The researcher, as she belongs to Law Faculty, has always been interested in the subject of human rights. It is an undisputed fact that by nature and content, human rights has a vast disciplinary domain and still emerging. It hardly needs to be mentioned that since 1946 with the conclusion of some outstanding human rights instruments at the international level, a paradigm shift has taken place in the concept and perception of human rights opening up many new areas of research activities. Therefore, subject matter of the present research work has taken into consideration of the fact that to tread even in a small subfield of the subject of human rights requires a lot of hard work, patience and perseverance.

In every civilized society protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms always has been a desire of all persons irrespective of caste, age and sex. In this connection it may be said that human rights instruments have added a new dimension. Additionally few instruments of similar nature instead of providing certain human rights to all
persons in a ‘broad general way’ have allowed a particular space protecting human rights to few vulnerable groups such as children, women and the persons with different abilities. But unfortunately it is a no denying fact that to have a recognition of some human rights for some categories of persons in the human rights instruments and deriving benefits from those rights, apart from national and geographical boundaries is a quiet difficult task. On the basis of this premise the present research work has been undertaken for making a comprehensive study of the status of persons with disabilities in India with special reference to the State of West Bengal in the background of existing legal strategy and protection mechanism, that has been adopted so far to safeguard their rights, so that some protective measures may be prescribed for their further upliftment.

Presently, it is a matter of great hope that as before we don’t called disabled persons as ‘handicapped’ anymore. Instead we say ‘persons with disabilities’ or ‘physically challenged persons.’ It has also been marked that better they should be called ‘differently able persons’ to detached them from the stigma of being called ‘disabled persons.’ However such a
enumeration may be confined in a paperwork in absence of effective legal strategy and protection mechanism for exploring the abilities of such differently able persons at the micro level.

While dealing with the above stated research problem in order to get first hand knowledge, the researcher participated in a Workshop organised by the Women’s Human Rights Commission, Kolkata, in collaboration with ‘Sruti’ a NGO working in Kolkata at Mono Vikash Kendra, Kolkata where a live discourse on this subject was held and interalia suggestions were made to amend the existing laws.

In the concluding line of the ‘preface’ the researcher hopefully likes to submit that this research work will become successful if it can even to a little extent inspire the mainstream human rights movements and can further the cause of persons with disabilities and bring them on the same platform with other persons in the society.