple Disability	2,116,487	1,162,604	953,883

Disabled Population by Type of Disability (%)

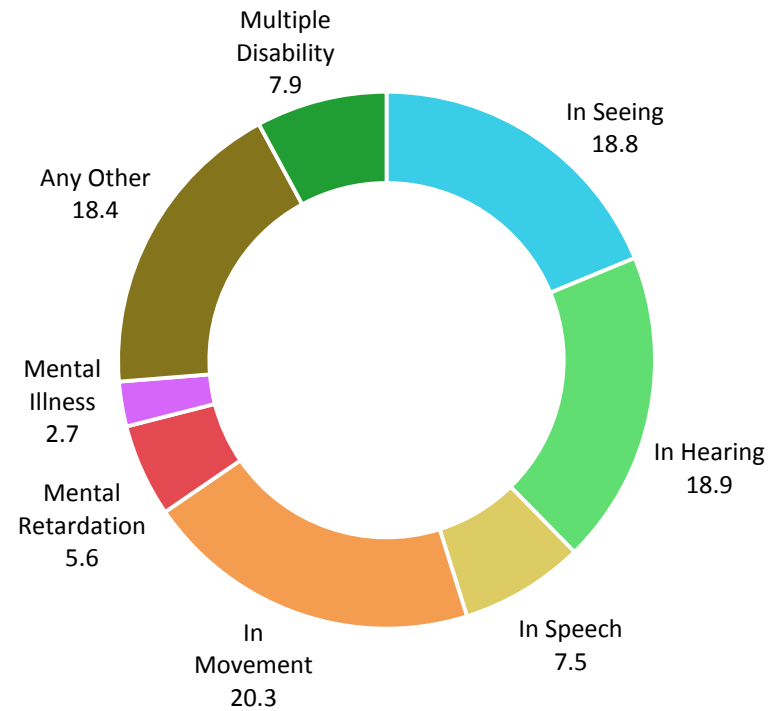
India : 2011

(%)

**Proportion of Disabled Population
by Type of Disability
India : 2011**

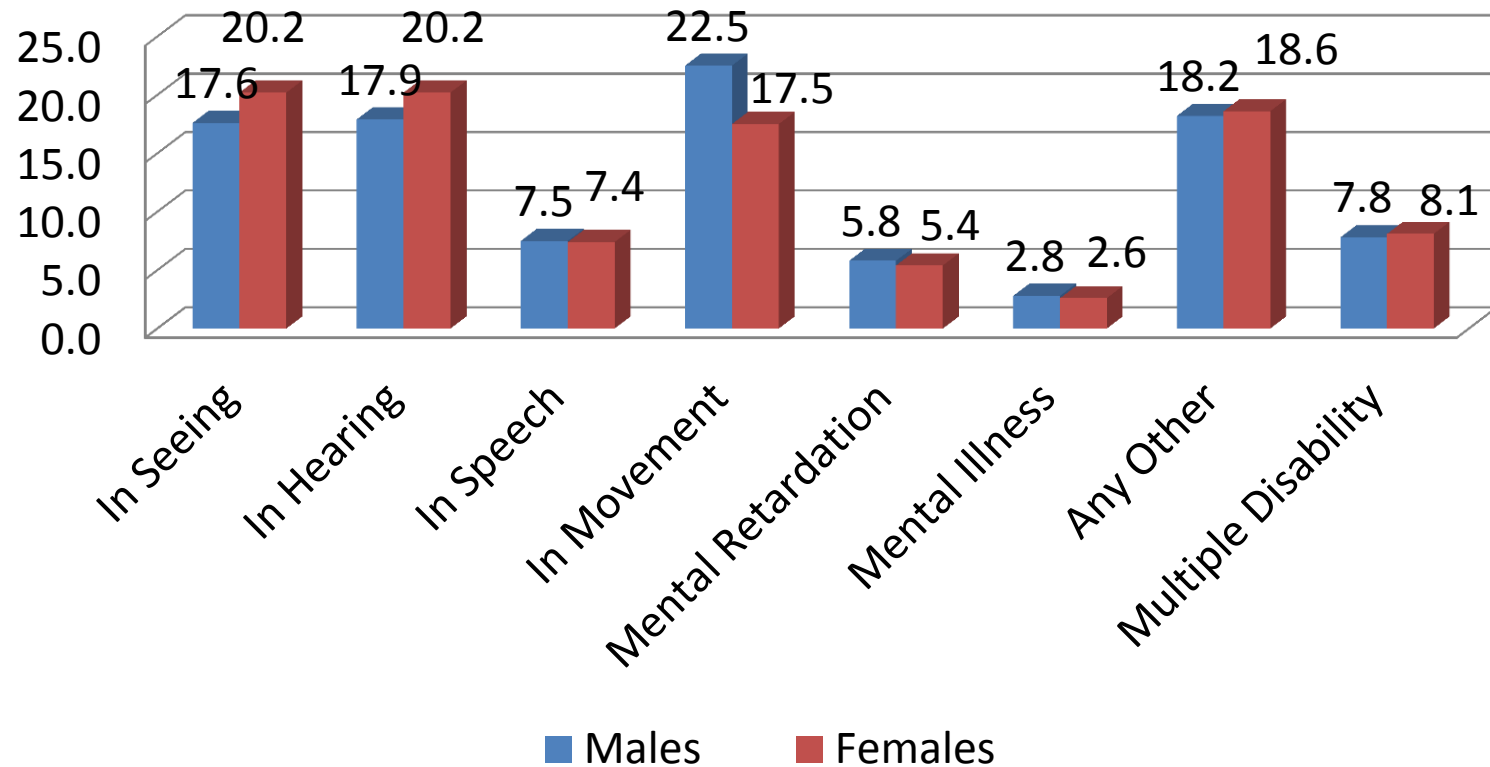
Type of Disability	Persons	Males	Females
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
In Seeing	18.8	17.6	20.2
In Hearing	18.9	17.9	20.2
In Speech	7.5	7.5	7.4
In Movement	20.3	22.5	17.5
Mental Retardation	5.6	5.8	5.4
Mental Illness	2.7	2.8	2.6
Any Other	18.4	18.2	18.6
Multiple Disability	7.9	7.8	8.1

**Proportion of Disabled Population
by Type of Disability
India : 2011
(Persons)**



Disability by Type and Sex India, 2011

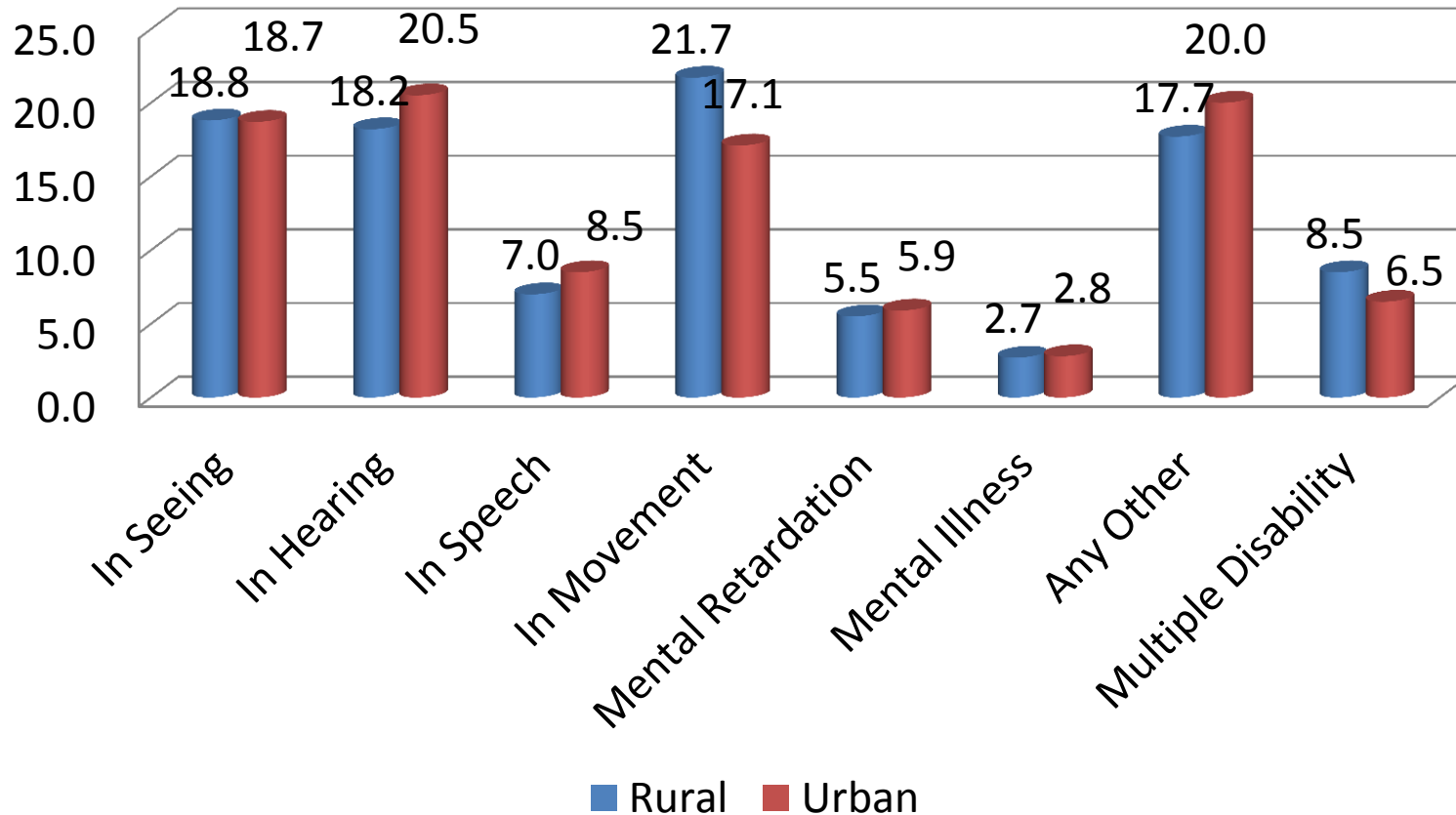
(%)



- Disability in seeing and hearing is more among females
- Disability in movement is more among males

Disability by Type and Residence, India, 2011

(%)



- Disability in hearing and speech is more in urban areas
- Disability in movement and multiple disability is more in rural areas.

Disabled Population by Type and Social Group (%)

India : 2011



(%)

Percentage Share of Disabled Population by Type of Disability Among Social Groups

India : 2011

Type of Disability	Total	SCs	STs	OTH
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In Seeing	18.8	19.1	20.0	18.6
In Hearing	18.9	17.4	19.3	19.2
In Speech	7.5	5.2	5.3	8.3
In Movement	20.3	20.5	22.5	20.0
Mental Retardation	5.6	5.1	4.9	5.8
Mental Illness	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.8
Any Other	18.4	22.9	16.5	17.4
Multiple Disability	7.9	7.3	8.9	7.9

- Disability in seeing, hearing and movement and multiple disability is more among STs than that of SCs and Others
- Disability in speech and mental retardation is more among others than that of SCs and STs

Disabled Population by Age and Sex

India : 2011

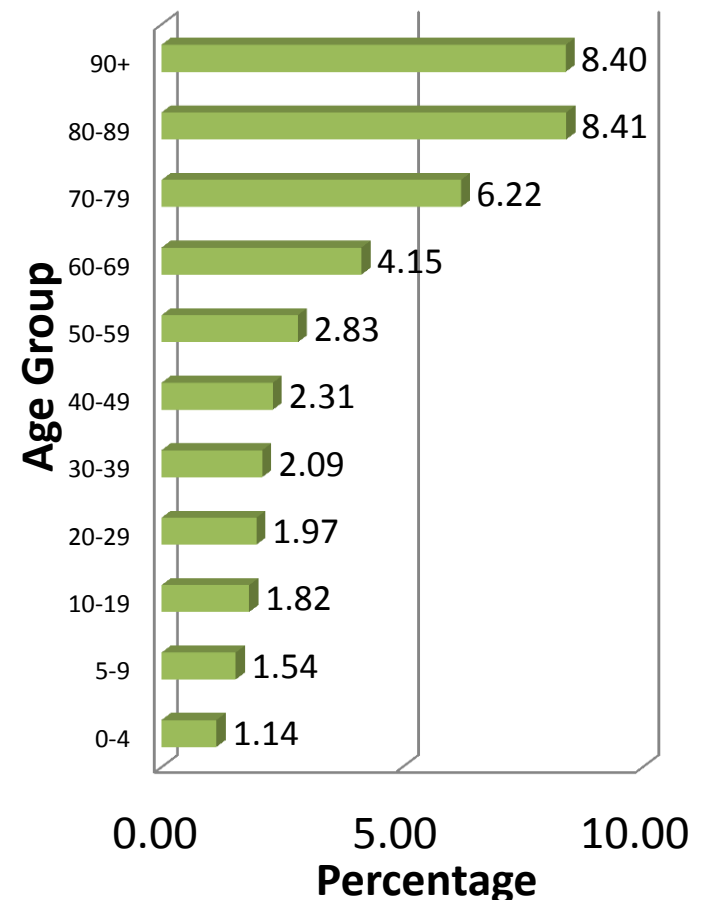


(%)

**Proportion of Disabled Population in the
Respective Age Groups
India : 2011**

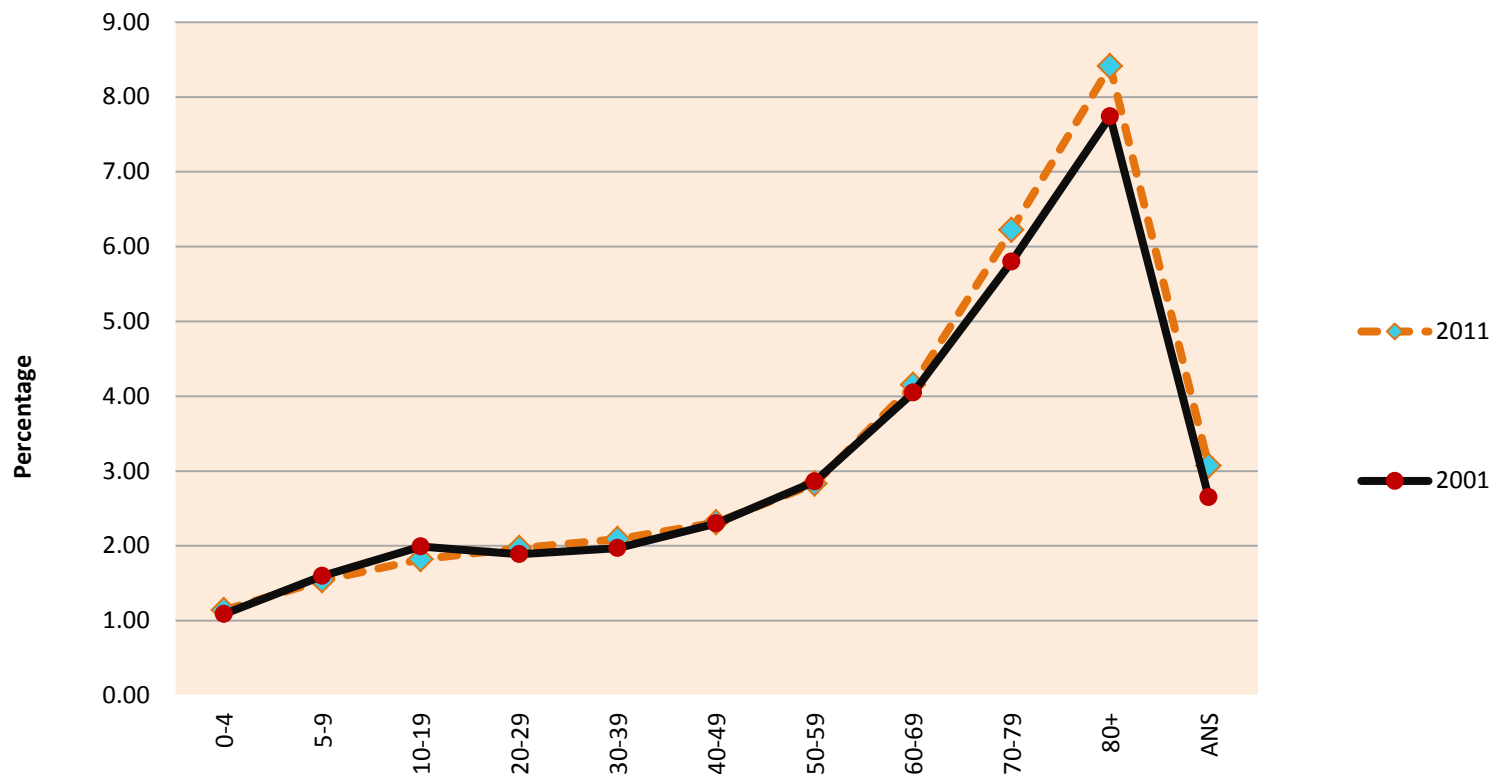
All Ages	2.21	2.41	2.01
0-4	1.14	1.18	1.11
5-9	1.54	1.63	1.44
10-19	1.82	1.96	1.67
20-29	1.97	2.22	1.70
30-39	2.09	2.41	1.77
40-49	2.31	2.66	1.94
50-59	2.83	3.16	2.47
60-69	4.15	4.41	3.89
70-79	6.22	6.26	6.19
80-89	8.41	8.33	8.48
90+	8.40	7.88	8.85
Age Not Stated	3.07	3.21	2.91

**Proportion of Disabled Population in
the Respective Age Group
India, 2011**



Proportion of Disabled Population in the respective age groups

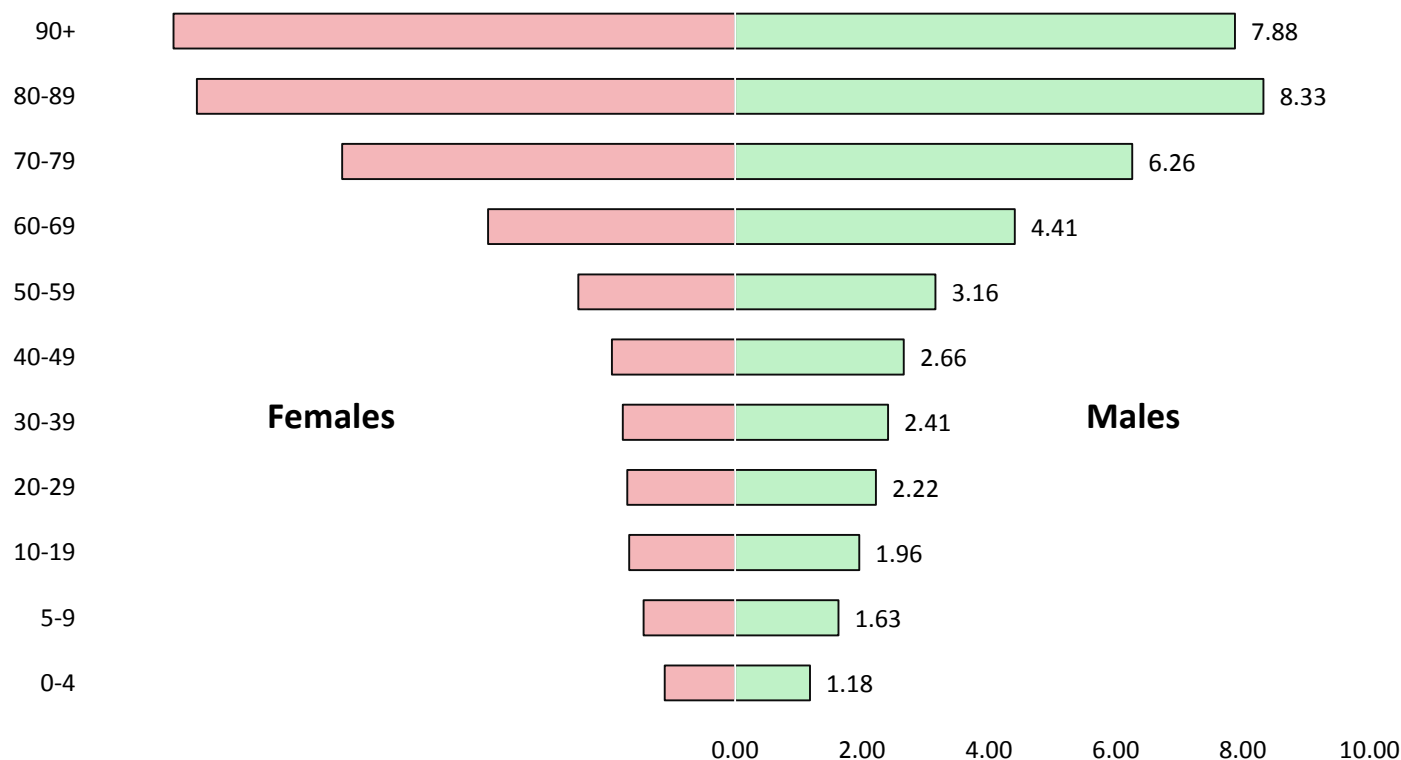
India : 2001-11



Proportion of Disabled Population in the respective age groups by sex India : 2011



(%)



- Disability among males is higher upto the age group 70-79
- Disability among females is higher thereafter

Legal Instruments

- **Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons. (1945)**
- **Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons. (1971)**
- **World Programme of Action. (1982)**
- **UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities. (1993)**
- **Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. (1992)**
- **Biwako Millennium Framework towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights based Society for Persons with Disabilities. (2002)**

Issues of Concern

- Disability as a reason for discrimination
- Lack of education opportunities both at the primary and higher levels
- Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities
- Lack of physical Access in the built infrastructure
- Lack of access to information in accessible formats
- Denial of rights to promotion and emoluments to those who do find employment
- Denial of reasonable accommodation in employment, education and so on
- Denial of access to most Civil and Political rights
- Marginalisation and discrimination faced by women with disabilities

Rights of the Differently Abled

- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2008**
- - is an [international human rights treaty](#) of the [United Nations](#) intended to protect the rights and dignity of persons with [disabilities](#).
- Parties to the Convention are required to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of [human rights](#) by persons with disabilities and ensure that they enjoy full [equality under the law](#).

Guiding principles of the Convention

- There are eight guiding principles that underlie the Convention:
 - Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
 - Non-discrimination
 - Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
 - Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
 - Equality of opportunity
 - Accessibility
 - Equality between men and women
 - Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities

Constitutional Framework in India

- **Article 15(1):** It enjoins on the Government **not to discriminate** against any citizen of India (including disabled) on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Article 15 (2):** It states that no citizen (including the disabled) shall be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition on any of the above grounds in the matter of their access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment or ...
- **Article 17:** No person including the disabled irrespective of his belonging can be treated as an untouchable. It would be an offence punishable in accordance with law

Constitutional Framework in India

- **Article 21:** Every person including the disabled has his life and liberty guaranteed.
- **Article 23:** There can be no traffic in human beings (including the disabled), and beggar and other forms of forced labour is prohibited
- **Article 24** prohibits employment of children (including the disabled) below the age of 14 years to work in any factory or mine or to be engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Constitutional Framework in India

- **Article 25** guarantees to every citizen (including the disabled) the right to freedom of religion. Every disabled person (like the non-disabled) has the freedom of conscience to practice and propagate his religion subject to proper order, morality and health.
- **Article 29(2):** The right to education is available to all citizens including the disabled. No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds.

Constitutional Framework in India

- Article 32: Every disabled person can move the Supreme Court of India to enforce his fundamental rights and the rights to move the Supreme Court.
- Article 41: **The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement**
- Article 45 of the Constitution directs the State to provide free and compulsory education for all children (including the disabled) until they attain the age of 14 years. No child can be denied admission into any education institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds

Constitutional Framework in India

- **Article 46: The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people ...**
- No disabled person owning property (like the non-disabled) can be deprived of his property except by authority of law though right to property is not a fundamental right. Any unauthorized deprivation of property can be challenged by suit and for relief by way of damages.
- Every disabled person (like the non-disabled) on attainment of 18 years of age becomes eligible for inclusion of his name in the general electoral roll for the territorial constituency to which he belongs.

Constitutional Framework in India

- Article 46: The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people ...
- Article 47 of the constitution imposes on the Government a primary duty to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and make improvements in public health - particularly to bring about prohibition of the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to one's health except for medicinal purposes.
- The health laws of India have many provisions for the disabled. Some of the Acts which make provision for health of the citizens including the disabled may be seen in the Mental Health Act, 1987

Various Acts

- **The Mental Health Act :** An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the treatment and care of mentally ill persons, to make better provision with respect to their property and affairs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992:** An Act to provide for the constitution of Rehabilitation Council of India for regulating the training of rehabilitation professionals and the maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register and for Matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act, 1995:
Focuses on Rights of the Disabled persons

Various Acts

- The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with autism, cerebral palsy, Mental retardation and multiple disabilities act, 1999: An Act to provide for the constitution of a body at the national level for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- National Policy for persons with disabilities: ***The National*** Policy recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

Various Acts

- **Marriage Act** : The rights and duties of the parties to a marriage whether in respect of disabled or non-disabled persons are governed by the specific provisions contained in different marriage Acts, such as the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, the **Christian Marriage Act, 1872** and the **Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1935**. Other marriage Acts which exist include; the **Special Marriage Act, 1954** (for spouses of differing religions) and the **Foreign Marriage Act, 1959** (for marriage outside India). The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 as amended in 1978 to prevent the solemnization of child marriages also applies to the disabled.
- **Succession Act, 1956** : provides that physical disability or physical deformity would **not disentitle a person** from inheriting ancestral property

Various Acts

- **National Building Code of India 1983 with proposed Amendments:** The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has issued a public notice proposing amendments to the Unified Building Byelaws, 1983.
- The notice seeks to identify the disabilities which include impairments that confine individuals to wheelchairs and "impairments that cause individuals to walk with difficulty or insecurity" and "individuals using braces or crutches, amputees, arthritics, spastics and those with pulmonary and cardiac ills".

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

- The Act, which catalogues the rights of people with disabilities in India, was passed by the Parliament of India on December 12, 1995, and notified on February 7, 1996.
- The Act was a landmark in that, for the first time, it stated that people with disabilities had the right to equal opportunities and full participation and that these rights would be protected by the law.
- The Act elaborates, at some length, duties of the government at various levels and the other establishments under their control.
- It also provides useful guidance regarding the type and nature of measure that would equalize opportunities for the enjoyment of basic rights and freedoms.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

- According to section 2(t) 'person with disability' means a person suffering from not less than forty per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority.
- Further, the meaning of disability is described in section 2(i) stating that disability means:
 - i. blindness;
 - ii. low vision;
 - iii. leprosy-cured;
 - iv. hearing impairment;
 - v. locomotor disability;
 - vi. mental retardation;
 - vii. mental illness.

Issue of disability certificate.

- The Act specifies the minimum degree of disability to be 40% to entitle a person with disability to the benefits under the Act.
- Authority to certify disability has also been specified. A medical board comprising three specialists from a government hospital can issue a disability certificate.

Right to Education

- Every Child with disability shall have the rights to free education till the age of 18 years in integrated schools or special schools.
- Appropriate transportation, removal of architectural barriers and restructuring of modifications in the examination system shall be ensured for the benefit of children with disabilities.
- Children with disabilities shall have the right to free books, scholarships, uniform and other learning material.
- Special Schools for children with disabilities shall be equipped with vocational training facilities.
- Non-formal education shall be promoted for children with disabilities.
- Teachers' Training Institutions shall be established to develop requisite manpower.
- Parents may move to an appropriate forum for the redressal of grievances regarding the placement of their children with disabilities.
- Government Educational Institutes and other Educational Institutes receiving grant from Government shall reserve at least 3% seats for people with disabilities.

Right to Employment

- 3% of vacancies in government employment shall be reserved for people with disabilities, 1% each for the persons suffering from:
 - Blindness or Low Vision
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Locomotor Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy
- Suitable Scheme shall be formulated for
 - The training and welfare of persons with disabilities
 - The relaxation of upper age limit
 - Regulating the employment
- Health and Safety measures and creation of a non- handicapping, environment in places where persons with disabilities are employed
- No employee can be sacked or demoted if they become disabled during service, although they can be moved to another post with the same pay and condition. No promotion can be denied because of impairment.

Affirmative Action

- Aids and Appliances shall be made available to the people with disabilities.
- Allotment of land shall be made at concessional rates to the people with disabilities for:
 - House
 - Business
 - Special Recreational Centres
 - Special Schools
 - Research Schools
 - Factories by Entrepreneurs with Disability,

Non-Discrimination

- Public building, rail compartments, buses, ships and air-crafts will be designed to give easy access to the disabled people.
- In all public places and in waiting rooms, the toilets shall be wheel chair accessible. Braille and sound symbols are also to be provided in all elevators (lifts).
- All the places of public utility shall be made barrier-free by providing the ramps.

Research and Manpower Development

- Research in the following areas shall be sponsored and promoted
- Prevention of Disability
- Rehabilitation including community based rehabilitation
- Development of Assistive Devices.
- Job Identification
- On site Modifications of Offices and Factories
- Financial assistance shall be made available to the universities, other institutions of higher learning, professional bodies and non-government research- units or institutions, for undertaking research for special education, rehabilitation and manpower development.

Social Security

- Financial assistance to non-government organizations for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- Insurance coverage for the benefit of the government employees with disabilities.
- Unemployment allowance to the people with disabilities who are registered with the special employment exchange for more than a year and could not find any gainful occupation

Grievance Redressal

- In case of violation of the rights as prescribed in this act, people with disabilities may move an application to the
- Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the Centre, or
- Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the State.

Case studies

- **Javed Abidi v. Union of India (1998)**
 - **the petitioner's grievance was that there was lack of facilities like providing aisle chair and ambulift by Indian Airlines.** The petitioner contended that it was a social obligation of the Airlines and the Airlines must provide these minimum facilities to permit easy access to the disabled persons, particularly those who are orthopaedically impaired and suffer from locomotor disability.
 - The major grievance of the petitioner was that Indian Airlines was not giving any concession to such disabled persons for their movement by air even though such concessions are being given to only blind persons, who are also disabled persons under the Act. **The Court held that those suffering from locomotor disability to the extent of 80% and above would be entitled to the concession from Indian Airlines for travelling by air within the country** at the same rate as has been given to those suffering from blindness on their furnishing the necessary certificate from the Chief District Medical Officer to the effect that the person concerned is suffering from the disability to the extent of 80%. (Article 32 of the Constitution) & PWD Act 1995

- **Dr. Vijay K. Agarwal vs. State of Rajasthan, 2001**
 - In this case, **Dr. Agarwal** approached the court seeking **admission to post-graduate course in medicine, based on educational concessions allotted by law to people with disabilities under the PDA**. The State of Rajasthan argued that the Central and State Coordinating Committees responsible for making policy decisions related to the implementation of the People with Disabilities Act had not yet been set up. The court adjudged the petitioner's request valid, and informed the state that the excuses that the Coordinating Committees had not been set up and that schemes had not been formulated were not sufficient reason for not complying with the Act.

- **Kunal Singh vs. Government of India**

- Kunal Singh had been a constable with the Special Services Bureau. While on duty, he suffered an injury to the leg. Gangrene set in and the leg had to be amputated. Singh was 'invalidated from service'. Ruling in his favour, the court drew attention to the clear provisions of the People with Disabilities Act, according to which "the employer shall not dispense with or reduce in rank an employee who acquires a disability during the service". (Section 47 of PWD Act)

- **Dr. Raman Khana vs. University of Delhi & Ors**

- In this case Raman Khana was suffering from Haemophilic Arthropathy of right knee causing 40% physical disability. He applied in Delhi University for a postgraduate course in Community Medicine.
- The Court held that reservation policy as per section 39 of the Act is also applicable to post graduate courses. Court further directed that Delhi University does not have power to insist that a person who have produced Medical Handicapped Certificate from any of the nine hospitals mentioned in the order dated 8/8/2002 should appear before a Medical Board constituted by the University. As there is only one candidate who has applied under physically handicapped category and whose certification shows that he is above 40% degree of disability. The court directed the MCI and Delhi University to reconsider the policy of disqualifying candidate with disability of the upper limbs for availing the benefits enshrined in the Disabilities Act. If this is not done it would directly offend section 39 of the Disabilities Act.

- **Anka Toppo vs. AIIMS**

- Anka Toppo aggrieved on being denied the right to take the examinations for MBBS final year, on losing sight, by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), approached the NHRC.
- The Respondent was of the opinion that “in view of the severe visual loss suffered by Shri Toppo, it would not be possible for him to work in the medical profession”. After great persuasion by the NHRC and on exposing the Respondent to numerous examples of blind people successfully pursuing medical profession, the Respondent finally agreed to take steps to examine the petitioner for the MBBS course by offering a modified methodology of examination.
- In the light of the experience of this case the NHRC at its sitting on 28 May 2001 expressed the view that the Medical Council of India should perform a similar exercise so that the same facility and system is available in other medical institutions of the country as well.

Final Thoughts

- Don't underestimate the potential of a person with a disability
- They have the same wants, needs, desires and dreams as everyone else
- The greatest thing we can do for a person with a disability is believe in them
- Focus on the ability not the disability.
- Fight those assumptions we make about people with disabilities (people in general)

It's About Being Human

- It is in interacting with people who are different from us that we grow as humans. People who learn differently, people who see things differently, people whose values are different... help us to grow.

Thank You