



EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN TELANGANA STATE

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Abstract

In this paper, an attempt is made to thoroughly review the status of differently abled persons, in terms of the population in the state of Telangana and in India. Further, the paper discusses in depth about the skill development and entrepreneurial opportunities been provided at Central level and district level for the empowerment of differently abled persons. The study is based on the report of Central Government, State Government and NGOs. The paper discusses more about the schemes that are directed for the empowerment of differently abled persons, number of beneficiaries benefited, objectives of the program and the skill development centres and Corporations functioning for the betterment of differently abled persons. The paper further specify about the need about the empowerment of differently abled persons.

Key words: Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, PwDs, Skill Development, Social Security.

1. Conceptual Understanding on Disability

The definition of the population with disabilities is a key element in the design of a data collection activity, for it sets the scope and coverage of the whole data collection process. From the conceptual point of view, there is no universal definition of what constitutes a disability or of who should be considered as having a disability.

Moreover, there is no one static condition of disability. A disability is a result of the interaction between a person with a health condition and a particular environmental context. Individuals with similar health conditions may not be similarly disabled or share the same perception of their disability, depending on their environmental adaptations. For example, having access to technical aids, services or medication, or physical adaptation to the environment may allow individuals to overcome their disabling conditions. Disability is not an all-or nothing phenomenon but involves degrees of difficulty, limitation or dependence, ranging from slight to severe.

2. Need and Importance of Empowerment of Disabilities

There are ample reasons for developing a sound national disability statistics. Information on their socio - demographic profile is essential for welfare of disabled persons. Information about their functional status is important to identify needs since two individuals with the same impairment may face different types of difficulties in undertaking certain activities, and so have different needs that require different kinds of interventions.

Functional status data is essential for determining the broader social needs of persons with disabilities, such as provision of assistive technology for use in employment or education or broader policy and laws. Population disability data is essential for monitoring the quality and outcomes of policies for persons with disabilities. In particular, these data help to identify policy outcomes that maximize the participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life from transportation and communication, to participation in community life.

Finally, with complete and reliable disability statistics, state agencies will have the tools for assessing the cost-effectiveness of policies for persons with disabilities, which in turn can provide the evidence to persuade governments of their ultimate benefit for all citizens.

National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2006) recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full 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. To facilitate the national objective, there is a need for collection, compilation and analysis of data on disability.

A number of International commitments and guidelines came into effect in the recent past targeting the welfare of the disabled persons. India is a signatory to the 'Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific Region' (2000). India has ratified the 'UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities' (2008). India is also a signatory to the 'Bamako Millennium Framework '(2002) for action towards an inclusive, barrier free and rights based society. The Sustainable Development Goals (2015) pledges for 'leaving no one behind'. Recognizing that the dignity of the human being is fundamental, the SDGs wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. The implementation and monitoring of these international commitments demand sound database of disabled persons.

3. Objectives and Methodology

The paper primarily aimed to understand the scenario of Differently abled persons with the country with special emphasis on skill development and Entrepreneurship facilities in the state of Telangana. More specifically, the paper aimed to address the following objectives.

1. To study the facilities been provide for Differently abled persons by Government of India.
 2. To evaluate the skill development initiatives adopted for the differently abled persons by the state of Telangana.
 3. To analyze the role and activities directed towards the empowerment of differently abled persons.
- The required data for the paper is collected from the reports of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, National Skill Development Corporation and reports of State level Corporations working for the differently abled persons.

4. Results and Discussion

The detailed results obtained from the reports accessed from State level and Central level Ministries, Departments and associated Corporations, Centres are summarized and presented here.

A) Empowerment of Differently abled by Government of India

As per the Persons with Disabilities could be as high as 5 - 6% of India's total population. The Government of India has been proactive in terms of empowering the differently abled. Several schemes and acts have been framed to ensure that they have plenty of opportunities to become self reliant. Some major milestones in ensuring that Persons with Disabilities are assured a life of dignity and self sufficiency are the enactment of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act) in 1995, adoption of in 2006 and signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) by India in 2007. The Government is presently in the process of making comprehensive amendments to the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995, to make it more inclusive and in keeping with international conventions.

B) Schemes and Initiatives offered By Government of India

From providing aids and appliances, scholarships, awards and monetary benefits to reservations in government jobs and incentives for private employers to promote employment of such persons, the government's approach has been multifaceted. The endeavour is to ensure overcoming the restrictions imposed by their condition and allowing them to lead a normal, self reliant life. Some schemes for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and concessions offered by the government are:-

1. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)
2. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities



3. Scheme of National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
4. Scheme of National Scholarships for Persons with Disabilities
5. Schemes arising out of the Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
6. Scheme for providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector - Incentives to the Employers
7. Conveyance Allowance
8. Income Tax Concessions
9. Reservation of Jobs & Other Facilities For Disabled Persons
10. Financial Assistance to Person with Disabilities
11. Equal Insurance Benefits

C) Statistics on support of Persons with Disabled by Government of India

Improving vocational training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities is a critical element for enhancing the quality of life for individual with disability, their families, but there are also substantial gains for the broader economy. There are substantial costs to individuals and to society associated with these poor employment outcomes for persons with disabilities. The World Bank considers that leaving persons with disabilities, outside the economy, translates into a foregone GDP of about 5% to 7%. In addition to the individual and family benefits, there is also a strong economic imperative to increased labour force participation which will help to address country's shortage of skilled labour force, while at the same time reducing fiscal pressures associated with welfare dependency.

The existing Skill Training Landscape for PwDs National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

1. Vocational training courses offered by National Institutes of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and its affiliate organisations like National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Trust etc. Ministry of Labour and Employment supervising more than 20 Vocational
2. Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCHs), more than 10,000 ITIs and more than 1000 Employment Exchanges. Technical and Vocational courses, being offered through Community colleges,
3. IITs and Universities, affiliated with Ministry of Human Resources Development. NGOs focusing on vocational training and skill development.
4. Private sector training organizations: Under the CSR initiative, many organizations have done exemplary work. Public Sector Undertakings have also contributed substantially to vocational training of persons with disabilities.
5. National Rural Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Rural Development.
6. National Urban Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Urban Development.
7. Vocational training / livelihood programs of other Central Govt. Ministries and State Governments

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy has said that the Government endeavours to ensure that skilling needs of differently abled persons are taken care of through various skill development programmes. In order to provide employable skills to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the following measures have been taken:-

- a. Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) run by various training organisations under the scheme of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS).
- b. Skill Training programme is being conducted by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC), a Public Sector Undertaking and seven National Institutes under the administrative control of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.



- c. 21 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Labour and Employment located at various parts of the country.
- d. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities have entered into a partnership by signing an MoU for skilling in PwD sector.
- e. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana targets to train 50,000 Persons with Disabilities.
- f. A Sector Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities has been set up to develop standards for job roles for Persons with Disabilities and their training, assessment and certification. The Council has identified 6 Qualification Packs based on the suitability of 19 disabilities.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha today the Minister said, In order to create employment opportunities for Persons with Disabilities through self-employment, financial assistance is provided to them through National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFD). The number of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) availing such assistance during the last three years which is on an increasing trend is given in table-1.

Table-1, Year wise financial assistance provided to PwDs

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
No. of PwDs	13296	13312	14703

Source: Department of Department of Disability Affairs, Government of India.

D) Status of Differently Abled person in Telangana

According to Census 2011 statistics, the differently abled persons in Telangana is about 43 lakh which is equals to 12.2 percent of the total population, i.e., 3.52 crore population. As per Census 2011, in India, out of the 121 Cr population, about 2.68 Cr persons are 'disabled' which is 2.21% of the total population. In an era where 'inclusive development' is being emphasised as the right path towards sustainable development, focussed initiatives for the welfare of disabled persons are essential. This emphasises the need for strengthening disability statistics in the Country.

Figure-1 presents the disabled population in the state of Telangana. From the figure, it is to interpret that, highest number of disabled are situated in Hyderad and RangaReddy districts. Whereas the least number of disabled are situated in Nizamabad District. Further, Rural are wise highest number of disabled are situated in rural areas of Mahabubnagar district. Urban area wise, highest number of disabled people is situated in Hyderabad district.

Figure-1: Disabled Population by Sex and Area, 2011 Census
DISABLED POPULATION BY SEX AND AREA, 2011 CENSUS

Sl. No.	District*	Rural			Urban			Total			(in Nos.)
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Adilabad	30,310	26,636	56,946	10,359	8,237	18,596	40,669	34,873	75,542	
2	Nizamabad	28,428	25,746	54,174	6,473	5,296	11,769	34,901	31,042	65,943	
3	Karimnagar	48,794	42,924	91,718	12,710	10,394	23,104	61,504	53,318	1,14,822	
4	Medak	29,803	24,779	54,582	7,409	5,656	13,065	37,212	30,435	67,647	
5	Hyderabad	-	-	-	96,038	81,871	1,77,909	96,038	81,871	1,77,909	
6	Rangareddy	29,578	24,404	53,982	63,994	53,095	1,17,089	93,572	77,499	1,71,071	
7	Mahabubnagar	50,698	44,317	95,015	7,129	5,638	12,767	57,827	49,955	1,07,782	
8	Nalgonda	44,353	36,834	81,187	8,097	6,688	14,785	52,450	43,522	95,972	
9	Warangal	36,603	31,044	67,647	11,187	8,644	19,831	47,790	39,688	87,478	
10	Khammam**	34,678	31,838	66,516	8,772	7,368	16,140	43,450	39,206	82,656	
	Total	3,33,245	2,88,522	6,21,767	2,32,168	1,92,887	4,25,055	5,65,413	4,81,409	10,46,822	

Source: Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

Note: **Data includes population of Khammam district transferred to residual AP, and * erstwhile districts.



E) Provision of Educational Assistance to Differently Abled in Telangana

Disabled Persons Welfare Educational Institutions to ensure socio-economic advancement and all-round development of persons with disabilities, the government has made available five residential schools for those students who have hearing and/or visual impairments. To ensure access, both pre and post metric scholarships have been made available. Furthermore, to enable quality access to education, a centre has been established in Hyderabad to train teachers via D.Ed and B.Ed programs in Special Education.

F) Skill Development of Differently Abled persons in Telangana

In order to identify the differently abled, the Government of Telangana has constituted Medical Boards in the state for issue of medical certificates to differently abled persons. Further, the Rural Development Department in collaboration with Department of Disabled Welfare, Medical & Health have evolved a scientific computer aided disability assessment strategy with the help of Government for the assessment of degree of disability through software called as SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disability for Access, Rehabilitation & Empowerment). The Correctional surgeries, therapies, appliances are being provided to the children with disabilities as early intervention to avert disability and reduce degree of disability. The Government of Telangana through its department for disabled welfare, has been actively organizing the activities for not only providing financial assistance, but also very keen to empower the differently abled persons. The activities been conducted by the Department are:

- a. Identification of the Disabled and issue of Medical certificates
- b. Early Intervention and Rehabilitation
- c. Education
- d. Human Resource Development
- e. Training
- f. Employment
- g. Economic Rehabilitation
- h. Social Integration
- i. Social Security
- j. Empowerment
- k. Barrier free environment
- l. Welfare of Senior Citizens
- m. Grant-in-aid to NGOs for the welfare of disabled and Senior Citizens.

G) Role of Telangana Vikalaungula Co-operative Corporation

The year 1981 was declared as the international year of the disabled and hence the state government decided to establish Finance Corporation for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities and accordingly established the APVCC with headquarters at Hyderabad. The main objective of the Corporation are to formulate, promote and implement various welfare schemes for the rehabilitation/ improvement of the living conditions of various differently abled persons and also to provide aids and appliances, assistive devices, financial and technical assistance to the differently abled persons, group of such persons and organisations involved in activities on the rehabilitation and welfare of such persons.

The Corporation is managed by a Board of Directors headed by Chairman appointed by the Government and Other Members. The term of the board is two years and the Corporation is run as per the bylaws approved by the complaint authority as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 the APVCC divide into two entities as APVCC and TVCC. The TVCC is functioning from 02.06.2014 onwards exclusive for Telangana. It is first of its kind in the Country for physically challenged persons. The TVCC is also acting as state channelizing agency (SCA) for NHFDC, Government of India and other developmental functionaries to provide economical assistance for eligible disabled persons for their economic rehabilitation and monitoring utilization of loan amounts and ensuring prompt recovery.



Activities under TVCC

The Corporation prints and supplies Braille textbooks to school-going visually disabled students from Class I to X. Training-cum-Production Centre (TCPC) o Two TCPCs are functioning in Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts for undertaking manufacturing and supply of tricycles, mobile trade-tricycles, crutches, wheelchairs, etc. in Telangana. Training in Job Access with Speech (JAWS) Software for visually challenged students to enable them to operate computers for getting meaningful employment opportunities through TCPCs.

Awards, Recognitions and Accolades won by the State/Department. Best State Award was received from the President, Government of India on 02.12.2018 for implementation of RPwD Act, 2016 on International Day of Disabled. Best State Award was received from the President, Government of India on 25.01.2019 for conduct of Accessible Elections for PwDs in Telangana State Assembly Elections, 2019.

As per the report of Socio Economic Outlook, 2019-20, Aasara pension is sanctioned to 491006 disabled during 2019-20.

To provide livelihood opportunities to differently abled persons, government is sanctioning subsidy up to Rs.5.00 lakhs with bank-linked loan for setting up of self-employment projects. The Government is sanctioning Rs.1.00 lakh as incentive award for the marriage between person with disability (PwDs) and a normal person, irrespective of the category of the disability.

H) Role of WEHUB towards Entrepreneurship and Employability of Differently Abled persons

Women entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 45, who are involved in agriculture, retail and similar small businesses, can avail loans up to Rs 1 lakh under Udyogini scheme. Further, her family's annual income should be below Rs 45,000 in order to avail the loan. However, no income limit exists for widowed, destitute or disabled women. For widowed, destitute or disabled women from SC/ST categories, a subsidy of 30 percent of the loan, up to Rs 10,000, is provided.

5. Conclusions

The study clearly reveal that, the both the state and central governments have been significantly contributing for the welfare of the differently abled persons through initiating various programs and policies. The study further shows that, the persons with disabilities have the facilities for enhancing the skill development for getting employability as well as Entrepreneurship. From the study, it is mainly observed that, both central and state governments have different policies and schemes and lack of integration is the main observation done in the activities been organized at state level and central level. Further, the results clearly show that, the government of Telangana has been adopting the programs for the differently abled persons but creating awareness to the target beneficiaries is the need of the hour. Many of the differently abled persons were actually not aware of the schemes and programs initiated for the skill development to achieve empowerment.

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