

## **CHAPTER - VI**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

## WHO IS DISABLED?

If you fail to see  
the person  
but only the disability,  
then, who is blind?

If you cannot hear  
your brother's  
cry for justice,  
who is deaf?

If you do not communicate with  
your sister  
but separate her from you,  
who is disabled?

If you do not stand up  
for the rights of all  
persons,  
who is the cripple?

Your attitude towards  
persons  
with disabilities  
may be our biggest handicap,  
And yours too.

By ADD INDIA



## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The study, as the title suggests, is concerned with the welfare of the disabled in Karnataka. The need of the present study was felt in view of the fact that most of the studies on the disabled throw light on the institutions imparting education and vocational training to the disabled teachers involved in such education and training, psychological problems like inferiority, adjustment, agony of the disabled, socio-economic conditions of the disabled such as housing, employment, income and integration and so on. Since there had been no any philosophical study dealing with the disabled and their welfare, this study has been undertaken.

#### 6.1 THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) The study of disability and the disabled from philosophical perspective.
- 2) The conceptual clarity in respect of the terms disability, the disabled, impairment, handicap, visually impaired, hearing impaired, orthopaedically handicapped.
- 3) The magnitude of disability at global, national and state level.
- 4) The causes and consequences of disability.

- 5) The study of politico-philosophical perspective of the welfare measures in the world.
- 6) The study of social and political philosophy of the welfare of the disabled in India.
- 7) The philosophical and socio-political analysis of the welfare of the disabled in Karnataka.
- 8) The study of role of voluntary organisations in the welfare of the disabled.

The present study is purely philosophical in its nature and confined to the welfare measures of the disabled in Karnataka. However, this study has made attempts to probe into welfare activities for the disabled from political and social dimensions.

## 6.2 SOME OF THE BASIC ISSUES DEALT IN THIS STUDY

1. Disability as such has no time and spacer. In otherwords, it is not confined to any region of time. It has been a phenomenon since immemorial time. It is still a stigma let alone in the past. Then, which were the factors responsible for the social isolation of the disabled ?
2. Now attempts are a foot all over the world to integrate the disabled with the main stream of national life. Thus, how to account for change in the societal attitude towards the disabled ? Which are the forces responsible for the change of attitude ?

3. What measures have been introduced in the advanced countries like Britain, USA, Soviet Russia, and Japan ? To what extent are philosophical and political ideas responsible for the introduction of welfare measures in those countries ?
4. To what extent did the religious shape the attitude of people towards the disabled ? What measures were undertaken by the benevolent rulers to help the disabled in India in ancient and medieval period ?
5. To what extent the philosophy of the Indian Constitution responsible for the introduction of welfare activities for the disabled in India ? Which are the specific measures ?
6. What role has been played by religious and various philosophical systems generating the tolerant attitude towards the disabled in Karnataka ? Which specific measures have been introduced by the State Government of Karnataka for the welfare of the disabled in post-independent period?

Lastly, what is the role of voluntary organisations in the welfare of the disabled and what are their major activities ?

### 6.3 THE OBSERVATIONS MADE IN EACH PRECEDING CHAPTERS

The observations have been briefly summarised below :

1. In the remote past the disabled were abandoned to death in certain civilisations. They were believed to be unfit to live in society. During the medicinal period they were treated as objects of pity with the rise of christianity, the altitude of people towards the disabled has been changed and eventually hospices and educational institutions were established for the welfare of the disabled.
2. The political philosophy modern period with its emphasis on fundamental rights of individuals and the ideology of welfare state radically altered the attitude of people towards the disabled. In that way, the welfare era of the disabled began to dawn in many countries.
3. The declaration of 1981 as the International year of the disabled persons and 1981-91 as the International decade of the disabled by the U.N.O. brought the problems of the disabled into sharp focus of the globe and inspired the countries all over the world for the welfare of the disabled.
4. In India, religion has played a very important role in taking care of the sick and the disabled since the beginning.

5. The institution of charity under the Muslim rule and the Bhakti movement greatly influenced the attitude of people towards the disabled in medieval period.
6. The establishment of the British rule pushed the disabled to the verge of great misery.
7. The philosophy of the Indian constitution based on Socialism, Gandhism, Individualism and Idealism laid the foundation for the welfare activities of the disabled.
8. The Government of India has introduced innumerable welfare schemes for the disabled. Some of the important measures are : rehabilitative services, national institutes, special employment exchanges and integrated education programmes and etc.
9. Various concessions have been provided to the disabled which include travel by air, railways, postage, conveyance allowance, educational allowance, etc.
10. In Karnataka humanising religious systems generated tolerant attitudes towards the disabled. Almost all the dynasties under the influence of religious encouraged the institution of charity.

After Independence, the welfare of the disabled has become the responsibility of the state. The state government of Karnataka has introduced a number of

welfare measures for the disabled. Further, it has set up a separate Directorate and has increased the budget provision for the welfare of the disabled in recent years.

11. The state alone cannot tackle the problems of disability nor it can take up the whole responsibility to better the conditions of the disabled due to resource constraints. Thus the role of voluntary organisations in the welfare of the disabled has become imperative.
12. There are about 200 voluntary organisations working for the disabled in Karnataka. They are offering specialised services to the various categories of the disabled.
13. Though the present study is purely and basically philosophical in its nature, it has certain implications for policy and research.

The study clarifies the conceptual issues regarding disability and various types of disability and highlights the causes of disability and specific problems being faced by the different categories of the disabled. Hence the present study is extremely useful to social workers, philanthropists, charitable organisations, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, administrators, educationists and others.



#### **6.4 THE STUDY OPENS UP VARIOUS AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

1. Socio-economic conditions of different categories of the disabled.
2. Religious composition of the different categories of the disabled.
3. The disabled children vis a vis non-disabled children in educational achievement.
4. The status of the disabled women belonging to the lower sections of the society who constitute the bottom stratum of the Indian society.
5. The comparative study of the different categories of the disabled in availing the self-employment schemes.

#### **6.5 SPECIFIC MEASURES/RECOMMENDATIONS SUGGESTED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE DISABLED**

The Disabled should have awareness about disabilities, their causes, modes of detection and prevention. It is said that prevention is better than cure. This holds good for disabled as well. While all disabilities cannot be avoided, it is a fact that at least some caused by inadequate nutrition and the like could be overcome by society in general and the parents in particular. The parents and the society around should ensure that the children are adequately nourished and protected to prevent the possibilities of them becoming disabled later.

The Government as well as NGO's should create awareness about the capabilities of disabled persons and about the existing facilities and amenities being provided by various agencies.

Education, employment and social security measures of the disabled are not implemented properly. The Government should extend support in the form of new scholarships or raise the amount of present scholarships, free or subsidised hostel facilities, special educational mobility aids and equipments like cassettes and tape recorders, low-vision aids, large print materials for the blind and low vision interpreter service to the hearing impaired and reservation of seats for each category of disabled for higher educational courses including research fellowships and special support for research undertaken by disabled scholars.

**Employment for the Disabled :** In tune with the philosophy of a welfare state, reservations are provided to the Disabled but these reservations are not implemented as they have no constitutional guarantee till recently. Even after the PWD Bill, 1995, these reservations are not implemented properly. The provision of reservation of jobs for the disabled be extended to class I and II A & B posts. In view of the disabled deprived of employment opportunities for decades, one time mass employment programme should be

announced for the disabled of each category atleast 1% of the total work force in the respective state/union territory and Government of India.

Our parliamentarians, legislators and our administrators, both at the level of policy formulation and at the level of implementation, have a very major role to play in the medical, educational, vocational and economic rehabilitation for the welfare of the disabled.

Political parties should include in their manifestos programmes such as disability policy formulation, review of programmes concerning the disabled and also insist on the Government to take up programmes for the disabled on priority basis wherever possible the respective political parties should set up a forum for the Disabled.

The development institutes and organisations should devote part of their resources for undertaking studies related to the disabled and disability. These institutes shall invite and encourage disabled persons to be on the faculty and to undertake research. All leading social organisations shall devote part of their time and resources for disability prevention and rehabilitation as a part of their regular activities and thereby help expand the scope of community based rehabilitation for the disabled.

Our leading scientists, technicians, technocrats and research workers should also be involved in developing new ideas and aids, appliances and equipments, to facilitate the training, employment and rehabilitation of the disabled.

The available data on the problems of Disabled is inadequate and inaccurate. There is need for collection of accurate data on the magnitude of the problem as represented by the physically handicapped. The Disabled also must be willing to work hard and get ready to make the best use of the available opportunities and even to know what they deserve and to demand and get what they want. They must be also prepared to give what they can in turn to the society.

#### **6.6 THE DEMANDS OF THE DISABLED'S IN THE STATE**

In this study, it is found that the Disabled have several demands to be solved by the Government. After examining, the struggles of the Disabled, their pamphlets, reports in newspapers about their problems, attending seminars on the disabled problems, it is found that the Disabled have the following problems :

- 1) State Government should take census of the disabled persons from time to time.
- 2) Disabled hostels and information centres should be opened at each village/taluk panchayat level.

- 3) Free medical check up should be provided and medical centre specially for Disable be opened.
- 4) In political field, the reservation for the disabled should be given, so that they too can be treated as equal to that of the others and government should also nominate disabled ones for state and central government legislative bodies and on various boards and corporations.
- 5) State Government must implement - all the special provisions (GO's, programmes) made for the betterment of the Disabled employees effectively.
- 6) In each constituency, state government must make provisions to construct 1000 houses for the disabled ones under the scheme of 'Ashraya Yojane'.
- 7) State Government must release grants to the institutions which are actively involved in the welfare of the disabled. Those working in the voluntary organizations must be considered as government employees and provided all facilities on par with the government employees.
- 8) In the budget, government must release adequate money for the welfare of the disabled persons.
- 9) Government must provide facilities like site, ration card, gas and telephone service at subsidised rates to the Disabled families.

10) Government must set up a committee to plug the loopholes that are arising out of the Disabled welfare schemes.

In modern societies, the state has to assume the primary responsibility for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. In the forty and odd years since Independence, the central and state Government's in India have done much in the field of rehabilitation of the disabled. But the dimensions of the problem are so vast and the resources, so inadequate that the work has been barely begun. But within the available financial resources, there is perhaps scope for redrawing of priorities and a strong case for larger allocation of funds for the relief of those visual impaired, hearing impaired and orthopaedically disabled.

The problems of the disabled can be mitigated to a large extent by creating opportunities for their merger into the mainstream of the larger society around them. With increasing public awareness and appreciation of the problem of disability various avenues are constantly being explored to provide expression to the creative and productive abilities of the disabled and thereby develop their independence and self-sufficiency. Several Government and Social organisations have accordingly provided many schemes and facilities to cater to the needs of the disabled. Unfortunately such information in its entirety is not widely disseminated.