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RELATIVITY OF DISABILITY: LANGUAGE AND CURRENT SCENARIO

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INTRODUCTION

Role of the language is very important aspect in the development of any social movement. The language needed for the development of the disability right movement has not been properly developed yet. "Particular phrases used for disability concern, majority of the languages in the world have become obstacle for the movement. For example, The phrase in English-language discourse, Like "Do not do it blindly' and The phrase in Hindi -language discourse like 'Pyarandhahotahai', All of which are not only propagates misconceptions of blindness But they are indicators and nutrients for the retrograde approach as well. If the ' Blindness' is a conceived concept from a biological perspective, then a person who does not have vision is blind. But 'Do not Do it blindly' here seems to be linked to foolishness in the sense of blindness. 'Loves is blind' means that the person who loves to lose consciousness, the sense of blindness in this expression is linked to madness or absurdity.



As RenuAddlakha stated, "As language is a key tool of oppression, naming is critical when a socially disadvantaged section of the population seeks recognition and rights. Analysis of key linguistic terms and the replacement of pejorative with more value-neutral and positive terms are essential preliminary steps in any movement towards collective self-affirmation and empowerment. The disability right movement has promoted a move away from a language of handicap towards a more empowering language that emphasis's self-determination and personhood. In the Indian context where political correctness is a prickly issue, the tendency is to use a mix of terms like 'differently-abled' , 'challenged', persons with disability' and 'child with special needs' in policy documents, media reports and even by disability activist."¹

Handicap, Disability, Impairment, Inability, Dullness, Deformity, Deficiency, Crippled. etc. All these words are used as alternatives to disability. These words seem to be one kind of incompleteness of the person than his or her ability. So, avoiding these words, The term 'Differently-abled' is more appropriate in this context. In short, Persons with disabilities are also abled but in different ways.

Physical disability can only make some types of limitations for the persons with disability in day to day activities but it does not create distortion in entire personality of the person. It is very true that the person with disabilities can't perform all those activities which the person with able body can do, for example the blind person does not perform with the activities visible in nature, without the help of others, legless man can't climb a mountain easily, Dumb person cannot work as telephone operator. Although all

these things are right but the term 'Inability' is a quite relative term in relation to what is to be done. It is the determination of environment that a disability creates an inability or not. "Padma Shri and Arjuna Award Winner Mrs. Deepa Malik is India's first women para-athlete to win a medal at the Paralympics, Rio, 2016. Having started her sports career at the age of 36, She is a chest below paralyzed lady, Has cut down all social norms to swim through every tide."² Deepa Malik has proven that physical limitations cannot deter a strong mind. By using artificial limbs or by using other tools, if the person is able to replenish the physical energy and if it is done successfully, then it does not make a sense of the inability.

The capacity or incompetence of that person is not dependent on the number of physical losses, If it is not making a sense of loss in a occupation, obstacle in social activities and any type of personal loss, then it will be not matter of incompetent. It is necessary to define that is the person is capable or not for the particular occupation or activity and then must be tried to decide for its capacity or inability. Deteriorating the feet of a clerk does not have any effect on his work as a practitioner, but a driver's foot may cause him a professional disability. If the vehicle is modified with artificial insemination, Then it also ends. There is no reason to believe that due to disability, the person is unable in the case of a particular business, It means he has been not unable to do so in other ways. In short, the impairment should not be imposed on the other side of the person's life.

'Henry Viscardi' in 1960's, founder of the factory 'Abilities Incorporate' has shown this relativity with great fun. All workers in this factory were different types of disabled, They decided to start a credit society. A government servant came to inquire about the license. Most of the work was done smoothly but in the end, The officer said, "There is doubt about whether the loan can be insured by this credit society, Because all the workers are disabled, Viskardi said, "Oh, you just sing a song with piano! The gentleman said, "I cannot sing a song. Viskardi said, "You say that you cannot sing, so you are too incompetent to work in the opera, you are almost as inappropriate to participate in baseball matches, and yet you do well in your work. We also have it. Although we cannot do some work but we are equally adept in some other activities and therefore we must also apply the rules that apply to others."³

There should be a difference between 'Impairment' and 'Disability'. Impairment is the primary than the disability. Disability is mainly related to a social framework. Dumbness is defiantly a impairment but in the spoken world, it becomes a severe disability. If there was a society of only dumb people then the intensity of disability would have been very low. Even when person accrued physical disabilities, all other capabilities are still in active mode. The problem of disability could be overcome by using various ideas, imagination, creativity and management, If the person have special levels of These qualities, Can be more efficient than general people.

The eminent psychologist, 'Alfred Adler' has expressed the opinion that "If one's body is weaker or defective, Then he will strive to win the situation. To fight with the situation, he invented new tools, proficient in studying those subjects. The reason for this is that fighting is a natural instinct of man. Many thinkers like 'Dean Eng' also mention it by the word 'Fighting instinct' or 'climbing instinct.'" ⁴ Even though the person has physical disability, There is no reason to lose his temper. On the contrary, it challenges the situation because of its challenges. Many visually impaired people in our country and their work is the best example of this tendency like S. K. Rungta, A founder of National Federation of the Blind, Delhi and well know advocate in Delhi high court; Dr, Sam Tarapurwala, Profesor and founder of St. Xavier's College Resource Center for Visually Challenged, Mumbai; Sanjay Jain, Lawer and professor in I.L.S. Law College, Pune; Rajesh Asudani, Assistant General Manager in Reserve Bank of India, Nagpur; Pranjali Patil, IAS Officer and Assistant Collector, Ernakulam; Krishna Gopal Tiwari, First visually challenged collector of country, Dhananjay Bhole, M.Sc., Bioinformatics, Academic coordinator Centre for Inclusive Education and Accessibility, Pune University and founder of a company Sugamya Digital Solutions and so many others

Accepting a humanistic approach, We as a healthy society have to think that the persons with disabilities are not disable but they are the differently -abled, Much more can be done in the direction of providing equal opportunities to PWDs in light of legal rights in the country of ours. I would like to share some examples here- Some years ago two visually challenged students, Mr. Krishna Tavale and Amol Chavan

came to me and asked for audio books. My college had very good library with more than two lacks of book but in print format. We decided to record audio books for them, At the end of the year we had taken a review of the work and found shocking results, Krishna and Amol had studied two hundreds and nine books in a year. Because of some facilitation more seven students were joined them. Inspiring from this we started a Resource Centre for Differently-abled with the facility of audio books library, Brail books library, Readers and writers club, Employment guidance sell Internet facility, etc. After five years we were able to give employment for forty five differently abled students in Government, Banking, Private and Self employment sectors. Krishna Tavale , Whose father is a driver on private vehicle and monthly earning was eight thousands rupees only. AmolChavan , whose father was land labour and was quiet earning seven to eight thousands monthly. Now both are working as class one officer in a reputed national banks and getting a salary more than fifty thousands monthly. Its not a upliftment of two visually challenged boys but is a upliftment of two families and their relatives as well. Above example proved that every person has different types of abilities, So nobody is disable , persons with disabilities are differently abled.

According to our constitution, They have all rights to live dignified lives as others. Our government has made necessary legal provisions, They can work, they can learn, they can become productive population of country, Only there is a need to understand and fulfill their special needs. But question is that how many colleges and universities, are accessible for differently-abled? Are our syllabus made disabled friendly? And answer is making us unhappy.

Education, Training and Rehabilitation of persons with disability is a key issues for their upliftment. Since long back disability right movement is straggling for this in our country. To understand the status of persons with disabilities in India some figures can speak itself- "The Census 2011 showed that, Only 61% of the disabled children aged 5-19 years are attending educational institution. 54% of the disabled children with multiple disabilities never attended educational institutions. Also, 50% of the children with mental illness never attended educational institution. Of the total disabled population, nearly 55% (1.46 Cr.) are literates. Among the total disabled persons, 45% are illiterates. Nearly 8.5% among the disabled literates are graduates. Illiteracy was high among female disabled in rural areas. The educational level of disabled persons is better in urban areas compared to rural." ⁵

For the empowerment of disabled population, the attainment of education and participation in economic activity are extremely important thing in any country of the world. Unfortunately we have to say that employment status of disabled population in India is also worried. The work status of disabled persons, By sex, By residence and by type of disability and the attributes of disabled non-workers is a not a part of this research work, I stated some of figures to understand the low employment ratio in the disabled community. "The Census 2011 highlighted that only nearly one third of the total disabled persons are working and two third of the total disabled persons are nonworking at all India level. In rural India only 25% of the female disabled are working, One in every 25 disabled children in the age group 0-14 years is working, near about 50 % disabled non-workers are dependent on their respective families." ⁶ In other words poverty is may issue in disability concern. One another important factor of life that we can use as a parameter to understand the status of disabled in India that is marriage. "The Census 2011 states, "that only 46.87% of the total disabled persons are currently married, whereas 41.72% are never married and 10.29% of them are widows." ⁷

The diversity in livelihood among PWD implies that there are a number of economically poor PWDs who are regarded as powerless and unlikely to leave their homes; however, there are also quite a few PWDs who are economically successful. The family members of the former group of PWDs assume that PWDs are incapable of doing anything and that they need to be protected at home. Those PWDs themselves believe their family members, assumptions and do not attempt to look for a way out. As a result, the poverty indicators of the PWDs were worse than of the whole society. So this is a reality of status of disabled in our country.

To under the sensitivity of the problem and potential of the positive thinking towards this issue, I would like to share one more my experience here. Some years ago a lady came to me with her thirty two

years old visually challenged daughter Reshama. When I knew her story of blindness, Me and my colleagues were shocked and realize that punishments are not given in prison only but there are many prisons in our society as well. In nineteen ninety seven Reshama was studying in standard twelve, when final examinations were going on she got flew and got infections in eyes after some days she lost her eyesight by both eyes. Unfortunately after this incidence her father was died within a year. Now there were three members in her family, her younger brother, her mother and she herself. Her mother was working as sweeper in a private hospital and earning rupees of three thousands, her brother was eighteen years old was working as auto driver to make up the expenses of house. Both her mother and brother were leaves home at seven o clock in morning and return at six o clock evening. Now there was a big question of the young beautiful blind girl where they have to keep her for hole day? During this period Reshma had been closed in own house atleast day minimum eleven hours.

I think it's always happen with blind girls in rural society, Though Reshama was living in district head quarter she was prisoner in her own house. Second half of these live stories hopeful. We have decided to admit Reshama in resource centre for differently able in our collage temporary and motivate her to join education again. Our volunteers Krushna and Amol brought permission from HSC board to appear her in twelve class, after long efforts of our team she has qualified twelfth exam, we sent her to Mumbai to gate training of mobility in NAB rehabilitation centre. She was trained how to gate mobility? How to cook? and so many thing, After that she has completed her graduation in our college. Recently she has married with a very gentle man who is also another type of disabled. Both are engage in provigenal store of their own. If we support them, They can do lot of more, This is our experience. So we appeal to every citizen do look positively and believe in their abilities to make the productive citizen of the country of ours.

The majority of disabled people are positive and happy people. Treat them like you would anyone else, people with disabilities are just people, and do not deserve or need to be coddled or treated differently. Treat them the way you would treat any other human being. Laugh, cry or be friends with them like the way you would any other friend. Ask if they need help before helping. We all have the right to be independent. Don't have pity on them, give them employment.

"Government of India has launched Accessible India Campaign, a flagship programme to create barrier free environment for Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2015. The campaign targets creation of Physical and virtual infrastructure truly accessible and inclusive for the persons with disabilities and for making public buildings, transport system and information communications technology accessible on a wide scale"⁸

On this background need to discuss a issue of transportation in rural parts of India. The physical environment plays a key role in the motivating the PWDs to participate in the community and in the society in general. The PWDs and their families' perception of safety for their PWD members relies heavily on the condition of the surrounding built and natural environment. In the rural localities, the common problem of PWDs is the difficulty of going though narrow, inaccessible paths that are muddy and slippery during the rainy season. There are no roads in remote area, only foot trails. One can only imagine the struggle a PWDs has to go though before he/she can go out to town. Its need of our to start the rural rehabilitation center under the government observation in remote areas.

"The Department of disability affairs is in the process of implementing a project viz. "Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities" with a view to create a national data base for persons with disabilities, and issue Unique ID card to each Persons with disability. The UDID initiative will provide a transparent mechanism for issuance of disability certificate besides helping the enforcing authorities to verify the authenticity of disability certificates for the purpose of delivery of benefits under various Government sponsored programmes/schemes. This would also enable the Government to have genuine and real time data on disability covering various aspects such as level of education, income /employment status etc."⁹ Speaking about the registration of PWDs in rural parts of India adhar card centers and setu centers can be promoted registration center for UDID with the economical help to the owner of the center on the particular amount basis of registration of per person.

The Government of India has launched National Action Plan for Skill development with the aims to cover 2.5 million persons with disabilities by the year 2022 through various stakeholders. To the fulfillment “ National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDc)”¹⁰ is not reached to the rural part of India. Its need to make a wider publicity of the government scheme and programmes by which skilled PWDs can develop their own businesses.

In short the concept of public private partnership can be use in the field of welfare of PWDs. Not only for financial purpose but for the actively participation of individuals as a volunteers in social platform.If a normal and trained person work for another single disabled person the scenario can be change with in short time. Government has to develop a proper mechanism to sensitizes and train the people on the various aspect of disability.

I would like to conclude this paper with two famous quotations of Rabindranath Tagore and Stephen Hawking respectively. “The problem is not how to wipe out the differences but how to unite with the differences intact.” (quoted in Alur) and “People with disabilities are vulnerable because of the many barriers we face: attitudinal, physical and financial. Addressing these barriers is within our reach and we have a moral duty to do so..... But most important, addressing these barriers will unlock the potential of so many people with so much to contribute to the world. Governments everywhere can no longer overlook the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities who are denied access to health, rehabilitation, support, education and employment and never get the chance to shine.”

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