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Challenges and possibilities in empowerment of Specially Abled women in Indian law

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Abstract - Equality for woman is emerging as, the most pressing issues of the 21st century. Their position has gradually changed since the beginning of the twentieth century. Even, in present their decision-making power at home and freedom of movement vary greatly depending on their age, education, and employment status. It has been discovered that women's acceptance of unequal sex norms is still prevalent in society. Women with disabilities are completely ignored and left in a pitiful state. This happens for a variety of reasons including: Girls' safety, hygiene, and sanitation needs of girls may be overlooked, excluding them from regular classes. Gender disparities in learning and skill development are also caused by discriminatory teaching styles and educational materials.

Keywords: Disability, Household, Status, Challenges, Discrimination, Women face, Supremacy, Movement, Impairment, Universal framework.

Discrimination can be defined as negative treatment of anything or anyone which is based on their gender, race and other characteristics. It is regarded as a barrier to the accomplishment of goals of equality, development, and peace. Discrimination is acknowledged as a kind of Inequality and is a global concern for women. It has an impact on particular gender ability to participate freely and fully in society. Every day, girls and boys experience gender inequity in their homes and communities - in textbooks, media and among the adults who care for them. Parents may share unequal household responsibilities such as, mothers carrying the burden of care giving and chores.

The bulk of low-skilled and underpaid community health workers, who have been taking care of the children are also women with limited opportunity for professional growth. In addition, many females get less support in pursuing their studies as compared to the males.

Status of Indian women - Earlier, women in India had a lower status than men in their daily lives. However, they have a higher status in the scriptures. They are regarded as the world's ideal housewives and Indian ladies are entirely dedicated to their families. They are preached in the names of Saraswati, Durga, Parvati and Kali. Traditionally, women in India were viewed as members of a family or a group rather than as individuals with their own identity or rights. The notion of women's equality has been fundamental to traditional Indian thought and Hindu religious philosophy.¹

The reality of women's existence remains invisible to both men and women, and this invisibility extends from the household to the nation. Although men and women shared the same geographical environment, they live in different worlds. Now, it is true that "women hold up half the sky" but we have failed to provide them with a position of dignity and equality.² Historically, Indian women were equal to men. According to the most recent Census conducted by the Government of India, there are 933 females for every 1000 males in our country.

Men's supremacy may be found in all aspects of our life. In recent years, the situation for women has been gradually shifting. Women are steadily ascending in all sectors of relevance. Women today must push outside their comfort zones to develop their own images in the outside world, in addition to cooking and caring for their houses. In a nutshell, this is known as women's empowerment.

Because of the advances made by women in many aspects of life, society's attitude toward women has shifted. Nowadays men have more understanding of the women in their lives, yet many incidences have been seen against women in society.

The fact of Gender inequality - Gender describes the socially created distinctions between men and women, boys and girls, and so on. Gender is defined by the social norms, behaviours, activities, relationships, and duties that society assigns to male and female (WHO, 2010). Gender understanding varies throughout races, nations, castes, ethnic groupings, and religions. Gender equality means that men and women have equal rights and opportunities as human beings regardless of their gender. It also implies that all people (men and women) must have equal access to personal development opportunities and be free to make personal decisions.

The government or society will not discriminate against men and women based on their gender. Gender equality implies that everyone (including men and women) must have an equal opportunity to excel. In according to that, a woman makes over half of the world's population and their numbers are growing. Despite this, there is still discrimination throughout various stages of life, either directly or indirectly, for Instance; Discrimination on the ground of decision-making and property rights in the form of less expenditure on school, food, and health care for girls than males is a historical practice in Nepal's rural communities.³ Women in remote areas are regarded as they are illiterate and are rarely participating in formal meetings or the planning phase. Women face discrimination when it comes to making decisions in official meetings and participating in formal meetings. Illiteracy prevents political participation as well (Pandey, 2006)

Discrimination against women in all field of society - Disabled men and women both are facing discrimination at various places at their social life. But women with disability experienced a double burden due to disability and gender or can be double discriminated.⁴ Women are not a homogeneous group of rights holders and the discrimination against women can manifest itself in a variety of ways and contexts. Undoubtedly, there is a number of Polices, Articles, Amendments meant for the women's in order to preserve, promote, and advance women's.

Women and their Disability - Swearing remark for women Disability is an enigma that we all face at some point in our lives but may not always comprehend. While some people are born impaired, others encounter disability when they are young, but the majority of us get acquainted with it later in life as we mature. It is a reality that disabled people have been both mistreated and suppressed for ages. They have been marginalised, stigmatised and institutionalised on the bases of their disabilities. This is due to the fact that, we live in a world full of norms in which more traits of a certain type of society than a condition of human nature. Humans have a tendency to categorise themselves as either normal or deficient.

Census (2011) data reveals that disabled women outnumber men with reference to disability both in rural and urban areas. It shows that it is deeply increase in the percentage of women with disabilities over the last decade. When we look at the various disabilities among the women more no. of women fall under the category of hearing impaired and movement impairment and quite of them comes under multiple disabilities. India has the world's second largest population.

It also has the second highest number of disabled persons behind China. Census of India 2011, reveals roughly 2% of the Indian population i.e. 21 million disables and in that women constituted 44% of the total population. They have been neglected on various grounds like denied to take education, access, Employment and uneven to found a family.⁵

Disabled women - In a country like India, the situation of a disabled person is dark. It is considerably worse for a disabled woman. However, the difficulties they confront appear to be related to societal attitudes about them rather than structural concerns. Our society is apathetic and harsh to comprehend the difficulty of women with disabilities in general. Due to a lack of skills, support, and opportunities, many of these disabled women and girls are unable to make meaningful contributions to the community and economy. Even while the government has laws, regulations, and policies in place to address the needs of the disabled, they are more generic and male centric than gender specific. The most significant finding from the recent literature studies pretend that all disability researches have taken a gender-blind approach.⁶ They have assumed that gender and other social aspects are unimportant in this subject. As a result, in order to investigate they have failed to consider the influence that their gender has a great impact on the lives of women with disabilities. Another notable feature of the literature review is from around the world, particularly India, is devoted to the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities.

There is a lack of literature that encourages people to focus on the positive parts of their lives. Despite the hardships and limits, these disabled women have empowered themselves. From the beginning we found that disabled women are highly invisible or ignored. Even they are not included in the developmental process of the county at all. This kind of action pretends that they are useless or born with no abilities, burden on their parents, considered as stigma and so on. Hence, they become most vulnerable part of the society. Therefore it is necessary to look into the kind of problems and challenges undergone by women with disability in their day to day lives to meet their ends.

Barriers in path of development of women with disability First of all we need to understand- What do we mean by barriers in the case of women disability? Why they are considered as burden at different level? Women with disability are considered as burden because they are not able to present themselves fully due to the obstacles that they have to face in many forms in there. Does intersectional as a universal framework help us to capture this complexity? This paper argues that it does not. It addresses this question through the intricacies of the terrain that feminist politics must negotiate, using the Indian experience to set up conversations with feminist debates and experiences globally. Feminism is heterogeneous and internally differentiated. We need to pay attention to challenges to the stability of given identities— including those of individual and woman. These challenges constitute the radically subversive moments that are likely to be most productive for feminism in the 21st century. They suffer immensely at various levels and the different barriers which restrict their excellence are:

Social barrier - When we are look into the barriers experienced by the women with disability the first and the foremost is society from where gender discrimination is conveniently accepted. Women with disability are the most affected one with gender inequality, isolation and unfair shown by the society. From the birth women with disability are treated badly and face injustice in the side of their rights for instance, within family, lesser access to rehabilitation services and the society make them assured that they are not mending for marriage because of having various inabilities among them.⁷ Attitudinal barrier

Attitudinal barrier - Attitudinal barriers, which lead to stigma and discrimination, deprive people with disabilities of their dignity and potential, and are one of the most significant impediments to achieve equality of opportunity and social.⁸ Negative attitudes; create a disabling environment across the domains they are frequently manifested as: nondisabled people's inability to see past the impairment, discrimination, fear, bullying and low

expectations of person with disabilities. In the same way, women with disability are usually considered as sick, Weak, Dependent, helpless and neglected. It happens in many families that they don't want to reveal disability to the outsiders because the families of disabled women think that if the disability for their girl child exposed in the society how the people will react on it. It is usually thought that since disabled women cannot talk, walk and even they don't have their own voice, emotions and feelings.⁹

Physical Barrier - Physical barriers, as opposed to attitudinal barriers, such as the lack of ramps or inadequate medical equipment that cannot accommodate people with mobility impairments, are structural obstacles. It restricts Person with disabilities from entering a building, using sidewalks, availing health facilities, and other basic everyday activities. To address these issues, the most important solution is to build infrastructure that is easily accessible to all, including people with disabilities. Physical barriers include:

1. Lack of mobility aids, Rough unpaved mud roads.
2. Lack of school facility nearby locality.
3. Lack of accessible library, toilets, labs, public transports and classrooms.\
4. Lack of health care facilities leads to health.
5. Inadequate proper assistance.
6. Negligence add up to distress.

When we compared to men with disabilities women are less educated. Only few of them end up in organizational barriers higher education. Both gender and disability stereotyping hinders them to aim for higher education and employment in different fields. After that the organisational and physical barriers also influence this kind of thought where women with disability find it difficult to reach the industrial centres and other vocational centres which are usually situate in the urban areas in with most of the women from rural areas find it difficult to access.

Empowerment of Women with Disabilities - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda has a standalone goal on gender equality. Person with Disabilities and specially the empowerment of all women and girls' with disabilities are included in the SDGs concerning eradication: poverty, hunger, education, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), economic inequality, accessibility, growth and employment pertaining to human settlements, climate change, and data accountability and monitoring. The efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda will further assist in the inclusion and empowerment of Women and girls who are disabled.¹⁰

In, (Article- 6 women with disabilities) states parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities face

multiple forms of discrimination and shall take measures to ensure their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom. Another relevant step should be taken to ensure women's full development, advancement, and empowerment in order to secure their exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms Convention on the Rights of Person with Disability (CRPD).¹¹

The Empowerment of Women with Disabilities -Towards Full and Effective Participation and Gender Equality was created to ensure a more systematic approach to strengthen the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities 'and realise their rights. The Strategy is consistent with UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and promises made in the common chapter to the Strategic Plans of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women, and it expands on UN Women's efforts in the field of disability empowerment for women and girls.

To effectively implement this Strategy, UN Women will continue to connect its triple mandate¹² it is expertise in gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, its operational presence, and its strong connection with civil society actors. In accordance with Beijing commitments, UN Women will carry out its mandate and assist Member States and other partners in accelerating progress toward gender equality, empowerment, and full and effective involvement of women and girls with disabilities Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Tools for Women Empowerment In India most of the times, we miss out the facts due to our inbuilt stereotype thinking. Therefore, we need to understand that through the international instruments and conventions which are there for the protection and rights of disabled women. But when it comes to practice and applications in our India it has a long way to go. So, lots of revisions or amendments are needed in our legislations to safeguard women with disabilities.

Inclusive education- As we know that education is the main key towards success. If a person gained education he or she will be considered as highly civilised person in our society. So, if we want to amp up the status of the disabled women, we should keep education as priority for them.

Now, it can be possible through providing inclusive platform not withholding any kind of limitations in education where it should be possible for girls with disabilities also to get inducted into mainstream education. Each and every institute should be responsible to provide opportunities to make them understand their strength and skills. It should be mandatory for all education disseminating platforms to provide inclusive platform to all disabled women and girls. Because, it is only through

inclusive education, these girls and women can be inducted into the society and the society can be made to understand the challenges of these people.

Sensitizing the community towards women disability It is the role of the Government to make rules or laws, these laws should be directed everyone to follow them.¹³

1. Sensitization towards disability should become the part of functions of the legislators, administrative programs and local activities. So, that everyone in the society get sensitized about the problems of the disabled women and their rights.
2. And the most essential part of the society needs to be sensitized that is the family of the disabled women. Family is the big challenge faced by the forums which are fighting for their rights.
3. Apart from all these things we need to sensitize the general public through awareness programs that women have the potentials to reach up their goals.

Realise self-potential and rights- Most of the time disabled women are not aware about their rights and the various other facilities which are available for her for their excellence and welfare. So, there should be provision for designing some kind of programs. Through these women realise their potential and rights.

Make some cells for disabled women through whom they can raise their voices about their rights and give equal opportunities, usages of assistive technologies, enjoyment of rights, education and employment opportunities in different sectors.

They should not restrict themselves in their homes. Therefore some role models need to share some success full stories in front of them so that they become motivated. And this is possible through schools who will take responsibilities regarding this kind of activity.

Conclusion - Hence, it is very necessary to increase their level of awareness regarding various issues concerning them. To, support and encourage these women need their full participation in social and public life. This will helpful to increase self confidence among disabled women and to exercise their rights. The society always downsides their capabilities and therefore, not considered them as a part of society and not more enough opportunities given to them for their true realization. The right of education and employment are not recognized by the Government and so on. Much little has been done to empower them and enjoy their fundamental and human right.¹⁴

There are many international forums and conventions that lay emphasis on empowering the women with disabilities. They stress on equality, inclusive gender perspective but the condition is still pathetic. Women with disability continue to suffer highly from birth to get education and

fair treatment to access public plan, suitable policies and their proper channelization is necessary. The achievement of internationally agreed-upon development targets, such as the Millennium Development targets, requires a significant focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Girls and women with disabilities face double discrimination, increasing their vulnerability to gender based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment, and exploitation. Due to the existed subtlety regarding gender disparities in society, array of unbalanced responses towards equality. The society always downplays their abilities, and as a result, they are not considered a part of society, and there are not enough opportunities provided for their true realisation. Women with disabilities continue to face significant challenges in obtaining an education and fair treatment.

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