INTRODUCTION

With the emergence of the nation state—may it be in India or elsewhere, it is found that there was an apparent change in the role of state in terms of policy-making. This drift was categorically visualized with the advent of the industrial revolution which gave birth to the bourgeois class which had not only captured the industries but also captured the state power in the name of democracy or under the guise of popular representation. Hence, it became obligatory for any state, whatsoever its intention maybe, to speak about the public welfare. This development had two major effects. On the one hand, the public was educated and was organized in the name of their interests and, on the other hand, the state was forced to adopt the policy of appeasement by serving the interest of one or the other group. This relation is not very simple. It takes the form of a dialectical relationship between the ruling class and various interest groups. Despite of showing the class characteristics, for the purpose of interest articulation, class barriers were crossed and on the basis of small achievements, elites were developed in each group.

In the competition of showing itself the most welfare states, each state has started to lay down certain principles in its constitution to safeguard the interests of the diverse groups. Sometimes, a state becomes so benevolent that it goes a step ahead in terms of inserting provisions in its constitution in the favour of those segments of the society which are not at all decisive participants of the state politics. This gives an impression that everything is said and done for each and every group.

Specially challenged or disability is one of such groups which is a scattered minority and poses a question why it should be given some weightage in terms of incorporating safeguard provisions in the constitution or in terms of making some Parliamentary law for it when globalization is supporting private entrepreneurship and privatization has got no scope of reservation. It is opined that there is no compromise with the quality and from their vantage, reservation is a kind of
compromise with the quality. It is witnessed that more there is open competition, the state is more talking and, even making the reservation provisions for such scattered minority groups. There is a typical seemingly contradictory development in both the policies. In real sense, this is a complementary step because if such talks are not being made, an obvious sense of being overlooked develops in such segments. So, a serious need is felt to give them a magic band utility of which is futile from the day it is given.

In a broader sense, the specially challenged are being divided into three categories, namely,
1. Sensorily impaired
2. Physically impaired and
3. Cognitively impaired.

In the common parlance, despite all objections, the specially challenged are being divided as hearing challenged (deaf and mute), physically challenged (locomotor impairment) and visually challenged/impaired (the blind).

These disabilities can also be categorized from the angle of visualized disability and non-visualised disability. The more the disability is visualized, it draws more attention or sympathy. That is why, despite the gravity of the problems of the deaf and mute, less attention has been paid towards them. But, the focal point of the research is the visually impaired person and behind such choice/preference, there is a rationale. Within the disability, it is the most overlooked segment of the society because of the prevalence of misconceived notions about not only its potency but also its mannerism. The stress will be laid down on the former part.

As, despite all these pitfalls, there is no special attempt to make some exclusive policies for the visually impaired, there is no option but to discuss the policies for the
specially challenged and find how much space/attention has been paid to the visually impaired.

The policy for the disabled has gone through various phases and with the change of each phase, there is a shift in the focal point of the policy. There is no clear cut view about the state of the disabled in the pre-historical period or even just after the creation of the state. If the maxim of 'the survival of the fittest' existed in the pre-historical era, the same should be true for the disabled and, in such case, there existence would be beyond the imagination. But the literature gives the proof of the existence of the few disabled who was shown in the princely courts and was treated as a gesture of joke or mockery. Everybody could not have reached to the court but it seems there may be some provision-may not is very explicit-for such segment of the society. Few writers refer to this period as the asylum age in which these people were kept in an asylum with the arrangements of their food and lodging. It seems that prevention was no issue at all during that period may be because of the lack of the sense of preventive measures or may be a sense that why one should poke one's nose in the affairs of god.

History took a major turn when it witnessed the glorious revolution, French revolution etc. It is observed that after every such revolution/movement, new vistas are opened for the disabled in general and visually impaired in particular. The first school for the visually impaired was opened in France just after the French Revolution and the first school was opened in India just after the foundation of the Congress by A.O. Hume. That is why, it is said that every reformatory steps brings something positive for the specially challenged in general and the visually impaired in particular. Whether this is a logical culmination or accidental-is a moot question. However, it can be said that in a congenial atmosphere, some attention is paid to the otherwise overlooked segment of the society.
There are some countries like India where war disability and the programmes for the disabled have some co-relations. Just a year before the Second World War, the directions were given to prepare a Report of the Blind in India and around this period, first government-sponsored institute was opened in Dehra Dun initially for the war-blinded and later on for the blind in general. The announcement of the reservation policy for the war disabled was made just after the completion of the Bangladesh war of 1971 but, with the passage of time, the same provision had covered in its fold the disability in toto in 1976.

In 1995, the Republic of South Africa was going through a major change in terms of the beginning of post-apartheid period. During the apartheid period, the policies for the disabled in general and the policies for the visually impaired in particular were also divided along the lines with the races. That is why, the separate schools were opened for the separate races and the South African Council for the Blind was also divided on the same lines. This means that there was a development in the field of the visually impaired but that development was fragmented. It is the post-apartheid period which has started thinking in terms of the development in totality in the name of education for all and similar policies for the employment. It is the historical legacy and the ideological commitment which forced the Republic of South Africa to include such provisions in its Constitution under the non-discriminatory clause. From this vantage, it is pertinent to have a look at its implication in favour of the disability in general and the visual impairment in particular. So far as the constitutions of both the countries are concerned, there is no exclusive provision of the special article devoted to the commitment of the solution to the problems of the disability. However, the constitution of the Republic of South Africa could make the reference of disability in its non-discriminatory clause. It seems that both the countries had realized this fact in their own way and that is why, on the one hand, the Republic of South Africa brought a series of laws as Employment Equity Act, Education for All etc. and on the other hand, India brought forth the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PWD) Act.
The Employment Equity Act is all-embracing in the sense as it was the result of the non-discriminatory clause and, thereby, bound to cover race, gender and disability at the same time whereas the PWD Act was exclusively for the disabled. But as both the countries are having the democratic pattern, it is a matter of debate how the generalistic laws can be honestly implemented in the favour of the scattered minority which has got no vote base as the mechanism of democracy only understands the language of its vote bank.

The ninth decade of the 20th century witnessed the International Year for the Disabled Persons which was followed by the International Decade for the Disabled Persons. Due to some problems, the International Year and the International Decade for the Disabled Persons were not observed in the same years in South Africa. At least in India, a lot of paper work and the exhibitional work were done and incidentally, this was the period when a large number of physically challenged persons in general and the visually impaired persons in particular could manage to get some jobs through the special test conducted by the Staff Selection Commission. During this period, the demand for the Legislation for the Disabled was also in the air by some of the leading voluntary organizations of the visually impaired. Despite the fact that India was the country which proposed in the ILO Convention for directing the countries to have either Legislation for the disabled or some Executive Order for them, it could not manage to bring some such legislation under the argument that it has already got at its hand an Executive Order of this effect. Through the various pressure groups, mainly led by the visually impaired, the Government was forced to realize that these Executive Orders are ineffective and there was a dire need of some Legislation in favour of the disabled. In 1995, the Government of India could manage to bring forth a legislation popularly known as People with Disability Act.

If a comparative analysis of both the states is made, it is found that areawise the South Africa has got land which forms 40% of the total land of India and
populationwise, it has got the population which constitutes almost 4% of the total population of its counterpart. Even the economy of the South Africa is sounder than India. At the same time, it had got better chances to come in contact with the developed countries because of which it had got better opportunity to adopt their work style and also to make itself easily acquainted with their knowhow which is not the case with India. But as both the countries remained under the rule of the Britishers, missionaries played important role in developing the institutions for the visually impaired in both the countries.

Statement of Problems

As per the survey of the World Health Organisation, the physically challenged constitutes 10% population of any society. The distribution of this population is unevenly poised and its reasons vary from case to case. Generally speaking, poverty and physical impairment goes in juxtaposition. However, there is neither a group nor an area wherein the physically challenged persons are concentrated. Hence, it becomes a scattered minority.

As has already been stated that in general, the history reveals this fact that the rulers of the ancient time had shown their soft corners towards the overlooked segments of the society occasionally. The literature of the then period exhibits the physically challenged persons either as laughing objects in the princely courts or a creature that could become a point of mercy. As the history is written only of the exceptional personalities or of kings and courts, description of the disabled has been rarely made. The visually impaired are no exception to it. This poses a problem of making a real chronological analysis of the history of the policy perspectives of the state for the physically challenged in general and visually impaired in particular.

So far as the minority groups in general are concerned, the democracy has opened a new dimension of paying some heed to these sections of the society. In this way, the interest of these groups have been taken into consideration because of the fact that
they are concentrated in one or the other area which can constitute one or more 
electoral constituencies. Not only this, such socially overlooked segments of the 
society, on the basis of their strength, have been playing a vital role in shaping and 
sharing the policies even at the level of legislative assemblies through lobbying. But, 
in the case of the scattered segments of the society, such lobbying is not witnessed in 
practice either due to their no vote base or due to their being less awakened.

Of course, due to certain limitation of the specially challenged persons, the 
government is desired to make special provisions for their education and 
employment. For the education of mentally retarded, hearing impaired and visually 
impaired, there is a need of either special schools or integrated/inclusive schools with 
the provision of resource rooms/internal adjustment for them. Despite the 
recommendations of the specialists and the strong acceptance by the government in 
support of the integrated schools, in practice, even the special schools are running 
improperly. The existence of the integrated/inclusive schools is rarely witnessed. 
Whatever is seen is nothing but a handful group of specially challenged studying in 
those schools as an appended segment. This problem is supposed to be discussed in 
terms of integrated/inclusive vs. special schools.

In general, the outlook of the governments towards the education of the visually 
impaired keeps on changing from welfare to necessity and even to the legal binding 
by treating it as a right under one or the other argument. March from the sense of 
welfare to the sense of legal right is supposed to be treated as a progressive step. Is it 
true in the case of the implementing the education of the visually impaired?

Attempts have been made in both the states to raise the rate of literacy. Unfortunately, 
nothing substantially is being done for the visually impaired in this regard by their 
governments. Some of the non-governmental organisations have made some attempts 
through guide counsellors, but their efforts are fragmented. This is true that for the 
literacy of the visually impaired, special provisions are needed as, in the case of
visually impaired, there is a need of specialised and trained guides for this. As both the states fail to introduce any exclusive planning in this direction, it seems that both the states are disinterested in the literacy of the visually impaired. Why is this disinterestedness? Is it due to the visually impaired constituting no vote bank or due to the lack of proper knowledge or is it due to the scarcity of funds?--is a moot question.

As has already been mentioned that poverty and the physical impairment goes side by side, so is true with the visual impairment. Normally, the education of the visually challenged is costly due to the need of extraordinary papers and due to the spacious Braille literature and involvement of either the reader or the computer with specially designed software for the visually challenged. In the case of the majority of the visually impaired who come from the poverty-stricken segment of the society, the education becomes costlier as neither they can afford a computer nor they can meet out the expenditures of the readers and the Braille papers without any financial assistance either from the government or from the voluntary organisations. Hence, it is a matter of assessment of the funding arrangements in the shape of scholarships provided by both the states. Are these scholarships sufficient to meet the minimum need or they are just an eye wash? Is the revision of the scholarships coinciding with the increasing cost?

The employment of the visually impaired is a multi-faceted problem. On the one hand, due to the preconceived notions about the potence of the visually challenged, there is a problem of the acceptability of a visually impaired as an employee. It is not just a rejection due to some conventional thinking but it is a psycho-social problem. Its dimension can be seen in terms of prejudices about them. Traditionally, they were supposed to be given sheltered employment but some job venues have been opened by the initiatives of not only government but by some private entrepreneur.
In the case of South Africa, through the non-discriminatory clause, the provisions were made in the constitution to make no discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender and disability. The disability includes visual impairment and, hence, this applies for them as well. In accordance with this, the Employment Equity Act was enacted. But in most of the cases, the employment for them remained a debatable question in the government sector. If a comparative analysis is made, it is found that the private sector is showing more interest in adjusting the visually impaired in certain posts than the government sectors. In general, it is the posts relating to the switchboard (telephone operator) where most of the visually challenged persons are employed. But still, they also fail to be open enough to adjust the visually impaired in other places despite the fact that due to the advent of the technology, one can venture other posts for them.

In India, some initiatives have been taken by the government through 3% reservation in ‘C’ and ‘D’ categories of posts. For the initial period, this reservation remained unimplemented. It was the pressure of some voluntary organizations like National Federation of the Blind and National Blind Youth Association which pressurized the government to implement these reservation policies. The declaration of 1981 to be observed as International Year for the Disabled Persons and the further declaration of the years 1982-91 as the International Decade for the Disabled Persons helped in implementation of this reservation policy. Just few years back, these reservations have got the support of legal binding through an Act popularly known as “PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY ACT” which speaks about the reservation of the posts in all the categories of the jobs. Implementation of these provisions will be one of the areas to be examined from the viewpoint of the political will as well as from the viewpoint of the role of bureaucracy in both the countries.

This pattern of progress was not just because of the initiatives of the governments. It is a general practice that at the initial stage, policies for the specially challenged in general and the visually challenged in particular, are initiated on the human grounds.
It is the voluntary organisations which point out the disinterestedness of the government in implementing the policies and force them to take steps in this direction. Sometimes, these organisations have to become vocal and have to adopt pressure tactics. Hence, it is pertinent to make analysis of the role of such organisations.

This is true that there is some lacuna in the policy perspective because of which the desired benefit does not reach to the consumers in question. This rising discontent needs some alternative policy perspective. On the basis of the suggestions from the voluntary organisations and expertise of the field, an attempt will be made to develop an alternative policy perspective. This alternative perspective will include the developing trends in the other countries and their experiences will also be taken into account.

**Hypotheses**

1. The post-apartheid period of South Africa and post-independent period of India do not have significant impact on the development of educational and rehabilitational services of both the countries of the visually impaired.
2. The fact that the visually impaired do not constitute a vote bank in either country, does have adverse impact on the development of adverse policies of the visually impaired in both the countries.
3. The attitudes of bureaucrats who form and implement basic policies for the visually impaired have not undergone a possible and desired change in the period under the question of both the countries.
4. The period under question in both the countries have not witnessed significant programmes for the prevention of the visually impaired.
5. The voluntary organizations of both the countries react differently for the policies of their respective states.

**Aims and Objectives of the Research**
Following are the aims and objectives of the research:

1. To make a comparative analysis of the ecology of state politics of the South Africa and India.
2. To analyse the socio-economic conditions of both the states.
3. To make the analysis of the socio-economic conditions of the visually impaired in both the countries.
4. To find the sources of the policies for the visually impaired by making a bird-eye-view of the history of both the countries.
5. To find and analyse the role of the state in the development and formulation of the policies for the visually impaired in both the countries in the period under examination.
6. To analyse and review the role of the voluntary organization in the policies for the social change for the visually impaired.
7. To ascertain what effect the period under examination in both the countries have on the prevention of the visual impairment.
8. To find the alternative policy for the proper development of the visually impaired of both the countries.

**Literature Survey**

The literature for this topic ranges from the primary sources like The Census of India, Census of South Africa, Constitution of India, Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Government Orders for Reservation in the Posts, Government Orders for Age Relaxation initially to the defence personnel and later on to the civilian disabled to join various posts in India, White papers on Education and Training in South Africa, Employment Equity Act and, last but not the least, The People with Disability Act. Not only this, one is supposed to go through the literature scattered over in the Annual Reports of the leading organisations of the visually impaired in India and South Africa. It is also pertinent to look into the documents of the World Health
Organisation to know the definitional part of the visual impairment. One has to look into the annual reports of the then International Federation of the Blind, World Council for the Welfare of the Blind and the newly emerging bodies like World Blind Union.

There is a need to go through the literature on the group politics and its role in shaping and sharing the policies of the state. Such literature talks of variety of groups to the extent of the role of anomic groups. But it fails to make any description of the groups formulated by the scattered minorities. A trend is visualised to call such groups as non-governmental organisations which seems to be a vague term particularly from the vantage of their role in effecting the policy formulation. In practice, it has been witnessed that the organisations of such scattered minorities like specially challenged are being given representation in the nodal ministry meant for them to put their voice. How far such voice is effective is a debatable question. There is a need of making some efforts to lay hand on such scattered literature—may be in the government records or in the annual reports of such organisations. The echoes of their activities can be felt through the press clippings.

To clarify the concepts regarding the specially challenged, there is a book by Ali Baquer, which deals with these concepts and various theories relating to this development from thereon. It also deals with the understanding of the people towards the specially challenged. How the physical handicap develops into the disability which is nothing but the outlook of the society towards them. This outlook makes them disabled otherwise they are nothing but a physical entity with a physical challenge.

After having the proper understanding of the concept of physical challenge, there is a need of understanding the problems of the physically challenged at the school level. For this purpose, a book is devoted to the education of the physically challenged popularly known as THE DISABLED SCHOOL CHILD: A STUDY OF INTEGRATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOL. It is written by E.M. Anderson. It has
described how the ordinary schools can be changed into the special schools by making special provisions for the disabled by providing resource rooms, specialised teachers and open outlook towards them. Hence, it is dealing with the question of the integration of the physically challenged persons in the ordinary primary schools. It also deals with the social and emotional adjustment of the children.

On the similar problem, N. Bennett and A. Cass bearing the name FROM SPECIAL TO ORDINARY SCHOOLS: A CASE STUDY IN INTEGRATION. In addition to the above description, it also deals with the parents perspective and administrative and policy decisions affecting integration.

To deal with the physical and psychological barriers, there is a book known as ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS REVIEWED written by M.K. Bauma and N.M. Yonder. They deal with the problems of the psychological adjustment with the visually impaired in various categories of the people. For this, they cite the examples of various types of the workers and describe how the visually impaired persons adjust there and how other people become conscious of their behaviour with them.

To find the source of the policies for the visually impaired in India, there is a report known as REPORT ON BLINDNESS IN INDIA. It speaks about the educational policy and the policy of prevention of visual impairment. In a report of 116 pages, an explicit attention is paid on the need of the education for them. A reference is made of the 32 schools and steps for opening of more schools.

To know about the history of policies for the visually impaired and the history of their movements in South Africa, there is a book written by V.H. Vaughan with the name of HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT. It also gives a historical background of the services for them.
A lively description is made by T.N. Kitchlu in his book A CENTURY OF BLIND WELFARE IN INDIA. It makes a description of the welfare programmes for the visually challenged in India. At the same time, it touches upon the aspects like employment, rehabilitation of the rural visually impaired, legislation for them etc. The book traces the development in the field of welfare of the visually challenged in India during the past hundred years containing articles contributed by eminent persons who have had long experience of working with the visually impaired. The problems of the visually challenged in the field of education, employment, rehabilitation and integration have been dealt with in the proper perspective.

As Delhi is supposed to be the trend setter for the country, there is a book written by P.R. Matani and M.S. Yadav with the name of EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND IN DELHI: A STUDY. It describes about the welfare agencies for the visually impaired in Delhi. It also describes various programmes run by them and the benefit taken from it by the visually impaired. As Delhi is the centre of India, most of the voluntary organisations relating to the visually challenged, have their head office in Delhi. Hence, this book manages to give a vivid description of some of the leading organisations for the visually impaired.

To understand the efficiency of the visually impaired, there is a rational write-up by D.C. Macfarland, with the name of A STUDY OF WORK EFFICIENCY OF BLIND AND SIGHTED WORKERS IN INDUSTRIES. This book made a database description of the efficiency of the sightless workers in the industrial sector.

A book based on the study of the visually challenged in Delhi is written by Sushma Batra entitled SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF THE BLIND. This is a unique book in the sense that it makes an endeavour to study the problems of the visually impaired in the major chunk of the society by treating him the part and parcel of it. It is different from the stereotype approach of the segregation of the physically challenged people.
A biographical description of some famous visually challenged persons can be found in EMINENT BLIND PERSONS OF THE WORLD written by B. Mishra. It has depicted the lives of Rajendra T. Vyas, Helen Keller, Louis Braille etc. It has also depicted how the visually impaired could manage to overcome their specially challenge through their courage.

A general book is written by S.N. Gajendra Gadkar with the name DISABLED IN INDIA. The book covers mentally retarded and their problems, problems of the visually impaired, rehabilitation, medicine, leprosy affected and their problems, the problems of deaf and mute, and of cancer disabled, arthritis, old age etc. This is an information book, which attempts to study the multifaceted problems of various categories of the physically challenged, people’s attitude towards them, contribution of voluntary agencies etc. It takes up a critical look on rehabilitation as a policy.

As challenges are part and parcel of the physically challenged, a book is written by Ali Baquer and Anjali Sharma with the name of DISABILITY: CHALLENGES VS. RESPONSES. It covers disability in general and makes a description how these challenges are being faced by the physically challenged people. It has also made some of the recommendations about what kind of policies are desirable for them.

Two famous bureaucrats have done a comprehensive work on the policy perspective for the rehabilitation for the physically impaired. They are R.S. Pandey and Lal Advani. They wrote a book with the name of PERSPECTIVE IN DISABILITY REHABILITATION. This book describes various aspects of physical challenges and rehabilitation in India and in some other parts of the globe which are relevant to the third world. The concept and extent of disability, the status of preventive measures, rehabilitation services in the area of physical restoration, education, vocational training and placement and role of legislation, media, technology, non-government organisations and the aspect of manpower development have been exhaustively dwelt upon in this volume. It presents a concise historical background, an overview of the
current status and an analytical review of the existing services, etc. Several practical measures have been suggested including emotional programme on the model of community-based rehabilitation as a public service in this book. This book is a valuable reference source for the professional policy-makers and administrators dealing with the people having physical challenge.

On the issue of the education and employment, there is a book known as EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND IN INDIA which speaks about the general scenario of the visually impaired in terms of their education and employment. Though the focus of the book is on the West Bengal, it gives a picture of the visually impaired in India which stimulates to make a deep study over these issues. It also speaks about the probable formation of the policies on these issues.

A book known as COMING TO LIGHT written by ANURADHA MOHIT is devoted to the status of the visually women in general and speaks about their status as well as their role in the world. As the writer is one of the activists in this field, this book gives us a first hand experience over this matter.

An informative and evaluative book on the organisations of and for the visually impaired in South Africa is written by W. Aubrey, Webson with the name of Empowerment of Blind. It is a handbook giving information of the voluntary organizations, its services to the community and its dialogue on the ideology ‘of the’ and ‘for the’ blind. This is a dialogue between the voluntary works vs. self-help. It also tells about the programmes run by these organizations and their contribution to the society.

The government of South Africa published a White Paper on an Integrated National Disability Strategy in the year 2000, which makes a picturesque description about the condition of the education of the physical impairment in this country. It also chalks
out a policy framework for them. But there are nominal description about the visually impaired and their educational conditions.

As there is no exclusive literature on the visually impaired and their role in pressurising in terms of shaping and sharing the policies for them, one has to depend upon the literature in general on the physically challenged people. In fact, the choice of making a research on exclusively for the visually challenged is because of the fact that it is a segment about which there a lot of prejudices. Despite this, they have left no stone unturned to prove their worth in the society. With in the specially challenged people, they have a better organisational network due to their comparative easy access to the people because of the nature of their physical challenge. Not only this, recent technical developments made them more accessible to the information technology and some of the people, at least a segment of the educated one, have started to realize this. But majority of the people are yet having the traditional and prejudiced opinion about them and it is a work of research to find how far the visually impaired through their organisations, manage to wipe out such concepts and how far the society is trying its best to remove such baseless notions about them.

Obviously, as no sincere attempt has been made to develop exclusive literature for the visually challenged, this research work makes it possible to put this scattered literature in a form of compilation and try to develop an alternative policy perspective for them.

**Methodology**

1. The universe of the study will be the Central Government of South Africa and India.
2. Historico-deductive approach will be adopted to look into the historical background of the policies for the visually impaired in both the countries.
3. An analysis of the policies for the visually impaired cannot be made just on the basis of the literature survey, the officials of the welfare department, education department, law department, health department and the labour department at the national level of both the countries will be interviewed.

4. As the policies for the visually impaired are being materialised through the voluntary organizations and the policies are being shared and shaped through the interaction with such organizations, major voluntary organizations of the countries will be interviewed.

5. Interviews will be conducted according to the structured and pre-tested interview scheduled.

6. Views are gathered for an alternative policy through conducting semi-structured interviews.

7. The data gathered therefrom will be subjected to appropriate statistical analysis.

As the research is not solely dependent on the literature review and the review of the basic documents, it is pertinent to make man-to-man contact of both the countries.

**Expected Outcomes**

1. The study is likely to throw light on how political structures influence government attitudes towards the marginalised sections like the visually impaired.

2. It is also likely to shed light on community perceptions regarding the education and work potential of people with visual impairment.

3. The study is also expected to indicate to what extent the voluntary action in both the countries is influenced by the political structure and to what extent the polity is supportive of the voluntary action.

4. The study will also clarify to what extent the voluntary action for the rehabilitation of the visually impaired have gained momentum in both the countries and the extent to which they can pressurise the government to participate more effectively in the rehabilitation of the visually impaired.
5. The study is also expected to throw light on the extent to which attitude of charity has been changed to recognition of right.

6. To develop an alternative policy for the visually impaired which may suit the needs of the Afro-Asian countries on the basis of the analysis of both the countries.

Chapterisation

On the basis of the above mentioned analysis, the research will be divided into the following chapters:

1. Ecology of South Africa and India and the Visually Impaired

It will cover the following aspects:

A. Physical Environment: an emphasis will be made on the description of the geographical environment of both the countries in terms of their geographical features like territory, climate, vegetation, minerals etc.

B. Political Environment: An attempt will be made to find out the nature of the politics of the countries under the research. An attempt will also be made to trace out the impact of the history on the politics in both the countries.

C. Socio-economic Environment: In this section, an attempt will be made to deal with various socio-economic groups and an endeavour will be made to find its relationship with the physical features.

D. The Pressure Groups: as the present politics is influenced by the pressure groups and it is these groups which play a conspicuous role in shaping and sharing the politics, it is pertinent to make an analysis of the pressure groups of both the countries.

E. the Position of the Visually Impaired in the Given Setups: A brief sketch will be made of the status of the visually challenged in both the political set ups which will include facts and figures relating to them and what is their position there in.
2. The Changing Scenario of the Policy Perspective for the Visually Impaired in South Africa and India: A Historical Background

It will cover the following:

A. Pre-Industrial Era and the Policies for the Visually Impaired: Under this section, a description will be made about the outlook of both the states towards the visually impaired and the emerging policies there from. Though there will be no exclusive historical evidences of such policies exclusively, but an attempt will be made to deduce some of the policy aspects from the general policy which might have touched the physically challenged in general and visually challenged in particular. An attempt will also be made to find how in the then mixed families the visually impaired had been treated by the society.

B. New Inventions and the Policies for the Visually Impaired: As industrial revolution is known for its new inventions in terms of artificial hands and artificial legs, this section will cover how these new inventions had opened new vistas for the visually impaired in particular and the physically impaired in general. During this period, some of the major revolutions took place, hence, an attempt will be made to find out the impact of these revolutions on the new dimensions of the policies and programmes for the visually impaired. In the field of visual impairment, a revolution took place by the invention of Braille. An analysis will be made how this invention made a topsy turvey in the life of the visually impaired and which were the agencies which became active in the production or the literature for them and why were they interested in it. An analysis will be made about the category of the literature and some conclusions will be drawn about the intentions of these interested groups.

C. Religious Groups and the Policies for the Visually Impaired: A typical trend is witnessed during the 19th century at the global level. It was a trend of the emerging role of various religious groups in supporting the programmes for the visually impaired. Hence, an attempt will be made to analyse the influence of the religion in both the countries on the policies and programmes for the visually impaired.
D. State Support and the Policies for the Visually Impaired: A change is visualised during the twentieth century in terms of the intervention of the state in the programmes of the visually impaired. It will be analysed how one fine day the state started taking interest in the programmes for the visually impaired and what kind of policies were developed for them and up to what extent these interests was witnessed. As the 20th century witnessed two world wars, an attempt will be made to see its aftermath in terms of change in the policies and programmes for the visually impaired by both the states.

E. Social Attitude and its Impact on the policies and programmes of the Visually Impaired: All social policies are either the by-product of the social attitude for the section of the society for which policies are framed or the reaction of the existing attitude of the society towards this group. Hence, an attempt will be made to deal with the social attitude towards the visually challenged persons.

F. Awakening and Self-dependence and Its Impact on the Policies for the Visually Impaired: The theories of class analysis and group analysis awakened both the classes and groups respectively. An analysis will be made how these theories have direct or indirect impact on the physically challenged in general and visually impaired in particular. The extent of awakening may differ, but both the countries witnessed a kind of awakening in the visually impaired and, hence, an analysis will be made to find its causes and its aftermath for the development of the society in both the states.

3. Policies for the Visually Impaired in the Post-Apartheid South Africa and India

It will cover the following:

a. Basic Policy Document for the Visually Impaired: As both the political set ups fail to make exclusive policies for the visually impaired, an attempt will be made to analyse the policy documents for the physically challenged in general and an inquiry will be made how these provisions are beneficial for the visually challenged in particular. Considering some specific and unique problems in view, an attempt will be made to find out up to what extent these provisions are successful in touching these
problems and up to what extent these provisions are helpful in finding its solution. An attempt will also be made to find out the difference between the casual reference and specific reference in terms of policy-making for the certain segment of the society.

b. Prevention of the Visual Impairment: Nobody wants to be sick for a moment. What can be one’s mental state if he/she becomes permanently physically impaired? It is this concern which makes one’s to think about the steps for the prevention of the impairment. Though this is a part of the medical model, but irrespective of all changes, it is the prevention which becomes permanent concern in all the phases. Sometimes, it looks as if there is an overstress on the prevention because of which the policies about unpreventable impairment is looking as lagging behind. An attempt will be made to analyse this seemingly contradictory steps and its aftermath on the unpreventable visual impairment.

c. Education for the Visually Impaired: This will cover the policies relating to the education for the physically challenged in general and the visually challenged in particular. It will also cover the compulsion of the state and its effect on the policy for the particular group.

d. Rehabilitation of the Visually Impaired: This will include the policies for the employment of the visually impaired in the political system, its constitutional support in whatsoever form, its implication to the enactments of the central legislative assembly.

4. Policy Implementation and Interaction with Voluntary Organisation of and for the Visually Impaired

It will cover the following:

A. Preventive Measures by the Governments and the Involvement of the Non-Governmental Agencies: An attempt will be made to look into the steps taken by the government and non-governmental agencies for the prevention of the visual impairment as there is a big claim by the doctors that if proper steps are being taken, majority of the cases of visual impairment can be treated. The questions like how far
they are right and how far the doctors of both the countries are in a position of taking some realistic steps to meet this challenge. In the era of social involvement in the name of the dependency on the non-governmental sector, an attempt will also be made to look into the role of these organizations of both the countries over this matter.

B. Special Schools for the Visually Impaired: Apart from dealing the history of the special schools in both the countries, it will deal why in the age of inclusive education, the position of the special schools are still vital and why irrespective of all claims, such schools are unavoidable at least in the developing countries. It will also deal the questions relating to the reducing standards of the special schools and the dialogue like missionary spirit vs. pseudo-professional spirit.

C. Integrated and Inclusive Schools for the Visually Impaired: Apart from covering the conceptual framework, this section will deal why such need was felt at the global level and up to what extent this framework is useful in practice for both the nations. It will also cover the situational analysis of both the states from the viewpoint of this development.

D. Services for the Reading Material for the Visually Impaired: In the age of the computer, such discussions may look illogical but considering the economic status of the visually impaired in view, this description becomes unavoidable. For more than 150 years, Braille has been treated the sole reading script for the visually impaired irrespective of the fact that in the metropolitan cities, its importance has been reduced to the extent that people have started doubting the utility of the Braille as such. However, the statistics relating to the demand of the Braille books reveal this fact that even today its importance has not been reduced. This section will cover the information relating to the sources of the reading materials in both the countries and its evaluation. It will also cover the evaluation of such facilities.

E. Services for the Recorded Material for the Visually Impaired: The studies of the visually impaired cannot solely be dependent on the Braille reading material. Hence, they have also to rely upon the recorded material due to two reasons: i. The Braille material is bulky and ii. For the specific need, it is costly. An assessment will be
made to such facilities along with the description of its availability. An assessment will also be made about the choice of the recorded material and about the question why irrespective of all modern talks, people are still traditional while selecting the reading material for the visually impaired.

F. Identification of the Jobs for the Visually Impaired: Employment is the ultimate goal for all the people in the world. So is true in the case of the visually impaired. Under this section, an attempt will be made to find out whether some such exercise known as identification of the jobs is made by both the countries. If it is made, how far it is rational and whether the prejudices, preconceived notions and false imaginations have played some role. The purpose of recruiting the members of the society is also an attempt in developing the support base for the nation building. For this purpose, up to what extent the policy-makers of both the states have treated the visually impaired as the contributory segment of the society.

G. Other Rehabilitational Facilities for the Visually Impaired: The purpose of the life of any human being is not just to fill his belly. What kind of steps both the states have been taking to make the visually impaired the better and contributory citizen of the respective societies. For this purpose, it is necessary to provide some objective conditions. An attempt will be made to find out what kind of facilities are being provided by both the states for the rehabilitation of the visually challenged so that they may find ample scope to the contribution of their worth for the nation-building process.

H. Role of the Voluntary Organizations in Influencing the Policies for the Visually Impaired: Pressure groups are known as an “unseen empires”. So is the case with the voluntary organizations. The attempt will be made to find the role of the voluntary organizations in influencing the policy formulation and also its contribution in terms of the policy implementation. In the name of reducing the expenditures of the infrastructure, lot of responsibilities have been shifted to the voluntary sector. Hence, the role of the voluntary organizations has been considerably increased. An evaluation will also be made of the role of the voluntary organization of both the states and it will be analysed how far it is contributing in the realization of the dreams
of the policy makers on the one hand and how far it is proving to be the real representatives of the aspirations of the visually impaired.

I. The Impact of Globalisation on the Policy Perspective for the Visually Impaired: This section will deal with the analysis of the concept of globalisation and its impact on the policies for the visually impaired. The concept of globalization poses the question of economic viability of any step. Irrespective of all rationale for the policies for the visually impaired, in all its content, one cannot deny this fact that this policy has in it the welfare content. Hence, it is the question whether the welfare instinct has got some rationale in the age of globalization. If not, what will be the fate of such policies. If these policies do not fall in the globalization syndrome positively, how the consumerists will analyse and justify their overlooking style of the 10% segment of the society whose potential will remain unused in the absence of any proper policy.

5. Alternative Policy Perspective for the Visually Impaired

It will cover the following:

A. Outlook of the Bureaucrats: Mere description of the policies will not give any real description until and unless an analysis is made about the attitude of those who are the real actors of the policy-makers. Hence, this section will cover the outlook and attitude of the bureaucrats towards the visually impaired and its impact on the policy in general.

B. Outlook of the Voluntary Organisations: In most of the cases, no policy is framed without the pressurisation of the voluntary groups. Hence, the voluntary organizations become the real pleaders of the policies. In the age of interest representation, there is always a dialogue between the policy-makers and policy pleaders. As the state is an instrument in the hands of a class, an analysis will be made how these two exclusive interests are being aggregated and, in this process, who gets and why.

C. Outlook of the Expertise: Bureaucrats are generally confined to the rules and regulations of a system concerned. Hence, there is a dire need of the opinion of the expertise in the field of the policy development. Keeping this in view, an attempt will
be made to analyse the role of the expertise in the field of the policy-making for the visually impaired.

D. Expectations of the Concerned International Agencies: As has already been said that this is the age of the globalisation and the developing countries in such an age are just following the command of the leviathan-looking actor of the protagonist of globalization. Hence, the expectations of such colossus are nothing but their dictums. Under this section, an analysis will be made about the expectation of the commanding agents of the globalization and an endeavour will be made to find out how far the two states are trying to fit themselves in the desires of these agencies and whether by doing this, these countries are really serving the interest of their nation concern.

Summary and Recommendations

It will cover the summary of the contents of the thesis and, in the form of suggestions, some recommendations will be made which can be a guiding source for not only for these countries but also for both the continents as they are the representatives of two different continents, namely, Africa and Asia.