Preface

India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Sustainability of growth process depends on the manner in which it is distributed among different sectors and different sections of the society. Growth needs to be inclusive benefiting all the sections of the society including persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities with more than 10 percent of total population are largest minority. Growth will have no meaning and relevance if persons with disabilities are not benefiting from it. The benefit to persons with disabilities can be measured by its impact on their socio economic status. Since persons with disabilities are neglected sections of the society, they need special attention by policy makers and social service organisations.

Governments of India as well as all State governments have large number of special schemes designed for the empowerment of person with disabilities. A legal provision like Persons with Disabilities Act is an example of interest on the part of government for their empowerment. At the same time, large numbers of non-governmental organisations are also active in the areas of disability and rehabilitation. Disability movement, gaining momentum in the world, has great impact on the disability movement in India. As a result of this, people's perception about persons with disability has changed from one as a charity to one towards rights.

When large sections of population are suffering with the problem of disability of one or the other type, social and economic costs of side tracking them will be very high. The concept of rehabilitation embodied the democratic and humanitarian ideal that each individual is important and each member of the community should contribute to society to the fullest extent. Rehabilitation programs are concerned with helping disabled person as a human being who requires specialized help to enables him to realize his physical, social, emotional, and vocational potentials. These programmes presuppose full development and utilization of the individual as their goals. In fact, this concerns itself with the residual abilities and utilizes them in such a way as to offset the effect of the disabilities to the maximum extent possible. The
objective of long range planning for rehabilitation is to achieve maximum adjustments of the maximum number of disabled persons in maximum walks of life, when the formal rehabilitation process is completed through good teamwork between medical, surgical, physiological, social, educational and vocational personnel (Kothari Gopa 1985). Among various types of rehabilitation, i.e. physical rehabilitation, social rehabilitation, psychological rehabilitation and vocational rehabilitation, the last one is most important because all efforts directed towards the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are ultimately aimed at their economic independence which is only possible through productive employment.

The Present Study is an attempt to understand the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities with specific reference to vocational rehabilitation, which includes their education, training and employment. The role of government and non-governmental organisations in vocational rehabilitation of physically challenged is also analyzed here.