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# PERSON WITH DISABILITIES AND HUMAN **RIGHTS: AN OVERVIEW**

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# **Abstract**

A person with disabilities is a group of people who have been affected by a long-term illness that affects their physical, mental, and sensory abilities. Currently, 15 per cent of the world's population live with disabilities, with the majority of these people living in developing countries. These people face a variety of issues, the most common of which are violations of their fundamental rights. Women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable, as they are often subjected to physical abuse in addition to their disability. This research paper seeks to gain an understanding of the laws that protect people with disabilities in India.

Index Terms: Person with Disability, Human Rights, Constitution, Social awareness,

### Introduction

A Lady was on her way to an international conference which was to be held in Goa. Lady was supposed to travel by plane and after being seated on the flight, she was approached by a crewmember who requested her to see her boarding pass, which she gave them. Then they ordered her off the plane. Despite her tearful protests and informing them that she needed to reach Goa for the conference, she was forced to deboard. After returning to the airport and arguing with airline officials, she later discovered that the caption had insisted that she must be removed due to her disability. Lady filed a petition in court and the court ordered airline officials to pay compensation. This was the case where the lady raised her voice and approached the court for justice but numerous cases go unreported. This is a condition of the person with disabilities even after75 years of Independence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Jeeja Gosh vs UOI WPCC98/2012 (citation LL2021 SC704) available on <a href="https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/persons-with-">https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/persons-with-</a> disabilities-should-not-be-asked-to-remove-prosthetic-limbs-at-airport-security-checks-supreme-court-186823 13/12/21 accessed on 10.00 am.

Every year 3<sup>rd</sup> December is celebrated as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). This day is observed to promote awareness about the situation of the person with disabilities. The theme of IDPD for the year 2021 is "Leadership & participation of Persons withDisabilities towards an Inclusive Accessible and Sustainable post-COVID-19 World."

# **Definition of Disability**

According to the RPWD Act, "a person with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment that, in combination with other barriers, prevents him from participating fully and effectively in society on an equal footing with others." A person with a benchmark disability has at least 40% of a specific disability, which has been characterised in quantitative terms and certified by the certifying authority. A person with a disability with high support needs is defined as someone who has a benchmark disability certified under clause (a) of subsection 2 of section 58 and requires high support<sup>2</sup>.

According to National Trust Act 1999, a person with a disability means a person suffering from any of the conditions relating to autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation or a combination of any two or more of such conditions & includes suffering from severe multiple disabilities. Severe disability means disability with 80 per cent or more of one or more multiple disabilities<sup>3</sup>.

# **Definition of Human Rights**

The term "Human Rights" refers to the individual's rights to life, liberty, equality, and dignity as guaranteed by the Constitution or contained in the International Covenants and enforced by Indian courts. India<sup>4</sup>.

# Mental Health Law and Human Rights-Evolution

For decades, the human rights of individuals with disabilities, particularly those with mental disabilities, were largely ignored by the international agencies responsible for protecting human rights worldwide. The early development of global international human rights law after World War II — and the various human rights advocacy efforts that followed — did not address mental disability rights. Only in 1981 did the United Nations recognise 1981 as the 'International Year of Disabled Persons', and in 1991, the General Assembly established the Mental Illness Prevention and Treatment (MI) Principles. The MI Principles laid down the world's most comprehensive human rights norms for people with mental disabilities and their adoption marked a milestone in the global recognition of mental disability rights as a human rights issue<sup>5</sup>.

Disability is now widely recognised as a global problem. An estimated 978 million people, 15% of the world's population, and a minimum of 93 billion children under the age of 15 worldwide suffer from moderate to severe disabilities. Yet mental disorders now comprise five of the ten top causes of years lost

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, s. section 2(s).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The National Trust Act, 1999 (No.44 of 1999), s. 2 (j).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. section 2(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Michael Dudley, Derrick Silove, *et.al.* (eds.), *Mental Health and Human Rights* 81 (Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 1st edn., 2012).

to disability worldwide.<sup>6</sup> According to the census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India (2.21 per cent of the total population) Total population of India in 2011 was 1210.2 million<sup>7</sup>

# Laws dealing with the protection & welfare of the disabled in India

Currently, four major pieces of legislation deal with this issue.

- 1. Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992.
- 2. The Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016.
- 3. National trust for welfare of the person with Autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation & Multiple Disabilities Act 1999.
- 4. Mental Health Care Act 2017.

Ministry of Social Justice & empowerment The Government of India deals with these legislations whereas the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare deals with the MentalHealth Care Act 2017. Additionally, provisions of the Human Rights Act 1993 and the Constitution of India are interpreted in light of the rights of persons with disabilities.

# 1. Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992

With a growing focus on the rehabilitation of people with disabilities in India, there was a need for systematic development of expertise and certification of competencies of personnel working in this sector. It required standardization of syllabus, course content and training methods. Keeping in view the needs of society, The Rehabilitation Council of India Act was enacted on 1st September 1992. The RCI Act became a statutory body on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1993. The primary purpose of the RCI is to control and monitor the services provided to disabled persons, standardise the syllabus, and keep a central rehabilitation register of all the qualified professionals and staff working in Rehabilitation & Special Education. The law also prescribes penalties for unqualified persons providing services to a disabled person<sup>8</sup>.

A central Rehabilitation Council of India was established to regulate policies and minimum standards for training rehabilitation personnel. The following Functions are carried out by the council regularly These functions include the Standardization of syllabi for training courses, Registration and regulation of qualified professionals, maintaining a Central Rehabilitation Register, Guidelines for levels of qualifications awarded, Promoting research in rehabilitation and special education etc.<sup>9</sup>.

It covers professionals providing rehabilitation services to people with disability including speech therapists, audiologists, rehabilitation psychologists, rehabilitation social workers etc. Amended over the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> World Health Organization, "World Report on Disability" (14 December 2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> www. rehabcouncilnic.In retrieved on 13/12/21 at 1.00 pm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, ss. section 11-30.

years to widen the scope of coverage of professionals as the sector evolved. Recent amendments align provisions with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016.

By providing oversight for the standardisation of training of the rehabilitation workforce, the Act has played an important role in enhancing quality and accountability. The Act has served an important function of maintaining standards and regulations around skilling for rehabilitating persons with disabilities in consonance with national policy<sup>10</sup>.

Rights of a Person with disability act 2016: - The RPWD Act, 2016 is a historic legislation that adopts a rights-based model aimed at securing equality, dignity and full participation for persons with disabilities. The Rights of Persons with Disability Act was adopted in 2016 and entered into force on April 19, 2017. This Act replaced the Person with Disability Act 1995. Rights of Person with Disability Act aims to enable all people with disabilities to lead their lives with dignity, non-discriminatory treatment and equal opportunities. To achieve this, specific provisions are laid down in the law. The law also includes the rights of people with disabilities under the UNCRPD, to which India accedes.

# Key Features of the act are

- 1. Comprehensiveness Covers 21 categories of disabilities including chronic illnesses and expands the scope to any others yet to be notified.
- 2. Accessibility & Inclusion This obligates the government to ensure accessibility in physical infrastructure, transport, and information systems. Also mandates reasonable accommodation in education and jobs.
- 3. Anti-Discrimination Prohibits discrimination on grounds of disability alone in areas like employment, education etc with penalties for non-compliance.
- 4. Legal Recourse Establishes redressal mechanisms through disability rights courts and commissions to address grievances and deprivation of guaranteed rights.
- 5. Social Security Provides for schemes that promote independent living options, unemployment allowance, caregiving support and aids & appliances.
- 6. Empowered Committees Set up Central & State Advisory Boards and District-level committees to drive implementation and monitor grievance redressal.

Overall, the law departs from a paternalistic approach towards guaranteeing rights, choices and dignity to the disabled as equal citizens. It adopts a broad definition of disability and focuses on both prevention as well as rehabilitation. The multidimensional legislation lays responsibility on individuals, institutions and the government to enable inclusion. While there are still shortcomings in law enforcement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ibid.

that need to be addressed, the enhanced legal framework strengthens India's commitment to the rights of 70 to 100 million people with disabilities<sup>11</sup>.

# National trust for welfare of the person with Autism, cerebral palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities Act 1999.

The National Trust Act, of 1999 was enacted by the Indian Parliament to provide legal guardianship for people with certain developmental and intellectual disabilities.

# **Key Features**

- 1. Beneficiaries Covers individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities.
- 2. Objective Enables and empowers beneficiaries to live as independently and as fully as possible.
- 3. Registered Bodies Entities registered under this Act to provide supported living options and custodial care.
- 4. Local Level Committees Appointed to monitor the application of law and assist in carrying out the provisions.
- 5. Guardianship Options Provides for guardianship orders by district courts for beneficiaries to take decisions relating to disability on their behalf.

Services Provided are Custodial care arrangements, Skill training opportunities, Legal aid for securing rights & entitlements, and financial assistance through trusts. The law fills a vital need for legal guardianship covering decision-making around supportive care, property rights and healthcare for those with developmental disabilities.

The National Trust Act has several key schemes including Disha for early intervention and school readiness of children with disabilities, Vikaas for daycare services to enhance skills and provide respite support, Samarth for setting up respite homes, Gharaunda to provide group homes with care services for adults, Niramaya to offer health insurance coverage, Sahyogi for caregiver training programs, Gyan Prabha to support educational and vocational pursuits of persons with disabilities, Prerna to provide marketing assistance for selling products made by them, Sambhav to facilitate access to supportive devices and aids, and Badhte Kadam focused on raising community awareness and sensitization. The objective is to expand opportunities and support services for people with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities covered under the Trust to promote their wellbeing, independence and mainstreaming in society. Through its different schemes spanning healthcare, skill training, assisted living, financial aid, job enablement and more, the Trust strengthens the overall ecosystem towards empowerment of some of India's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> (Research Division) National Human Rights Commission, India, "Disability Rights (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act & National Trust Act) and Mental Healthcare Act" 3-23 (2021).

most vulnerable disabled populations. The National Trust strengthens social security for some of India's most vulnerable disabled populations without family care support in an institutionalized framework 12.

#### **Mental Health Care Act 2017:**

The Mental Healthcare Act 2017 is a progressive legislation aligned with the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities that takes a rights-based approach towards mental health. This act was passed on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and came into force on29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 intending to provide mental health care services for persons with mental illness, It guarantees the dignity of these individuals by preventing discrimination and harassment. under this law, a person can be admitted, detained or treated in a hospital for a mental disorder without their consent.

According to Mental Health Care Act mental illness is defined as "Mental illness" is defined as "a serious impairment of thinking, behaving, sensing, orienting or remembering that seriously affects judgement, behaviour, ability to recognize reality or to meet the day-to-day demands of life," mental "conditions" related to alcohol and drug use, but "mental retardation" is "an arrested or incomplete development of a person's mind, particularly characterized by abnormal intelligence."

According to the act the concept of mental health care defined as Mental Healthcare refers to the analysis, diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses, as well as the care and rehabilitation of mental illnesses. The purpose of the Mental Health Act is to deliver mental healthcare and services to people with mental illnesses and to safeguard, promote and fulfil the rights of people with mental illnesses during the provision of mental healthcare services.

# **Key Features**

- 1. Rights-focused Upholds rights to access affordable and quality healthcare without discrimination. Prohibits cruel treatment.
- 2. Comprehensiveness Covers a broad range of mental illnesses, disorders, and disabilities.
- 3. Advance Directives Allows setting up advance instructions on treatment preferences and nominating representatives.
- **4.** Accessibility Mandates government mental health services across all districts with quality, availability and accessibility.
- 5. Least Restrictive Care Minimal use of coercive processes or forcibility, promotes community-based rehabilitation.
- **6.** Accountability and Oversight Strict penalties for violations of rights, National & State Mental Health Review Boards to monitor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> (Research Division) National Human Rights Commission, India, "Disability Rights (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act & National Trust Act) and Mental Healthcare Act" 25-30 (2021).

The legislation departs from a narrow medical model towards upholding the agency, dignity and legal capacity of persons with mental illness. With a robust rights-based approach spanning accessible care, inclusion of affected voices in treatment processes and strict accountability, it holds promise for transforming mental healthcare if fully implemented. Some gaps around inadequate infrastructure and trained personnel do constrain the realisation of objectives currently. However, policy directives are in place for execution.

#### Statutory bodies ensuring rights to a person with disabilities

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act 2016 mandated the setting up of several statutory bodies at national, state and district levels to oversee implementation, protect rights and enhance accessibility for people with disabilities.

# **Key Bodies:**

- 1. National Disability Rights Commission: A national-level statutory body that monitors the implementation of disability laws, investigates violations and recommends policy changes for upholding legal rights.
- 2. State Disability Rights Commissions: State-level commissions aligned with functions of the national body that probe grievances, review accessibility and monitor care institutions locally.
- **3. District-Level Committees:** Constituted in each district to evaluate accessibility audits of buildings, monitor the disbursement of aids/appliances and oversee schemes for the disabled at grassroots levels.

These agencies perform functions such as reviewing complaints, framing legally binding remedial measures, monitoring infrastructure upgrades for accessibility, ensuring scheme benefits through local authorities and maintaining quality regulatory oversight across disability initiatives. They uphold justice mechanisms and legal accountability towards realizing the rights mandate <sup>13</sup>. Apart from these, some other statutory bodies are

- **4.** Chief Commissioner for a person with Disabilities: -The office of Chief Commissioner for a person with Disabilities falls under the ambit of sec 74 (1) Rights of Person with Disabilities Act 2016. There is a single website /online portal through government schemes and can also raise the issue in case of grievance.
- **5.** National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities: This body is established based on the National Trust Act and its primary purpose is to deal with the social and legal needs of a disabled person<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Supra note 11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> www.thenationaltrust.gov.in retrieved on 13/12/21 at 1.30 pm.

- **6. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI):** -this statutory body was set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992.RCI looks after syllabus updating as well as issues related to various regarding the registration of psychologists and also looks after RCI-affiliated courses. <sup>15</sup>.
- **7. Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SC PwD):** -This body has been created by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The main function of this board is to give training regarding various vocational courses to a person with disabilities so that they can earntheir livelihood.

As watchdogs at multiple tiers evaluating the implementation of policies, programs and law enforcement through an empowered committee architecture, these statutory agencies are positioned to transform everyday rights realization on the ground for the disabled. However much depends on the effective discharge of their duties<sup>16</sup>.

# Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Constitution of India

Under the constitution of India, the disabled have been guaranteed the following fundamental rights which are closely related to Human Rights, which provide rights to every person (including the disabled) to live a dignified life. Here are some of the key rights of persons with disabilities under the Constitution of India:

- 1. Right to Equality (Article 14): Equal protection under law and prohibition against discrimination on grounds of disability.
- 2. Non-discrimination (Article 15): Discrimination based on disability is prohibited. The state cannot discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of disability.
- 3. Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16): Persons with disabilities have the right to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. The state is also empowered to make provisions for the reservation of jobs for persons with disabilities.
- 4. Right to Freedom (Article 19): Rights to freely move, reside and settle in any part of the country subject to reasonable restrictions. Persons with disability are also entitled.
- 5. Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21): Persons with disabilities have the right to life and personal liberty, ensuring their dignity and autonomy.
- 6. Right to education (Article 21A) Children with disabilities have the right to free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years, as guaranteed under the Right to Education Act.
- 7. Right against Exploitation (Article 23): Prohibits human trafficking, forced labour, and employment of children below 14 years in hazardous jobs. Special safeguards for the disabled.
- 8. Cultural & Educational Rights (Articles 29-30): Rights of the disabled to conserve language, script or culture. Also ensures the right to education.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Supra note 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> http://www.scpwd.in retrieved on 14/12/21 at 12.59 pm.

- 9. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32): Right to approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of legal rights. Binding on disability rights claims too.
- 10. Right to participation in political processes (Article 326): Persons with disabilities have the right to participate in the electoral process, including voting and standing for elections.

These fundamental rights coupled with provisions under laws like the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 uphold extensive legal equality and protections for the disabled. There are still gaps in the implementation of constitutional guarantees which require emphasis. However, the constitution affirms a broad rights regime for the dignified living of persons with disabilities as equal citizens. Reasonable accommodation through legislation is enhancing participation and mainstreaming.

# **Human Rights Act 1993**

The Human Rights Act of 1993 in India doesn't specifically exist. However, if you're referring to the Protection of Human Rights Act, of 1993, which established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs), it primarily deals with the protection and promotion of human rights across various domains. While it doesn't explicitly focus solely on the rights of persons with disabilities, it does encompass their rights as part of the broader framework of human rights.

Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, of 1993, the NHRC and SHRCs are entrusted with the responsibility of promoting and protecting the rights of all individuals, including persons with disabilities. This includes investigating complaints of human rights violations against persons with disabilities and taking appropriate actions to address them.

Here are some of the key provisions related to persons with disabilities under the Protection of Human Rights Act, of 1993:

- 1. One of the members of the National Human Rights Commission should be from the category of people who have knowledge and practical experience in matters relating to human rights with disability (Section  $3)^{17}$ .
- 2. The State Human Rights Commissions must also have one member who knows the field of disabilityrelated human rights (Section 21(2))<sup>18</sup>.
- 3. The definition of human rights specifically includes the issue of people with disabilities who are most vulnerable (Section 2(d))<sup>19</sup>.
- 4. The Commission is entrusted to encourage efforts to promote human rights relating to people with disabilities like prevention of their exploitation, abuse or negligent treatment (Section 12(c))<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. 21(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. 2(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. 12(c).

- 5. The Commission reviews safeguards regarding the rights of persons with disabilities under the Constitution and other laws (Section 12(d))<sup>21</sup>.
- 6. It can conduct research and advocacy to raise awareness of the rights of the disabled and recommend measures for effective implementation (Sections  $12(i)\&(j))^{22}$ .

Thus, the Act provides for representation, research and review functions by human rights bodies in the domain of disability rights. It emphasizes the need to focus on preventing abuse and rights deprivation specifically among the disabled from a vulnerability standpoint.

#### **Review of Literature**

- 1. Book The future of disability law in India by Jayna Kothari. This book provides a critical review of India's Persons with Disability Act, which seeks to ensure equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It examines the need to amend the disability law to bring it into line with the current international legislation, such as the UN CRPD. It also examines the rights of individuals with disabilities from the point of view of equity and human rights, and provides a forward-looking interpretation of the law in the light of the CRPD, taking into account Supreme Court and other high courts' judgments. Additionally, the book examines the role of the private sector in India's PWD Act, which is largely excluded from its scope. The book also provides a comprehensive overview of Indian disability law, as well as an international perspective.
- The book "Constitutional Law of India" by Dr J.N. Pandey is an authoritative textbook on the subject. Therefore, it is no surprise to state that it has now come in its 57 editions. This book gives commentaries on articles of the constitution of India. This is the latest book with subsequent important case laws and constitutional amendments. Thus, this book would provide law students and readers at large with updated knowledge of our Indian Constitution.
- 3. Book-India's Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 by Richard M. Duffy, Brendan D. Kelly. In-depth analysis of the Indian Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. Provides a healthcare perspective instead of a legal perspective. Acts as a guide for professionals using the Indian Mental Healthcare Act. Guides parties reviewing mental health legislation to align it with UN CRPD.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. 12(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (Act No. 10 of 1994), s. 12(i)(j).

- 4. **Book- Disability Rights and Law in India by Maheshwar Singh.** This work is an attempt to analyze the contribution of the Indian judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) and two Quasi-Judicial bodies namely the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) and National Human Rights Commission in the development of equality rights jurisprudence for disabled person.
- 5. Book rights of disabled persons in India: a critical study with special reference to rights of disabled persons with disability law, 2016 by Sunil Kumar Mishra. Disability is a broad term that encompasses impairments, restrictions on activities, and restrictions on participation. Impairment is a disorder of bodily function or structure. Activity limitation is a restriction on an individual's ability to perform a task or action. Participation restriction is a restriction on a person's ability to participate in life situations. Disability is a complex phenomenon that reflects an interaction between the physical characteristics of a person and the characteristics of the society in which they live.
- 6. Book-Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), by Shri Gautam Banerjee for the Rehabilitation Council of India. The book takes readers on a journey of legislative enactments that have given voice to the rights of people with disabilities. Some of these are the Mental Health Act 1987, PWD Act 1995, Rehabilitation Council Act 1992, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities Act 1999, and Constitutional guarantees available to people with disabilities under the Constitution of India.

# Research Methodology

The nature of the study would be analytical and exploratory. It is analytical concerning the fact that an attempt is made to analyze the evolution of laws related to persons with mental disabilities at the National level. The type of study is preferred to be exploratory because an attempt is made to revisit the theoretical conception of the rights of persons with mental disabilities at the national level. This research paper is based on doctrinal of non-empirical types. This category of research is pure theoretical research. It comprises either simple research focused on discovering a definite statement of the law or intricate and extensive exploration of legal reasoning.

The study is based on the primary as well as a secondary source of data collection. This research work being doctrinal, the researcher has primarily collected data from secondary sources, such as books, Law-journals, and Newspapers, and using the various websites for the collection of data, the researcher has also referred the law commission report, case laws, news and various journals for the law relating to a person with disabilities.

# **Analysis and Discussion**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is a landmark moment in the history of human rights for people with disabilities. However, there is still a long way to go in terms of equality on the ground. A critical look at India's national legislation and policy protections shows a strong system of rights that includes equality, non-discriminatory practices, education, political involvement and accessibility. However, the lack of data on the extent of enjoyment of rights makes monitoring difficult, even though complaints highlight deprivation across domains such as barrier-free spaces and reasonable accommodation in labour markets etc.

Additionally, disabled people's needs and experiences often get grouped without considering how identity and gender discrimination affect disabled women differently. This lack of understanding leads to various challenges for disabled women. Also, there aren't enough ways for people with intellectual disabilities to address problems when their rights are violated under the law. Therefore, the gap between rights formation and actual condition calls for a focus on social, behavioural and systemic remedies to meet both the material and internal needs of rights, rather than just legal safeguards. Sensitisation programs for government and the private sector, stronger oversight authorities, rehabilitation infrastructure, disability advocacy and multidisciplinary efforts can support rights.

The analysis shows that ensuring rights is closely connected to making society, the economy, and politics more accessible and inclusive. This connection is crucial for achieving real equality in people's everyday lives.

# **Challenges and Future Directions**

Despite significant progress, challenges remain in the effective implementation of disability rights. These include inadequate infrastructure, limited awareness and understanding of disability issues, and persistent stigmatization and discrimination. Moving forward, it is essential to address these challenges through concerted efforts to promote awareness, strengthen legal protections, and foster inclusive policies and practices across all sectors of society.

# Conclusion

To sum up, the intersection between the rights of persons with disabilities and human rights is an essential part of social progress and inclusion. International frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UNCRPD and national legislation such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, have advanced the recognition, protection, and advocacy of persons with disabilities rights. persons with disabilities rights include but are not limited to equality, non-discrimination, accessibility, educational opportunities, employment, health care, political participation, etc. Despite significant progress, challenges such as attitudinal barriers and systemic inequalities still exist. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that human rights for persons with disabilities are fully realized to create a world in which diversity is celebrated and everyone can flourish with dignity, independence, and equal opportunity.