

Empowerment and Well-Being of Disabled Women

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Abstract

The present paper attempts to highlight the concept of disability and empowerment especially among women population. The concept is difficult to define but has been defined variously, indicating the type of disability and its prevalence rate among women. Since, they are most vulnerable therefore; the factors contributing to their problems have been mentioned. The disabled are deprived of all opportunities and basic facilities like health, education, and employment are denied to them thus, problems and difficulties faced in attaining access to adequate housing, education, health, vocational training, and employment have been emphasized. Also, in the light of the same, the need to take into account and to address the concerns of women and girls with disabilities in order to make them empowered and integrate them into the mainstream are addressed. Programs especially for the disabled women to get empowered socially, economically at various levels by public and private institutions have been focused. The measures taken by international agencies like the International Labor Organization (ILO), United National Development Program (UNDP) and Central Government Plans, Skill and Training Development Projects so that women with disabilities can improve their daily living skills. The skill training creates opportunities in various sectors be it in education and training, employment and livelihood. But the disabled are poorest, there are issues like low access, low availability, overlapping and many others that needs to be resolved in order to make disabled women empowered more effectively.

Keywords: Disability; Empowerment; Skill; Training; Well-being

Introduction

Disability is a complex part of human condition and almost every individual might have experienced temporary or permanent impairment at some point of their life. Since, it includes terms impairments, activity limitation, and participation restriction, it is considered to be an umbrella term (Livermore, Stapleton, & O'Toole, 2011). The World Health Organization (WHO) defines disability as a complex and multidimensional concept. According to the World Health Organization, out of 1 billion disabled people, more than half are female. Although in India, the position of disabled women however differs to that of male. Historically, in most of the societies

women in relation to men had a very few opportunity to raise their voice and occupied a secondary position. The society has progressed and women stand equal to men. But the case is not same, when it comes to women with disabilities. The mainstream movement like women's movement and disability movement have not paid much heed to the needs of disabled women. They are not considered to have a productive part to play in society. Thus, the empowerment of disabled women becomes the need of the hour. (Disability News and Information Service, DNIS).

Problems of Disabled Women

Disabled women belong to disadvantaged group