

Universal Periodic Review - India

KEY ISSUES OF 120 MILLION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN INDIA

National Disability Network

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INTRODUCTION

India is the largest democracy in the world. According to Census 2011, there are 1.2 billion people in the country, out of which, about 833 million people live in rural areas¹. Census 2011 data on disability has not been announced yet. Based on the United Nations estimate that 10% of the population has a disability, there are about 120 million people with disabilities in India.

India has a written Constitution, which came into force on 26th January, 1950. It ensures for all its citizens equality before the law, non discrimination, fundamental freedoms and the right to life and liberty (Article 14, 15, 19 and 21 respectively of the Constitution). These Articles do not specifically refer to persons with disabilities but are general in nature. Article 41 states that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.

Additionally, there are four legislations specifically directed towards the protection, welfare, rehabilitation and development of people with disabilities—the Mental Health Act, 1987; the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992; Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation² and Multiple Disability Act, 1999. The definitions of disability given in the various Acts are overly restrictive and do not include people with all disabilities.

Under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 there are provisions for appointment of Chief Commissioner of Disabilities at the National level and State Commissioners at the State level to take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities listed in the Act. The Commissioners of Disabilities have not been effective, as they have limited power and the offices are poorly resourced. A full-time Chief Commissioner of Disabilities has not been appointed for the last two and a half years. The implementation of the existing laws has been dismal. There are National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commissions which too have been redressing grievances. There are various Courts which can be approached for issues related to violation of rights or discrimination. There are also specific Commissions for women, children, minorities, etc. These have not done much to address issues of persons with disabilities because of various reasons such as lack of awareness on the part of persons with disabilities; lack of knowledge and mindsets of officers in these

¹ Population Census 2011 <http://censusindia.gov.in/2011census/censusinfodashboard/index.html>

² The use of the term “mental retardation” is no longer seen as acceptable despite the name of this Act.

Commissions who think that the issues of persons with disabilities should be dealt by the Disability Commissioners; lack of accessibility and accommodation of the redress mechanisms.

Data on disability is mostly unavailable or inaccurate in the country and hence, resource allocation and facilities are highly inadequate. People with disabilities continue to be marginalised, discriminated, abused and suffer undue hardships. Systemic abuse and atrocities against people with disabilities continue to be rampant in the society at large.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PROGRESS

India signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on the very first day, when it was opened for signature i.e. on 30th March 2007 and ratified it on 1st October 2007. One of the major developments, post ratification, has been the decision of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to draft a new law on disability on the basis of CRPD. This was a direct result of advocacy by the disability sector. Other disability laws, like Mental Health Act, Rehabilitation Council of India Act and National Trust Act are also being reviewed.

The Indian Judiciary has started referring to CRPD to provide favourable judgements to persons with disabilities. For instance, the Supreme Court allowed a woman with intellectual impairment to continue with her pregnancy, taking into account her wishes, and thus, upheld personal autonomy and freedom of choice (Articles 3 and 23 of CRPD)³. Similarly, in another case, the Bombay High Court upheld the Government's obligation to provide assistive technologies as reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities working with the Government (Articles 4 and 27 of CRPD)⁴.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007 - 12) has made a specific mention of CRPD in the section on Disability. It states that "India being a signatory to CRPD, it is now obligatory upon us to incorporate the essence of the Convention in our planning, implementation, monitoring and review processes." Two of the major initiatives proposed in the Plan, i.e. setting up of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre and the Universal Design Institute have been recently announced. These should have a far reaching impact on improving accessibility for persons with disabilities in the years to come. The Department of Information and Technology has formulated guidelines for all official websites to be compliant to international Web Accessibility Standards⁵.

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTS OF CRPD (ARTICLE 33 AND 35)

India has not designated any Focal Point within the Government for matters relating to the implementation of CRPD. India has also not established any independent mechanisms or formulated a framework to promote, protect and monitor implementation of CRPD.

³ *Supreme Court, CA No. 5845 of 2009 with SLA No. 17985/2009 Suchita Srivastava & anr. V. Chandigarh Administration*

⁴ *Bombay High Court Gadgets Matter; WP 3294 of 2010 Nileema Anant Surve V. State of Maharashtra & ors.*

⁵ *Guidelines for Indian Government Websites* <http://web.guidelines.gov.in/default.php>

India has not submitted its State Report to the CRPD Committee even though more than two years have elapsed since the entry into force of the Convention.

KEY ISSUES

1. Neglect, Violence and Abuse

- In State-run Institutions

There are many instances of torture and abuse, resulting in deaths of people with mental impairment in the various State-run institutions in the country. Abuse and violence against women are especially high in these institutions. There are cases of wrongful or fraudulent confinement, overuse of shock treatment, solitary confinement, sexual exploitation, forced sterilisation, hysterectomies, abortions and denial of treatment. Many Psychiatric Units continue to use direct Electro-Convulsive Therapy (ECT) (commonly known as shock treatment) on persons with mental impairment.

In June 2010, newspapers in Maharashtra reported 3 independent suicide deaths in a public mental asylum. Just a few months before that, a homicide had been reported. Later the same year, in winter, 2 people died in the said asylum of the biting cold. In 2010, also, the Chennai police rounded up 300 homeless people from the streets and directly sent them to the Kilpauk asylum for treatment. The same year, in Karnataka, 40 people died within a beggars' home. In early January, 2011, headline news in Mumbai Mirror described the atrocities happening in Masina Hospital, a private asylum in Mumbai: how people were fraudulently committed, forced admissions, "overuse" of shock treatment and medication. (National Alliance on Access to Justice for persons living with Mental Illness)

- In Families and Community

Neglect and violence against people with disabilities is high in society. There is a lack of protection of people with disabilities from neglect, abuse, and harassment in families and communities. There are several cases where people have been chained, locked up, beaten, harassed, abused by family members, neighbours and people in the community. It mostly happens due to the absence of required support services for the families having members with severe disabilities.

On October 20, 2010, Headlines Today published a report, "Families chain mentally-ill members", in which they featured many people with mental illness who have been chained in their home for many years. Family members who were interviewed said, they did not know how to take care of them. They believed that they were "possessed by demon". They had not been given any psychiatric or other treatment/support. Some of them had epilepsy, and they had not been given treatment for even that. (More information on the report is available at: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/video/families-chain-mentallyill-members/1/117158.html>)

- **Lack of Support Services**

There are hardly any **support services** such as affordable and accessible health facilities, rehabilitation, food security, counselling, self help groups, etc. in the community for persons with disabilities. There have been instances where families have sent petitions to the President of India and the Chief Ministers, seeking permission for so-called “mercy killing” of their disabled children.

A couple in Uttar Pradesh had written a letter to the President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil seeking “mercy killing” of their four physically-challenged sons. (11th August 2009; One India News; <http://news.oneindia.in/2009/08/11/up-parents-seek-mercy-killing-of-4-disabled-sons.html>)

In another case, a poor farmer in a village in Bihar asked the State Government to grant permission for “mercy killing” of two sons with muscular dystrophy. (9th March 2011; NDTV, (<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/bihar-parents-seek-mercy-killing-for-two-sons-90358>))

These instances also show inadequate protection of the right to life by the Government, who should communicate this right to persons with disabilities and their families.

Most people with disability in the country do not even have the disability certificate that is required for them to get benefits from the Government. Disability is not taken properly into account while counting people Below Poverty Line (BPL). As a result, most people with disabilities are excluded from poverty alleviation measures or schemes.

Recommendations:

- Prevent and prohibit institutional violence and torture against people with disabilities.
- Prevent and prohibit inhuman, degrading and torturous treatments to people with mental impairments, like solitary confinement, direct ECT, ECT without choice, forced institutionalisation.
- De-institutionalise persons with disabilities with regulated phasing out of mental asylums through establishment of model services in the community in compliance with CRPD based on informed consent and choice.
- Create awareness about disability rights and training and sensitisation of service providers, administrative officials and families.
- Make the disability certification process easier and ensure all people with disabilities have easy access to getting a disability certificate.
- Create effective Social Security Schemes with adequate support to people with disabilities, and enhanced support for people with high support needs and families with more than one person with disability.

2. Education

People with disabilities remain the least educated in the country. There has been some effort on the part of the Government to increase the enrolment of children with disabilities in schools in the last few years. However, measures taken for providing the necessary support to retain them in schools and to provide education on equal basis with others, as provided in Article 24 of CRPD, have been minimal. There have been no measures taken to make physical infrastructure accessible or to bring about any systemic changes in terms of providing appropriate and flexible curriculum or changes in the examination system to fairly evaluate persons with disabilities.

Following are some data highlighting the issue:

- About 70% of children with disabilities have still not been identified after more than 10 years of implementation of the Education for All programme, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)⁶.
- About 28 States have appointed 12,629 resource teachers for 2,694,000 children with disabilities in schools⁷. On an average, 213 children with special needs are under one resource teacher!
- About 95.5% drop out after primary school (98.5% of children with severe disability, 95% of children with a moderate disability and 93% of children with a mild disability)⁸.
- Less than 0.5% of the books (curricular and co-curricular) published in India are in accessible formats (Braille, talking books, e-books, etc.).
- There are about 18 million deaf people in India and there are only 550 deaf schools, the majority of which are only till secondary education⁹.
- Deaf-blind children are not able to access educational services either in special schools or schemes like SSA. There are currently only three training centres in the country which train 60 teachers every year for an estimated deaf-blind population of 450,000.¹⁰

There are hardly any books available for visually impaired students in accessible formats and the few that are available are not provided on time, due to unavailability of adequate resources. Further, there are several restrictions for people with disabilities to take up subjects of their choice and for higher technical education.

Students are not provided with assistive devices other than the very traditional ones like wheelchairs, tape recorders, etc. and even those have limited reach and are of extremely poor quality.

The majority of children with high support needs, particularly children with intellectual impairment, multiple impairments and autism are not getting education of any kind. The Government is planning to provide them with 'home-based education'. The disability sector feels strongly that this proposed move goes against inclusion and is in direct violation of Article 24 of CRPD.

⁶ *The total child population of India is about 20 crores (200 million). Therefore, even if we take the conservative estimate of 5% of population as being persons with disability (as per XI Five Year Plan document), the number of disabled children would be about 1 crore (10 million). The number of children with disabilities identified under SSA is only about 30 lakhs (3 million) (SSA website - Table - Progress on Inclusive Education 2009-10)*

⁷ *Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) Annual Report 2010-11; Pg 294*

⁸ *National Sample Survey of India (NSS), 58th Round (2002)*

⁹ *National Association of the Deaf (NAD)*

¹⁰ *Sense International*

Recommendations

- Legislative changes are needed to make education laws and policies in line with Article 24 of CRPD.
- More resources have to be allocated for inclusive education.
- All children, including those with high support needs, should enjoy their right to attend school on equal basis with others. The proposed plan of the Government to provide them only home-based education should be dropped.
- Educational reforms are needed to ensure proper inclusion of people with disabilities keeping diverse needs in focus.
- Training of all teachers in inclusive education should be planned, budgeted for and conducted on an urgent basis.
- Review and remove all laws, regulations and circulars that bar, restrict or hamper students with disabilities from pursuing their choice of subjects.

3. Employment

Employment is a major concern for persons with disabilities. Most people with disabilities are either unemployed or under-employed in the country. Article 16 of the Constitution, which is on equality of opportunity in employment, does not mention disability as a protected group.

Currently, there is identification of only certain jobs in the Government and Public Sector as suitable for persons with disabilities, which is discriminatory and in violation of Article 3 of CRPD, which emphasises freedom of choice.

People with certain disabilities are not even considered employable by the laws in the country. Reservation in jobs is provided to only people with orthopaedic, hearing and vision impairment. People with other disabilities such as intellectual impairment, psychosocial impairments, autism, learning disabilities, deaf-blindness and multiple disabilities are totally excluded from the job market. There is rampant discrimination in the Private Sector. Most companies do not employ people with disabilities. There is neither a reservation system nor an anti discrimination law in the country that prevents discrimination in the private sector.

“I am a well qualified person and am doing extremely well in my academics. I cleared all the selection rounds for a job in a well known company, which had come to our campus for placements. I was not given the offer letter because of my disability. I have written several mails to them. They are not answering.” – A management student with low vision from a premier institute shared this information with Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre (DEOC)

“Those who have 'come out' (disclosed their mental illness) are discriminated and asked to leave their jobs as many laws/policies use the term 'unsound mind'.” – Reshma V, Red Door

For enhancing livelihood security for people in the rural areas, the Government enacted the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005, which guarantees 100 days of waged employment in a financial year to a rural household. The Scheme specifically mentions disability¹¹. However, its implementation leaves a lot to be desired. In the year 2011-12, 999,211 persons with disabilities were registered, out of which only 16,436 were given work under the Scheme, creating 121,121 person days¹²! While each person was supposed to be given work for 100 days in a year, the average person days for persons with disability, as per this data, is only 7 person days in a year. Most people with disabilities who have applied under this programme have not been given work, which is a direct violation of the Act.

Recommendations

- Legislative changes to make Employment laws and policies in line with Article 27 of CRPD.
- Strong Anti Discrimination Law in the Country with respect to employment in public and private sectors.
- Amendment of Article 16 of Constitution to include disability.
- Enforcement of reservation in employment and speedy filling up of the existing backlog in the Government.
- Government support for assisted employment for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

4. Accessibility

Lack of accessibility is a major barrier for the full participation of persons with disabilities. The majority of people with disabilities are confined to their homes because they are unable to access any of the public places, transportation or services.

People with mobility and communication challenges find it extremely difficult to exercise not only their socio-economic rights but also their civil and political rights, as the existing infrastructure for redress - Courts, police stations, etc. - are inaccessible for persons with disabilities. It is very difficult to register cases of violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women, even though the country boasts of a Domestic Violence Act.

“I explained to the Police that I was a wheelchair user, who lived alone and neither did I have a car nor was the public transport system accessible to me, hence, I could not come to the police station physically (to file a First Information Report). The final verdict was that either I rush to the police station now to get investigation started or just forget about my handbag. Of course going to the police station was not possible so I had no option but to forget about my handbag. The issue here is not of my losing my handbag, but the inaccessibility for me as a disabled person to the police services.” - Shivani Gupta, AccessAbility

By and large, there are hardly any regulations with respect to accessibility in the country. There are a few regulations, such as Building Bylaws, which mandate accessibility in public places. However, their implementation and enforcement remain very poor. Footpaths, roads, common public

¹¹ NREGA Operational Guidelines 2008 state, “If a rural disabled person applies for work, work suitable to his/her ability and qualification will have to be given. This may also be in the form of services that are identified as integral to the programme.”

¹² Status Report for XII Plan by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (2011)

transport, etc. are not only inaccessible but can also be unsafe for people with disabilities. The infrastructure development programmes do not include disability. For instance, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a flagship programme for modernising cities, does not have a specific mention of disability.

“I live in a reasonably good locality in Bangalore. In the last two years or so, several new departmental stores, restaurants, nursing homes, dental clinics, temples, bakeries and parlours have come up. None of these are accessible to me. The places that we use on a daily basis remain terribly inaccessible.” - Seetha Chari, wheelchair user

“My colleague's daughter was denied haircut by a Hair Salon giant by showing reason that she has autism.” - Gopinath S. Manian's update on Facebook on 30th September 2011

“We are refused entry into temples because of our disability.” - Meenakshi B., Vidya Sagar

Access to information is also a major concern for people with disabilities. There are no voice announcements, audio descriptions, information in Braille and accessible formats, tactile clues, etc. for people with visual impairments to access public places and services. Most websites cannot be accessed by people with disabilities, particularly by people with visual impairment.

“India used to have accessible coins and currency. However, over time, with modernisation, India now has undistinguishable coins making them inaccessible to persons with disabilities.” - Kanchan Pamnani, Access India

Deaf people also find it extremely difficult to access public services. There are no Sign Language interpreters, appropriate signages and information in public places. There are no captions in television programmes. Deaf-blind and other people with communication disabilities find it difficult to interact with public officials, say, police officers, judges, bankers, etc. to get any of their rights and entitlements. Sign Language has not been recognised as an official language in the country¹³. There are only about 250 Sign Language interpreters in the entire country for as many as 18 million deaf Indians. There are no posts for Sign Language interpreters.

Disaster Preparedness measures for persons with disabilities are highly inadequate in the country. The Disaster Management Act does not mention needs of persons with disabilities in the event of any disaster. Access to emergency services, such as ambulance, fire engine, police, etc. for persons with disabilities have not been given due priority. Most of these services have to be accessed telephonically (by dialling 100, 101, 102, etc.) and there are no alternative methods for persons with speech, hearing and communication disabilities to contact these. These numbers are not known to majority of people and sometimes, these numbers vary from State to State. Even if one wants to access these services in person, there are many barriers - physical, communication and attitudinal.

Recommendations

¹³ *The Constitution of India has recognised 22 languages as official languages of India.*

- Strict and time bound rules for creating accessible environment in all public spaces (owned by private and public sectors), workplaces, schools, universities, currencies, banking, etc.
- Recognise Indian Sign Language as one of the official languages.
- Internet and media should be made accessible for people with disabilities.
- Provide accessibility and reasonable accommodation to ensure people with all disabilities are able to access justice (police service, legal service, redress mechanisms, courts, etc.)
- Appropriate measures, including legislative, to support people with disabilities during disasters/emergency situations. The emergency numbers should be made accessible.

5. Political Participation

Some persons with disabilities (people with so-called “unsoundness of mind”¹⁴) are not allowed to vote, stand for elections or hold public office, as per Article 326 of Constitution of India and Representation of People’s Act. Some State laws bar people with leprosy and deafness to participate in elections and hold public offices. For instance, Panchayati Raj Act 1994 of Tamil Nadu bars persons with “unsound mind” or “deaf mute” to contest in the elections.

“A person with hearing impairment's nomination for the upcoming elections (2011) has been rejected on the ground that she is deaf!” - Tamil Nadu Handicapped Federation Charitable Trust

Though there are judicial orders for making polling booths accessible for persons with disabilities and for ensuring secret ballot for persons with visual impairments, these have not been fully implemented even after eight years. Some persons with disabilities are not allowed to form organisations/associations as per the Contract Act 1872.

Election related materials, like the manifestos of various political parties, pamphlets, etc. are not accessible for people with disabilities. There are no Sign Language interpreters in public speeches and rallies.

Recommendations

- Review and amend laws to ensure full citizenship and participation of people with disabilities in the democratic process of the country.
- Implement and monitor Court Orders related to making polling booths accessible for people with disabilities.
- Information related to elections should be accessible for people with disabilities.

6. Legal Capacity

Over a hundred civil laws in the country, including the Constitution, deprive persons with “unsound” mind of their rights and legal status. People with certain disabilities cannot open a bank account, take loans, enter into Contract, be married, own properties, decide on having children, choose the kind of medical treatment they want, etc. People of “unsound” mind are not allowed to represent themselves, give evidence or bear witness before a Court of law. Such a person accused of a crime remain in prison for inordinately long periods of time without having access to justice.

Recommendations

¹⁴ “Unsoundness of mind” is a very vague term. People with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, or autism, multiple impairments/communication difficulties are denied opportunities citing this term.

- Abolish plenary guardianship and establish procedure for supported decision making in the community
- Abolish discriminatory legal provisions and make constitutional amendments.

7. Health

Persons with disabilities do not have accessible, affordable and good quality health care in India. Most medical professionals are ill informed about disability and do not provide correct information, diagnosis and treatment. Misleading persons with disabilities and their families is quite rampant. Hospitals, clinics, primary health centres are often inaccessible for persons with disabilities. Only about 6% people with disabilities have access to rehabilitation programmes in the country¹⁵. The flagship health programme, 'National Rural Health Mission' does not include access to health for persons with disabilities. Most persons with disabilities are denied health insurance. Many persons with disabilities have been denied medical treatment in hospitals citing reasons like inaccessibility, not having adequate human resources or suitable equipments, inability to communicate or they totally dismiss persons with disabilities by saying that "you are making it up"!

Community based rehabilitation services are not available in most parts of the country. The Ministry of Health focuses only on prevention of impairments and not much on rehabilitation. Mental Health Programmes are very poorly implemented in the country. There is a huge dearth of human resources to provide necessary health and rehabilitation services in the country.

Recommendations

- Ministry of Health should include the rights of 'access to health services' and 'rehabilitation for persons with disabilities' as part of their area of work and allocate appropriate funds for the same.
- Health Insurance should be provided to all people with disabilities.
- Curriculum of medical and paramedical courses should include disability rights and rehabilitation information.
- Appropriate training should be provided to medical/health services professionals and providers.

8. Issues of Conflict Areas

People with disabilities in conflict areas in the country face extreme violations of right to life, liberty and security. Armed conflict and extensive use of non-lethal weapons in civilian areas creates a variety of physical traumas, health problems and severe disabilities among men, women as well as children. There are no supports of any kind available in these places for people with disabilities. There is an overall breakdown of civil and political rights in these areas, including right to freedom of expression, political participation, privacy, integrity, etc.

"There is a huge underestimation of persons with disabilities in the State. There is only one centre for rehabilitation and one psychiatric hospital in the entire State." - Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline, Jammu and Kashmir

¹⁵ *Rehabilitation Professionals in Public Health Systems - An Initiative to Reduce Vulnerabilities for Disadvantaged Communities by Satish Mishra, Handicap International.*

Recommendations

- Strengthen the peace process and redress systems in the region on equal basis with others in India.
- Announce a focussed programme in conflict areas for persons with disabilities for providing rehabilitation, training and employment.
- Implement Article 11 of CRPD and protect and assist persons with disabilities in situations of risk.
- Implement the UNHCR 2010 ExCom conclusion on protecting and assisting persons with disabilities.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. India should ensure participation of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and people with disabilities in decision/policy making, implementation and monitoring CRPD.
2. India must ensure for all its persons with disabilities protection from violence and abuse through legislative and other appropriate measures, including making the existing mechanisms for human rights inclusive for people with disabilities.
3. India must expeditiously amend its laws and bring them in line with CRPD, and designate a Focal Point for monitoring CRPD.
4. India must amend its statutes that bar people with certain disabilities from exercising their Civil and Political Rights.
5. India must ensure that the obligations on accessibility of public places, services, transportation, information and justice are implemented in a time bound manner and that immediate steps are taken.
6. India must commit to Inclusive Education and ensure that the education system is geared to meet the needs of people with different disabilities.
7. India must formulate adequate social security measures which should take into account the additional disability costs.
8. India must ensure that no direct Electro-Convulsive Therapy (ECT) is given to anybody and under any circumstance. Ensure that the penal laws are amended to punish those who violate this requirement.
9. India must set up Support Systems for people with disabilities to live independently in the community; to access justice and other rights.

10. India must recognise Sign Language as an official language and include it in Schedule 8 of the Constitution.

PREPARATION OF THE UPR REPORT

This Report has been prepared by National Disability Network, which comprises of disability NGOs, DPOs and persons with disabilities from all the 35 States and Union Territories of India.

Consultation for drafting this Report was held at the Workshop, 'Monitoring CRPD Implementation' organised by International Disability Alliance (IDA) and National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) from 7th to 10th November 2011 in New Delhi, which was attended by select 30 disability leaders, representing different disabilities and regions of the country.

The organisations that participated in the preparation of this Report are listed below (in alphabetical order):

1. Aarth Astha
2. AccessAbility
3. Access India
4. Bapu Trust for Research on Mind and Discourse
5. Deaf Enabled Foundation
6. Disabled Rights Group (DRG)
7. Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre (DEOC)
8. Handicap Development Foundation Manipur
9. Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline
10. Indian Women's Recovery Movement
11. Inclusive Planet
12. Karnataka Angavikalara Rajya Okkutta
13. Muskaan /Parents' Association for the Welfare of Children with Mental Handicap
14. National Alliance on Access to Justice for persons living with Mental Illness
15. National Association of the Deaf
16. National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)
17. Network of Persons with disAblities Organisations (NPdO)
18. Red Door
19. Sense International (India)
20. Sound Minds Inc.
21. Tamil Nadu Handicapped Federation Charitable Trust
22. Vidya Sagar