



“Vested Niceties Of Disability Studies On Marginality And Social Inclusion In India Through Time Oriented Transdisciplinary Approach”

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1.1 INTRODUCTION:

The United Nations Convention unanimously defines the reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities as follows: ... “Necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms”. The famous Genevan Philosopher-cum-Sociologist Jean-Jacques Rousseau capsulates; “Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains” and an American Philosopher Henry David Thoreau observes as; “Man does not always live by laws and justice but by Grace”, these three statements knock every sensitive mind to think seriously about the traditional evil practices of human discrimination on the basis of corporeally and psycho-socially deviations. But, the sufferings and subjugations of the marginalized persons across the globe are *the never-ending miserable experiences*.

Scientific advancement in medical field and societal spaces enormously and tremendously hit the delicacies and intricacies of the status of marginalized person or groups of persons. Irrespective of the geographical frontiers, race, religion, culture, caste, creed, color, gender, polity, ethnicity and ethics the marginality in the society and in an advanced stage, *the marginality among the marginals* is still prevailing, proactive, alive and burning the very basic existence of the human diversity and mankind ecosystem. The persons with corporeally disabled are ‘not only simply marginalized, but also the marginals among the marginalized too’.

Millennium Development Sustainable Goals emphasizes on; Education for All, Health for All, Employability and Skill Oriented Opportunities for All – means irrespective of the psycho-physical barriers of an individual to enable them to attain self-reliance and humility.

Innumerable number of policies and programs initiated, promoted and propagated by the governmental and non-governmental agencies at all stages of public-private-participatory modes of administration across the globe striving hard to minimize and dilute the gravity of the pain and agonial issues of the marginalized sect of persons with corporeally disabled to curb the extent and effects of evil practices of societal attitudes towards them.

1.2 Marginality and the Marginalized:

Marginality is the cursed faction constructed by the biased societal attitudes violating human rights in silence by denying equality of basic living rights to enjoy resources, power, and functions to a particular person or groups of persons based on certain prejudiced or unjust parameters. Such societal condition is regarded as Marginality and the victims of such vindictive treatment are often segregated as the marginalized. The humanly created certain factors like race, caste, customs, traditions, rituals, political theories and religious practices are at one end and at the same time gender, geo-natural limitations and differential flora and fauna are at another end which have hampered the process of universality of equity.

1.3 What is Marginality?

According to Dunne (2005, 15) marginality can be understood as “a multidimensional phenomenon in that a given person may be simultaneously integrated with one or more centers while being marginal from one or more other centers. In other words, it is the ill versioned deliberate process of isolation, exclusion, and segregation of a particular sect, gender, and humane.

Marginality is a contextually governed practice with several socio-cultural-religious-economic and political complexities, knocking the targeted group to suffer for want of equal legitimate share of respect, health, wealth, power, position, joy and fun and functioning of normal life. Marginality is systematically monitoring the cause-and-effect process of inter and intra connectedness of several dimensions of human society since the inception of society to till date.

1.4 Who are the Marginalized?

Every individual or group of individuals, community or bunch of communities, organization or collective of organizations and institution or association of institutions are often or sometime experience the severity of the exclusion duly bearing the pains of irreparable or callouses loss in many dimensions and lead to create separated segment in reality which will be identified, noted and recognized as marginalized.

Several visible and invisible, measurable and unmeasurable factors like gender, ethnicity, race, religion, corporeality with respect to biological and chronological age, income earning potential, geo-spatial locations, cultural dynamics, bio-power political principles, digitally driven media and public governance and such other sensitive forces have intentionally created the gap among the human beings and

segregated them as marginals and knocked them to subjective experiences of social exclusion since many centuries. The women or the female species, persons belonging to racially downtrodden and socio-economically backward, persons living far and far away from the so-called civil society and the persons with deviated corporeality in other words to say persons with disabilities etc., are systematically victimized, excluded and fragmented to suffer with forced denial of their rights and deprived of equity and equality of opportunities and lead to unjust in all spheres of their life and they are called - Marginalized.

The centrality of the marginalization can be questioned through; enhanced sensitivity towards education, extending quality health, induced advocacy for rights and representations, just and equitable societal attitudes and removal barriers of social inclusion.

1.5 What is Disability?

According to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, WHO derived a definition for persons with disability as follows; “a person with a physical, mental or sensory disability, including a visual, hearing or speech functional disability which gives rise to physical, cultural or social barriers inhibiting him or her from participating at an equal level with other members of society in ...”. It implies that, the corporeal state of a person which does not allow him or her to be engaged in any Substantial Gainful Activity due to medically measureable psycho-physical inability. The corporeal, cognitive, intellectual, psychological and sensory impairments of a person with disability may directly and proportionately influence his or her extent of mobility, dexterity, memory, adaptability and problem-solving capabilities.

Several ingredients like bio-physical, individual and eco-environmental are the indicators of the divergent experiences of the persons with disabilities in alignment with health and corporeal status of the marginalized, the other, and leading further for social exclusion.

1.6 Sufferings and Subjugations of Persons with Disabilities.

The immanent rights and claims of the persons with disabilities must be restored through vigilant legal framework, user friendly environment, increased societal sensitivity and awareness duly leading for socio-cultural shift to ensure balanced and healthy society. However, societal discrimination, exacerbate stigma, dehumanization, myths and misconceptions, controlled autonomy, economic-educational-employment strain full gaps etc., lead the persons with disability for innumerable kinds of subjective sufferings and subjugations.

1.6.1 Major Sufferings:

Educational impediments like; in sufficient access, lack of properly trained teachers and teaching aids, inadequate health care facilities, negatively pre-conceived public and private employers, unscientific public conveyances and unevenly determined economic stability and such other barriers will compel the persons with disability to experience the sufferings like-

- dependency,
- inferiority,

- snubbed natural urges,
- self-hatredness of disability,
- loss of memory and identity,
- un-censored emotions,
- insecurity,
- illusive morality,
- torture in frustration,
- passivity,
- instable health and health care hindrances,
- devalued treatment,
- conflict between contemplations and self determination,
- violence on body and mind,
- embedded entity,
- imposed silence,
- depression and anxiety,
- self-efficacy,
- financial destitution,
- denied sympathy and empathy,
- quelling,
- psycho-physical vengeance,
- sexual assault,
- extreme violence
- exploitation and ill treatment

etc., are the major common sufferings of the persons with psycho-physical or corporeally disabilities.

1.6.2 Major Subjugations:

In spite of continuous and consistent efforts by the modern world to restore the devalued and neglected glory of the marginalized social group especially the faction of the persons with disabilities through legal and ethical means, positive interventions, defensible measures across the globe, the degree of discrimination has not yet come down to the expected level. The dominance of the able persons over the disabled the other is continued to expand the boundaries of biased assumptions and harmful stereotypes and irrational approaches are still forcing the disabled to suffer with the following certain types of subjugations:

- rejection,
- avoidance,
- teasing,
- negligence

- odd man out policy
- treating impotent
- ill treat by kiths and kin's
- paralyzed cognizance by care taker
- age related degenerative strokes
- brutality
- barbarism
- ill treat
- intolerance
- greedy
- fake love
- malafied manifest
- oppressed by own blood
- ritualistic rigidity
- systemic lethargic attitude
- indignity and humiliation
- infected attitude of the loved ones – violence and abuse
- purposive and irresolute policies
- defective data and statistics – malafied justice
- forced fight for social justice
- struggle for lively hood
- indignity and humiliation
- family violence
- disrespected motherhood
- marriage as a means of humiliation
- sexual exploitation
- gang rape
- forced prostitution
- insult to corporeality
- harsh and hard treatment
- woman is born to be blamed
- misogynic evil hardships
- sober cruelty
- sexual prudery
- vindictive animalism

It is the most appropriate time now to re-think, re-infer, re-design, re-frame, re-visualize and refresh certain prominent dimensions of the corrective measures initiated and implemented through stringent and robust legal framework to reduce the sufferings and subjugations of the persons with disabilities. In other words, to ensure equity and equality of opportunity to the marginalized, the process of social inclusion must be increased and social exclusion must be reduced.

1.7 Social Inclusion:

“Society for All” is a proclamation of the World Summit for Social Development held at Copenhagen in 1995. That emphasized that, every individual has the same rights and responsibilities, and an active role to play within their societies.

Disparities such as gender, race, religion, ethnicity, class, spatial limits, corporeal status and such other parameters have no bearing on a person to exhibit his or her full potential by exercising their franchise of basic-inborn-natural rights.

Since the maiden day of advancement in the civil society to the present time modern science and technology certain persons, groups of persons or factions of every society are denied equal access to natural and manmade resources, opportunities, decision making processes, inherent diverse needs and individual dignity and status etc., on the basis of socially constructed disadvantageous restrictions which in turn has the long term or permanent effect not only on the restricted or marginalized groups but also it results in the loss of human capital wealth and gross domestic product. Hence, it is essential here to quote a famous statement of the Architect of the Indian Constitution, Bharat Ratna, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar; “Equality may be a fiction but nonetheless one must accept it as a governing principle.”

Therefore, it is the felt necessity that the modern society with digital vibrancy in 360 degrees has to ensure an expected shift in social inclusion into Action with Develop Diverse of the socio-culturally-economically-politically disadvantaged groups; women, persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, Tribal People, Other Backward Class Persons, Senior Citizens and at last **BUT NOT LEAST – THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

Essentially, social inclusion is a continuous process of constructing a healthy and balanced society where every disabled person has the opportunity to thrive and contribute his or her unique contribution with a band of self confidence and self esteem duly employing the inherent talent, creativity and potential.

1.8 Dimensions of Social Inclusion:

It is very appropriate to quote the words of veteran economist and the Nobel Prize Winner, Dr. Amartya Sen, “Disabled people are not only the most deprived human beings in the developing world, they also are the most neglected”

Hence, the basic resources like food, cloth, shelter, health care, education, equal openings in socio-cultural-economic-political corners, secured feeling of belongingness, social recognition, individual dignity

and autonomy, self-esteem and self-respect and such other humanly requirements must unconditionally be given with pro rata proportion to the persons with the disabilities.

The following are some of the major dimensions through which equality of opportunities to be extended the persons with disabilities to ensure the slogan “Society for All” will be achieved by and large;

- equal opportunities to access basic resources,
- participation in decision-making; at home, work-place, public-private-socio-political institutions and organizations,
- combating discrimination and inequality; socially engaged, culturally honored, economically self-sufficed and politically preferred,
- promoting diversity and belongingness; individual dignity and self relied actualization,
- building a just and equitable society;
- programs that support marginalized communities,
- policies that promote equal opportunities,
- community-based initiatives,
- efforts to raise awareness about social inclusion,

The complexities within and among the above-mentioned dimensions can be well addressed contextually by defining, understanding, classifying and analyzing the delicacies of interconnectedness and multidimensionality of the core meaning in truest of true sense.

1.9 Barriers for Social Inclusion:

It is nonetheless to say, in a democratically public ruling system nothing exists without the presence of barriers, and that is the beauty of the democracy. Accordingly, the process of social inclusion faces several barriers like; stigmatic and prejudiced societal attitudinal, socio-culturally driven values, faith, beliefs, customs and traditionally bound superstitions, physical barriers like inaccessible buildings and transportation, well planned but poorly managed public policies, inadequate services, poverty-gender pay gaps, disproportional representation in leadership roles, mis-calculated work and life balance, pre-conceived notions of the ableists and insufficient awareness, lack of well-trained and guided resource persons in alignment with the modified skills to meet the special needs of the persons with disabilities.

1.10 Disability Studies as a Promoter of Social Inclusion:

Despite the sympathetically governed and empathetically implemented pro-development policies and practices related to the welfare of the persons with disabilities their experiences of the self and among themselves differ contextually with varied degrees of severity and consequences due to differential influence of the socio-cultural peripherals wherein they are born and brought up, that means they are governed by their very environment in which they live. Reaction and interactions of the disabled persons are controlled, managed and monitored with the direct and indirect effects of the hindrances; psycho-

physical, socio-cultural and public policies etc., finally which results in the imbalanced participation in all walks of their life and deliberately deviated from the holistic development.

In order to cater to the core meaning the definition formulated at the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD): "long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others," and with an intension to ensure paradigm shift in the disability sphere and to through light on the diversities of different experiences of the same impairment in relation to their environment, the separate branch of studies across the cross sectional segments of the education ladder and helps understating the world of disabled in broader manner; that is regarded as "Disability Studies" and it emphasizes the horizontal and vertical intersects like ; self-identity, gender, race, class and bio-physical urges and orientations etc., holistically.

Many approaches have been formulated, synchronized, synthesized, analysed, implemented and enacted in the form of 'Models of Disability Studies' through inter, intra and external connectivity with many disciplines.

The process of social inclusivity of the marginalized especially the group of persons with disabilities will be promoted and accelerated through the strong correlativity, inter and intra connectivity with positive coherence in the form of;

- fostered inclusive design v/s traditional design approach [norms challenged-user friendly-integrated universal design principles]
- innovative specific accessibility v/s generally extended facilities [obstacle specific-advanced solutions-assured compatibility]
- exhaustive legal advocacy v/s common and local judiciary [effectively communicable legal policy framework-enforcing strategies and standards-increased awareness]
- inclusive community v/s prejudiced societal exclusivity [effective social connectivity-supportive techno-social network-participatory enhance tools-focussed collaboration]

In summarize, it can be said that the disability studies will positively affect, influence and empower the social inclusivity in a smart way by borrowing, imbibing and implementing the outcomes of modern liberal policies prescribing and protecting human rights, technical solutions accessible to a very common man of the remote area and the strengthened blend of social and communicative media. Thus, the disability studies perceive the socio-culturally constructed defective disability as an impediment for holistic development and hence it suggests corrective measure and play a catalytic role in its transformation to ensure equity and equality of the marginalized or subjugated and treated as the 'other'.

1.11 NEP Aspirations for Correlation of Disciplines:

National Education Policy 2020 has formulated several effective measures to curb the evil differentiation of the marginalized, that too the section of persons with disabilities by proposing comprehensive corrective measures like;

- sufficient budgetary allocations,
- strategies to fill the potential gap,
- comprehensive data,
- limited researches on inclusive practices
- challenges in executing policies and programs
- measures to control and curb stigmatic discriminations and labeling
- specificity in terminology
- accessible infrastructure with modern technology
- assistive and digital touch
- accessible assessment

In order to break the isolative compartmentalization of various pedagogies an effective, practically achievable, socially productive, modern approaches like interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary are proposed in the NEP 2020 to ensure skill oriented, life making, future prospective and national building education system.

1.12 Disability Studies – Inter-disciplinary Approach:

In order to find solutions to various problems and issues through systematically, rationally and analytically coined frame work of concepts and practices related to two or more disciplines. Accordingly, the prominent concepts and key indicators connected to disability studies may be taken up through interdisciplinary approach in education, encouraging the integration of knowledge and perspectives from different academic disciplines. Holistic and all-round information about the sufferings and subjugations of the disabled may be imparted to the ablest and disabled with due incorporation the following modes;

- curriculum integration
- skill development
- experiential learning
- flexibility and choice
- problem solving
- collaboration
- research and product development
- advanced communicative techniques
- convergence with real life experiences

The interdisciplinary connectivity may be planned with the cognizance of allied disciplines like sociology, social work, psychology and biology, bio-technology and so on and so forth.

1.13 Disability Studies - Multi-disciplinary Approach:

NEP 2020 laid emphasis on multidisciplinary approach which involves the process of integrating knowledge and methods from different academic disciplines to address a complex issue and ensure clarity for every concept and a problem. The collaborative approach will yield an exhaustive and comprehensive understanding of the concepts but do not contribute a new field of study. A few mechanisms like;

- background knowledge v/s angle of analytics
- sharing of expertise v/s perceived innovative solution
- fostered integration v/s disciplinary repository

Multi disciplinary approach in; education, research, healthcare, design, technology - digital and communicative etc., may be integrated with the various spheres of disabilities and sub-sequential sufferings and subjugations.

The disability studies may be integrated with research scholars of various disciplines like; medical and biological scientists, engineers and architects, literary laureates, social and political stalwarts, and communicative experts etc., to elevate the quality and quantity of blended and desired outcomes with technically, socially and ethically sound and sweet to the subjugated persons with disabilities.

1.14 Disability Studies: Trans-disciplinary Approach:

A trans-disciplinary is method of promoting knowledge systems, pedagogical skills, and nuance methodologies, congenial transitive measures will pave a perfect and acceptable path for the easy run towards the all-round development by the systemic elements. Blended expertise of various disciplines will convert every joint venture into a more holistic, productive, and solution-oriented appropriateness to formulate principles of ideal society by strengthening to the disability issues, through multi-layered participation of stakeholders of multiple disciplines on cooperation basis within a system or within a rationalized group of systems.

Trans-disciplinary approach promotes the culture of;

- combination of knowledge, methods, dimensions,
- address real-world problems involved multiple complexities
- enhanced correlation with various branches of same or different subjects
- collective contribution from researchers, practitioners, facilitators, beneficiaries
- productive impact of practical utility
- promotion of sustainability

- integrated approach for planning, designing, implementing the outputs
- established obligation of medico-social-legal complexities
- inter-changeability and inter-transferability of intellectual property

The disability studies may be blended with various departments like basic science, social science, humanistic science, mathematics, linguistics, medicine, law and jurisprudence, technology, digital and communication science, data science etc to enrich the modes and methods of resolving the issues through trans-disciplinary approach. Effective coordination among the end users and beneficiaries, communicative media and version across the disciplines, traditionally bound support system, time constraints and conceptual convergence etc., are the major concerns to ensure spirit of internal critical consciousness pertaining to social inclusivity of the disabled.

1.15 Disability Studies - Dimensions of Trans-disciplinary Approach:

Argentinian trans-disciplinarity professional Pablo Tigani opine; 'it is the art of combining several sciences in one person. A transdisciplinary is a scientist training in various academic disciplines. This person merged all his knowledge into one thick wire. That united knowledge wire is used to solve problems that include many problems. The decision of a transdisciplinary executive is the only one that takes into account the total resolution of a problem without leaving any loose thread'. The following are the major approaches, areas of major and minor thrust, through which the sufferings and subjugations of a person with disability can be knitted across various disciplines by making an designing exhaustive curricular and cocurricular academic programs;

- biased-rejection v/s right to live
- unproductive v/s education, employment and economic empowerment
- isolation v/s law of change
- dependency v/s assistive technology
- biased-rejection v/s right to live
- karma theory v/s unveiling of superstitions
- theory of accept v/s avoidance
- icy feelings v/s turbulent expressions
- space v/s discrimination
- sexual exploitation v/s violence in silence
- economics of enmity without enemy
- suffocation v/s arbitrary options
- seniority v/s sensitivity
- finance v/s sovereign default
- rejection in acceptance
- rituals v/s realities
- humanity v/s grotesque

- ambivert v/s conscious self-search
- conflict of law v/s beyond geographical frontiers
- demarcated power – persons – policies:
- prejudiced and deliberately polluted dominance of conspiracy
- poverty v/s politics of finance
- social justice v/s legal framework
- death -misery-emotions
- traditional beliefs
- the shift toward change
- patriarchy-cause effect
- conformity v/s defiance
- forced loyalty v/s urged happiness
- resistance and empowerment
- social institutions v/s individual autonomy
- nationality v/s human brutality
- modernity v/s human trafficking
- structured gender discrimination v/s sexuality & shame
- constructed geo-spatial gender biases - instability
- rule and to be ruled v/s politics of progeny
- reputation v/s individual natural instincts

The reflective process of transdisciplinary approach will be a best means to address the issues pertaining to the marginalized, duly focusing on the pathetic conditions of the persons with disabilities, through well screened modes of collective ownership, equally shared accountability, liberally structured, long term adaptable, sustainable dynamism, deep inquiry driven and ethically bounded paradigms to explore innovative solutions.

1.16 Disability Studies - Limitations of Trans-disciplinary Approach:

Integration and correlation of a large portion of cognitive dynamics it is humanly heavy to sustain the memory and hence, it may lead to psychological challenges, harmony among the members of the divergent group, time management from the convenient perspective of the expertise, distribution of skill capacity and leadership crises, pavement of a viable path between academic and non-academic facilitators and beneficiaries, monetary scaling and security and such other limitations are further deviating the restricted gaps viz., socio-psycho-philosophically derived unique and acceptable frame work in the absence of suitable tools and measuring yard sticks and evaluative devices. Proper and effective communication among the participative faction and allied groups is also an intense impediment to ensure balanced and rational utility of power and knowledge resources. Reinforcement measures are may face shortfalls in timely rewards and regards to the eligible contributor may also be considered as one of the lacunes of the transdisciplinary approaches.

1.17 Conclusion.

In this regard education i.e., elementary, secondary and higher education stages are pro introductory towards the eradication measures related to inclusion of persons with disability in all spheres viz., socio-cultural-religious-political domains. Hence, the efforts are on with slow motion pace to publicize the process of transformation of social inclusion as a public friendly initiative through interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches.

In order to attain the meaningful outcomes through time oriented visionary tasks and schedules; well structured, rationally calculated, scientifically analyzed, holistically perceived and spirally managed specific discipline is essentially required to be existed independently. Accordingly, by the efforts of a few thinkers and educationists across the globe have resulted in establishment of Disability Studies as an independent discipline to address the issues of the persons with disability in a systematic, proper and rational manner duly encouraging the stake holders to come forward to raise their voices against the violence and discrimination they face.

At this juncture, the very existence of the Disability Studies as an independent department or discipline of studies at higher education ladder, the quantum of humanly deserved and socio-culturally bound niceties will be more vested with the said discipline pushing the same towards the paradigm shift through expansion by means of interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches.

As a continuum of the assertions and arguments cited above, the well-structured and scientifically carved transdisciplinary mode of approach is expected to enhance the; exchange of knowledge and learning, focus on addressing a specific problem, embraced broader perspective, social interaction and collaboration, knowledge co-creation, equitable involvement, recognizing the interconnectedness, long-term perspective, implications and potential consequences of actions, innovative approaches, shared ownership of goals, processes and outcomes, all voices are heard and valued, flexibly organized structures etc.....so on and so forth.

The aim of this paper is to emphasize the positive role of transdisciplinary approach followed by interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary to enhance and emphasize the quandaries and concerns of the victims, stakeholders, activists, visionaries and entrepreneurs of the field of Disability Studies and compel the public administrative system to make this issue a 'mass concern' and constrain the society to modify and transform its biased attitude into an acceptable act for the persons with disability duly respecting their existence as they are in order to promote equity and equality of opportunity.

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