

Socio - Economic Conditions of Physically Challenged Persons- A Sociological Study – Need For an Integrated Policy Intervention

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Abstract- *This paper focuses on the Socio - economic condition of physically challenged persons and highlights the need to form an integrated approach to minimize the socio-economic pressure on physically challenged community. Physically challenged persons across India face several issues relating to social inclusion. The society reflects a wide rift as physically challenged persons face discrimination, deprivation besides they suffer from poor opportunities for their sustenance. They are deprived of opportunities to find a decent living which makes them permanently reliant of family members. Social exclusion leads to their economic deprivation and even though governments frame several policies for these physically challenged persons, the beneficiary is not always benefitted. The social inclusion of the physically challenged persons needs to be dealt with an integrated approach towards linking economic income penetration and through strengthening economic support system including all types of physically challenged persons.*

Indexed Terms- *physically challenged persons, Socio - Economic issues, social inclusiveness, policy intervention*

I. INTRODUCTION

The physically challenged persons suffer from various degrees of social, economic, administrative and political exclusiveness. The below listed inequities are often seen

sl no	type	Pattern of
1	Social Exclusiveness	Inherent social stigma leveraging the physically challenged has been so strong that society completely disregards the social needs of the physically challenged
2	Economic Exclusiveness	Poor support for physically challenged do not have access to economic resources. They lack suitable opportunities to involve in earning means to livelihood.
3	Administrative Exclusiveness	Physically challenged people suffer from representation in political offices and decision making instructions.
4	Fiscal Exclusiveness	Physically challenged people suffer from fiscal exclusion as the banking transaction pattern do not support them.

The law makers often forget to include physically challenged persons in the policy making process. Governments both central and state need to highlight policies which include not only up-liftmen of physically challenged persons through annuities, pension schemes, scholarships and fellowships but there is need for a strong inclusiveness in all policies.

Physically challenged persons suffer from discriminative economic opportunities and extremely underprivileged vocational support. Even though government has framed several imperative policies to address the imbalances in policies directed to reduce the issues of prejudice and disproportion the conditions of the physically challenged still remains unvoiced. Vocational guidance and vocational educational training support the issues of physically challenged persons

Physically challenged persons' needs and requirements are wide-ranging, dissimilar and varying as their physical challenges. Each physically challenged person's needs requirements are multi-dimensional and different. They regularly face predicament within the society and as well as within family circle.

The following issues are related to the sustainable living of the physically challenged

1.	Ever Mounting health checkup / medical / therapeutic expenditure
2.	Poor economic and financially viable support
3.	Lack of opportunities
4.	Lack of income generating occupational support
5.	Poor awareness about government schemes which are available
6.	Poor policy linking physical challenges
7.	Poor medical aid or poor timely health checkups
8.	Lack of insurance and indemnity coverage support
9.	Lack of opportunities in sports sector
10.	Reduced budgetary allocation for Physically challenged groups
11.	Poor cost effective health checkups or medicine provision

Strategies to involve the physically challenged persons - physically challenged persons suffer from discriminative economic opportunities and poor vocational support.

- Several Assistive support provisions

sl no	Assistive support provisions
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1	Provision for Tool kits
2	Provision for Computer programs
3	Provision for Educational resources
4	Provision for bench mark
5	Provision for NGO co-operation
6	Provision for allowing private –public partnerships
7	Provision for vocational training centers at all levels of education

- Vocational support - The Vocational training will include

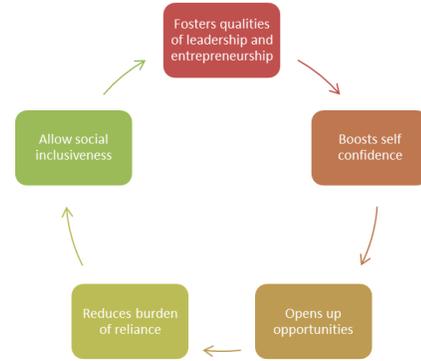
sl no	Assistive vocational support strategies
1.	Computer science related supportive training at schools and colleges
2.	Braille supported learning program kits and e-books
3.	User friendly computer applications specially designed for all types of disabled
4.	Separate libraries and information center at Higher education level
5.	Separate e- libraries supporting e- education
6.	Segregation of learning parameters & capacity building requirements
7.	Reviewing Physically challenged quota reservation policy in government jobs
8.	Integrating various schemes created of for Physically challenged

- Supportive strategies to make policies to social inclusiveness and empowerment
1. Empowerment through employability -Opening employment opportunities for physically challenged through specified job reservation
 2. Empowerment through bank transactions - Supporting with direct benefit payment methods through Establishment of a separate monitoring agency to look into the financial constraints for implementation of polices addressed to physically challenged persons.
 3. Empowerment through insurance coverage Widening the insurance coverage for all types of Physically challenged persons
 4. Empowerment through NGO partnerships- Augmenting government and NGO partnership for dealing with the issues of physically

challenged persons. Seeking the co-operation of the NGOs to identify the roots of the problems of the Physically challenged persons

5. Empowerment through local government authorities- The issues of the rural physically challenged persons is different from the urban physically challenged persons, hence local governments need to scrutinize the policy performance at all levels of policy implementation process.
6. Empowerment through budgetary allocation - Integrating budgetary allocation for Controlling the managing ombudsman approach to manage the vocational requirements of Physically challenged persons
7. Empowerment through integrated policies- Amalgamation of various policies directed towards up-liftment of physically challenged persons is necessary because the issues relating to empowerment are diverse and dissimilar across India. Each state has framed several schemes for their support
8. Empowerment through stakeholder's support- Seeking the co-operation of all stake holders to support the cause of addressing the issues of social exclusion and economic impediments. Root out initiative to discontinue social factors supporting impediments the proper growth of Uncovering the social impediments hampering the social inclusiveness of the Physically challenged persons through extending schemes for proper inclusiveness of the Physically challenged persons Directing society to open access to all types of Physically challenged persons .

Even though government has framed several imperative policies to address the imbalances in policies directed to reduce the issues of prejudice and disproportion. Vocational guidance and vocational educational training support the issues of physically challenged persons. This is show in a diagram



1. Fosters qualities of leadership and entrepreneurship -The qualities of leadership and entrepreneurship building is necessary for all types of physically challenged persons. This allows plenty of opportunities for physically challenged persons to involve in income generation economic activities and this also reduces reliance.
2. Boosts self-confidence -Vocational educational support instills in them a sense of satisfaction and confidence. Physically challenged people need supportive access to all types of economic activities and all stake holders have to feel accountability and contribute to support the physically challenged people honestly.
3. Opens up opportunities - physically challenged persons need support to Initiatives to re-design policies directed towards vocational training is the need of the hour. These policies need to reinstate self-confidence and open up opportunities for economic inclusiveness.
4. Reduces burden of reliance - physically challenged persons always suffer from reliance and dependability. Family and relatives do not show same degree of care and concern towards physically challenged persons. Some physically challenged person need 24/7 constant care taking. Relatives often show disregard and negligence. This regardless attitude of the kith and weakens the emotional performance of the physically challenged persons. This careless
5. Allow social inclusiveness - Physically challenged persons lack social inclusiveness as society segregates them emotionally and physically. A strong social stigma will be present in dealing with physically challenged persons. The reasons impeding the physically challenged

persons suffer from identity crisis as their voice is almost unheard in governing bodies. The political representation is very meager while their representation in policy framing local bodies is also very pitiable. Physically challenged persons also are denied access to social circles such as they are denied of marriage, normal conjugal relationship, general access to socializing, etc.

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CONCLUSION

Thus, it is imperative to focus on addressing issues of physically challenged persons through inclusive empowerment strategies. The issues faced by the physically challenged community are often excessively subtle and needs meticulous strategies to overcome them. All stake holders have to play a responsible role in dealing with social exclusion and economic impediments which are directly weakening the physically challenged community. A fuller representation of the issues of social segregation and economic barriers at all policy making level is needed. The roots of inequity, injustice, prejudicial behavior and poor access to vocational educational opportunities have to be rooted out and society has to be made safer place for all physically challenged persons. India is forging as an important economic power and globally the distinctiveness of India's heritage and historical legacy have shown that all human beings are one and any discrimination and intolerance is totally unsolicited. The uniqueness and individuality of each physically challenged person needs to be respected and felt by all stake holders.

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