Preface

Concern for physically challenged persons (PCP) or Person with Disability (PWD) is gaining importance all over the globe. We are increasingly been convinced that intention of society and social stigma are jointly responsible for suffering of persons with disability. Disability is a social construct. That the societal action for welfare and rehabilitation of Persons with Disability requiring special attentions, be undertaken to remove barriers and make an end to the discrimination, exploitation and exclusion, the urgency has further been emphasized in 2007 in the international convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol of UNDP, which came into force on 3 May 2008. Unfortunately, no more than 129 countries and European Community as a group till date, participated in the convention as signatory. It is expected that Republic of India-as one of the signatory-would initiate measures to ease out the problems of ensuing equal opportunities and to create an environment that enables persons with disabilities effectively participate in the job market, in other words widening the employment opportunities of Physically Challenged persons.

According to available estimate –over 600 million people, approximately 10 percent of the world’s population, suffer from some disability. The home of two thirds of world’s Persons with Disability is developing third world countries. According to the 2011 census, 2.29 crore persons- about 2 percent of total population is suffering
from various types of disability. More than 75 percent person with disability lives in rural area.

As in many other countries in India also Persons with disability (PWD) are socially excluded and marginalized. Job opportunity of this group of population is insignificant-abnormally low compared to general population. The situation is worst for women population.

According to 2011 census, number of female suffering from disabilities is substantially less than male -93.01 lakh women belong to person with disability class, which constitute about 43 percent of total disabled population. It would not be unjustified to relate the discrepancy with gender discrimination. Indeed, the suffering and marginalization of women with disabilities are more intense across the world. Women from minority ethnic and racial groups are marginalized even further. In many countries, women with disabilities are excluded from all important areas of social interaction in education and economic opportunities in the areas of employment, earning money and control over their lives. Societal inaction is the explanation-attitudes of society, families and Persons with Disability themselves contribute to converting impairments into disabilities.

In view of the foregoing, it is to be hoped and believed that the findings of the present study, even though these are based on data pertaining to the Nanded district of Maharashtra which is the district most affected by the problem in Maharashtra would have validity and relevance at least in so far as the discussion and analysis of the problem is concerned.