

The Accessible India Campaign and Its Impact on Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Study of the Right to Inclusion

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ABSTRACT

This research article explores the disability rights in India, and their right to inclusion, shedding light on the arduous pursuit of full inclusion. It examines the dynamic path toward enabling persons with disabilities to assert their legitimate position in society through a tapestry of legislative frameworks, cultural paradigms, and revolutionary initiatives. The study highlights achievements while critically analyzing remaining gaps, revealing the complex relationship between constitutional promises and actual conditions on the ground. This academic journey, which embodies optimism and resiliency, emphasizes the necessity of creating an inclusive future where everyone may flourish and overcome obstacles with unflinching resolve. This insightful study examines through empirical research how the revolutionary effects of India's Accessible India Campaign, a pioneering step toward integrating inclusion into society at large. It highlights how this admirable program supports the rights of people with disabilities, elevating their pursuit of dignity, independence, and equal participation via a careful analysis of policies and lived experiences. The study eloquently illustrates the fabric of advancement, stressing both recent successes and lingering obstacles in achieving the right to inclusion. As a ray of hope and transformation, the campaign ushers in a new era where each person's special talents are valued, creating an India that is genuinely open and equal to everyone.

Keywords: Disability Rights, Accessible India Campaign, Social Inclusion and Equality.

INTRODUCTION

"We need to make every single thing accessible to every single person with a disability."

-Stevie Wonder¹

People with impairments have suffered from nomenclature and object of charity. Recently, there has been a noticeable shift in this mindset, and fortunately, it goes beyond political correctness or lip service. The transition from the charity to the rights-based approach is mostly to blame for this change in view. It also stems from the growing awareness that as the population grows, so too will the number of people with disabilities. If accessibility and reasonable accommodations are made available to people with disabilities as a matter of right, they can make contributions to the economy and society. The entire economy suffers horribly when people with disabilities are excluded from development programs that are inclusive of them.

According to the World Bank, excluding persons with disabilities from the economy results in a lost GDP of between 5% to 7% on a global scale.² Additionally, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO),

¹ He is an American Singer, Songwriter, and Multi-instrumentalist.

² Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities In the workforce can increase GDP By 3-7%: ILO, available at: [https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-the-workforce-can-increase-gdp-by-3-7-ilo-66665/#:~:text=Globally%20the%20World%20Bank%20considers%20that%20leaving,5%20per%20cent%20to%207%20per%20cent.&text=The%20International%20Labour%20Organization%20\(ILO\)%20also%20suggests,about%203%2D7%20per%20cent%20of%20the%20GDP.,\(accessed on 22nd April, 2025\).](https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-the-workforce-can-increase-gdp-by-3-7-ilo-66665/#:~:text=Globally%20the%20World%20Bank%20considers%20that%20leaving,5%20per%20cent%20to%207%20per%20cent.&text=The%20International%20Labour%20Organization%20(ILO)%20also%20suggests,about%203%2D7%20per%20cent%20of%20the%20GDP.,(accessed on 22nd April, 2025).)

integrating people with disabilities into the workforce can boost GDP by between 3–7%. In addition, there are overt and covert societal consequences. Allowing the disabled to participate and providing them with accommodations is the answer to this problem. When compared to the number of people with disabilities, the aforementioned figures demonstrate the reality of these losses.

This segment of the population, whether in India or elsewhere in the globe, faces severe human rights violations because of their disabilities, regardless of their numbers. The greatest disadvantaged group in the world is people with disabilities. A vicious circle of deprivation, poverty, marginalization, and denial follows disability. A disability causes poverty and a significantly reduced level of living by robbing a person of their infancy, education, and employment opportunities. For a number of reasons, people with disabilities are excluded everywhere. The abled have gained influence over the disabled as a result of the differently abled being excluded from the greater scheme of things.³

In many mainstream discourses, the issue of disability has been delayed⁴ and people with disabilities have not been regarded as participants. Only with the gradual development of the rights-based discourse, with the rise of the disability rights movement and the change in the way individuals with disabilities are viewed from being objects of charity to being subjects with rights, inclusion is now the norm rather than the exception.⁵ At every level, a systemic change was necessary for this to occur. Legal reform was urgently needed, and attitudes toward people with disabilities and abilities needed to shift. These changes have been made gradually but surely. Despite still having a long way to go, progress has been achieved in addressing the actual mistreatment of disabled people, which had become a human rights catastrophe of epic dimensions,⁶ that the biggest disadvantaged population in the world has experienced.

The conversation around disabilities in the social sciences and in jurisprudence shifted as a result of shifting attitudes. It was determined that:

“disability is more about how that difference is received or constructed than it is about the absence of a sense or the existence of a physical or mental impairment.”

While a disability is a social construct, an impairment is a physical actuality. Lack of mobility, for instance, is an impairment, but in a setting without ramps, it becomes a disability. Social construction of a handicap is necessary, as is an examination of what it means to be devoid of particular abilities, looks, etc.⁷

It has always been challenging to draw a line between disability, which is a social construct, and impairment, which is fundamentally a medical judgment. The first of three phases was the objectification and charity-based approaches to impairment. The social strategy mentioned above came next. Following a shift away from considering disability as a means of correcting the social model, the third stage in which individuals with disabilities are regarded as *“subjects with rights”* changed, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was ratified, making it permanent. Protection of the rights of people with disabilities is a national and international priority. In order to promote equality, accessibility, and inclusion, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted by the UN in 2006. The CRPD places a strong emphasis on full participation in society, accessibility, and non-discrimination. India adopted the CRPD in 2007 and enacted laws like the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to ensure equal rights, education, employment, and social integration for those with disabilities. In order to promote dignity, independence, and equal opportunity for people with disabilities, both levels seek to create an inclusive atmosphere.

³ Nancy L. Eiesland, THE DISABLED GOD: TOWARDS A LIBERATORY THEOLOGY OF DISABILITY 25-29 (1994).

⁴ See Martha C. Nussbaum, FRONTIERS OF JUSTICE-DISABILITY, NATIONALITY, SPECIES MEMBERSHIP 107-108 (2007).

⁵ Shashikala Gurpur & Viswesh Sekhar, *Empowerment of the Disabled – From Objects of Charity to Subjects with Rights*, 52 EPW 17 17-21 (2017).

⁶ James I. Charlton, NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US DISABILITY OPPRESSION AND EMPOWERMENT 1 (1998).

⁷ GARY L. ALBRECHT *et.al.*, HANDBOOK OF DISABILITY STUDIES, 12 (2001).

Research Design

The design of this research study employs a mixture of approaches, a mixed method research design containing a doctrinal approach and an empirical approach. The doctrinal method is based on an analysis of the Constitution and other legislation, policy documents and related laws that pertain to the rights of those with disabilities in India. The empirical method is based on the collection of primary data through a self-created open-ended questionnaire that targets various respondents and assesses the level of awareness and the effectiveness of the Accessible India Campaign. Secondary sources are drawn from reports published by international organisations and government documents. The application of both qualitative and descriptive statistical analysis as the analytical framework of this research study provides an opportunity to determine the gaps between the implementation of the policies as well as the experiences of persons with disabilities.

Norms and Policies for the Persons With Disability in India

India's policies and norms for persons with disabilities are a stunning example of the country's inclusive ethos. These progressive laws pave the way for empowerment, rights, and dignity, changing public attitudes and creating an environment where each person's inherent potential can be realized. India hopes to create a future where disability is accepted as variety, honoring the tenacity and genius of every individual and inspiring equality and hope for everyone through caring frameworks and unshakable dedication.

Constitutional Safeguards for the Persons with Disability

Understanding the disability legislation of India and judicial interpretation requires an awareness of the Constitutional framework. This is due to at least three factors:⁸

- Firstly, India's so-called "*disability statutes*" did not exist until 1995. Up until that point, the Constitution stood firm and gave disabled people a redress and relief when their rights were infringed upon or denied.
- Secondly, because the Constitution serves as the foundation for the statutes, the principles of the Constitution must be incorporated into the statutes' provisions, which must constantly be evaluated in light of the Constitution to determine their actual significance.
- Thirdly, the Constitution can still be used today in situations where these statutes fail to meet expectations because of the restrictions of their provisions, and they do so on multiple grounds. Therefore, it is crucial to defend fundamental rights like the right to life and the equality of people with disabilities.

The fundamental rights listed in Part III of the Constitution are available to all Indian citizens, including those who may have mental or physical impairments. These rights relate to a number of rights that citizens have thanks to constitutional provisions. The Constitution does not define disability. However, in terms of using state-funded wells, tanks, bathing ghats, highways, and public resort areas, a disability by itself will not constitute a liability, restriction, condition or that have been set aside for the general public's use, or with regard to access to public places such as stores, restaurants, hotels, and venues for public entertainment. The state is also required by the Constitution to make sure that a person's disability does not prevent them from obtaining justice.⁹

However, at the time, there was no special legislation that benefited the disabled, unlike what has been made for women, children, and members of the backward classes, because the cause of the disabled had not gained any national or public recognition.¹⁰ Examining and interpreting the constitutional provisions that treat persons with disabilities equally to those without disabilities would be beneficial. As outlined below, the same guarantees and rights that apply to citizens without impairments also apply to those with disabilities.

⁸ Shruti Pandey *et.al.*, DISABILITY AND THE LAW 201 (2005).

⁹ M.P. Jain, INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 185 (2014).

¹⁰ S. C. Tripathi, LAW RELATING TO WOMEN & CHILDREN 12 (2014).

Preamble of the Constitution

According to the Preamble, we, the Indian people, sincerely decided to guarantee equality of status and opportunity, social, economic, and political justice and brotherhood while guaranteeing each person's dignity, enact and grant ourselves this Constitution.¹¹

The Right to Equality: Article 14

Article 14 stated that regardless of ability of person, everyone should be treated equally. This article forbids class legislation but allows fair classification. It is impossible to treat unequal equally. If there is a legitimate goal to be accomplished, classification can be carried out. Article 14 cannot be violated or infringed if special laws are enacted for the benefit of the persons with disabilities. The rule of law is linked to equality before the law for the overall growth of a sound social structure. Equal protection is guaranteed against both substantive and procedural legislation.¹²

Article 15: Forbids Discrimination based on Religion, Race, Caste, Sex, or Place of Birth

If we deeply examine and interpret then we find that the Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. It grants the state the power to provide exceptional accommodations for the advancement of historically marginalized populations, including those with disabilities. Their inclusion and accessibility are promoted by laws that recognize their rights, such as the 2016 Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. This promotes an inclusive society by guaranteeing people with disabilities equal opportunity, protection, and dignity. It upholds their right to enjoy all fundamental freedoms and human rights without difference and to be free from discrimination. The text advocates for full involvement in society, equality, and non-discrimination. It emphasizes how crucial accessible settings and legal safeguards are to enabling people with impairments to live autonomous, respectable lives.¹³

Equality Opportunity in Public Employment Matters: Article 16

All citizens are guaranteed equal opportunities under this article when it comes to being appointed to any office or other position under the state. Accordingly, every person, disabled or not, is entitled to apply for any government job and to have their application evaluated based on their qualifications. Equal opportunities are guaranteed, but no right to be appointed to a position under the state is. The Article does not forbid the state from establishing fair guidelines for hiring or advancement.

Abolition of Untouchability: Article 17

The Indian Constitution's Article 17 promotes equality and dignity by outlawing "*Untouchability*" in all of its manifestations. Eliminating social discrimination against marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, is the goal of this fundamental right. Despite not specifically addressing disabilities, the article upholds the equality principle, guaranteeing that those with disabilities are shielded from discrimination and social exclusion, promoting social justice and inclusive development in India.

Right of life and personal liberty: Article 21

All persons irrespective of their abilities, are protected under Article 21's guarantee of life and liberty. This Article serves as an assurance that the state will not infringe upon a citizen's personal freedom and that the legal process will be rigorously followed before a person's life or personal freedom is taken away.¹⁴

¹¹ M.P Singh, CONSTITUTION OF INDIA 01 (2006).

¹² Narender Kumar, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF INDIA 102 (2009).

¹³ Gautan Banerjee, DISABILITY AND THE LAW 146 (2012).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Right to Education: Article 21-A

In India presently every child aged 6 to 14 has the fundamental right to get an education. thanks to the Constitution's 86th Amendment Act of 2002, which established a new article 21 after Article 21A. It stipulates that the state must provide free and mandatory education to all children aged 6 to 14 in a manner determined by state legislation irrespective of their disability.¹⁵

Right to Employment, Education, and Public Assistance in Specific Situations: Article 41

Article 41 states that in cases of unemployment, old age, disease, disability, and other unjustified need, the State must, to the extent of its financial capacity and development, put in place suitable measures to safeguard the rights to employment, education, and public assistance.

Living Wage, etc., for Workers: Article 43

The State is required by Article 43 to protect the weaker members of society from social injustice and various forms of exploitation while also giving special consideration to their economic and educational needs.

Legislative Framework for Safeguarding Persons with Disability In India

The goal of the disability laws is to guarantee that people with impairments can equally enjoy all human rights and laws without facing discrimination. This is not about enjoying particular laws. Since, persons with disabilities are an essential component of society, every government has taken steps to integrate them into society. In order for people with disabilities to be incorporated into an inclusive society, the government is responsible for providing for their education, vocational training, employment, and other needs. The following are the enactments made by the Indian legislature for the protection and inclusion of the persons with disability:

The Employee's Compensation Act, 1923

Employers are mandated by the Employees Compensation Act of 1923 to pay workers for accidents that happen while they are working and cause death or disability. The purpose of the act was to compensate employees who were rendered injured or incompetent due to an accident that occurred during their employment. It was founded on the idea that workers' blood should be used to pay for the product. Both temporary and permanent disabilities, as well as partial or complete disablement, are covered by compensation.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019

The Act defines permanent disablement, establishes the amount of compensation for permanent disablement resulting from an accident involving the use of a vehicle, and provides for compensation based on the no-fault concept.¹⁶ When an accident involving the operation of a motor vehicle results in someone's death or permanent disability, the owner of the vehicle is responsible for paying compensation for that disability in line with the terms of this section.¹⁷

Income Tax Act, 1961

The government cannot alter or eliminate the status of disability, but it has given them certain extra tax breaks to help with their medical and related costs. Additionally, the benefits for hiring disabled people have been expanded to the commercial sector. The Income Tax Act of 1961 give persons with disability an additional exemptions and benefits when any individual who has been certified as disabled by a medical professional may claim a deduction under Section 80 U of the Income Tax Act.

¹⁵ J.N. Pandey, THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF INDIA 294 (2010).

¹⁶ Section 164 of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019

¹⁷ *Manpreet Kaur v. Sukhdev Singh*, (2021).

The Mental Health Act, 1987

In addition to protecting these individuals and their rights while they are being held in various hospitals and assisted living facilities, this Act encourages voluntary treatment, which keeps them from being neglected.

The 1995 Act for the Protection of Rights, Full Participation, and Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

People with disabilities have typically received aid and charity and are viewed as objects of sympathy rather than agents of their own fate. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, is one noteworthy piece of law, which for the first time acknowledges and defends the rights of people with 50 disabilities.

It seeks to advance disabled people's equal rights and opportunities in India. In order to empower people with disabilities, it requires accessibility, rehabilitation, and non-discrimination measures. The Act places a strong emphasis on social integration, inclusive employment, and education. In order to promote an atmosphere of respect, decency, and full involvement for people with disabilities in all areas of life, it also creates authorities to supervise implementation and protect rights.

The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999

The aforementioned Act was implemented to provide affirmative action for individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and various disabilities. The Central Government acknowledges the wide range of competence among these individuals and aims to create the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Multiple Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, and Mental Retardation. This was done in alignment with changing societal attitudes and advancements in the medical field. The aforementioned trust would be proactive, protective, and promotional in character. Its main goal will be to protect these individuals' rights to advance their growth and protect their interests.¹⁸

2006's National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was introduced in February 2006 in an attempt to establish the guidelines that the public sector, private sector, and civil society must follow in order to give people with disabilities a respectable life.¹⁹

Law Commission Reports on Disability

The primary purpose of the Law Commission of India, an executive organization, is to change the nation's legal system. It is appointed for a set term by the Indian government to provide advice on various matters to the Ministry of Law and Justice. The majority of its members are legal experts. It collaborates with the Ministry of Law and Justice and focuses on research. With the assistance of research analysts, it consistently works on a certain goal that the Indian government has given it. Its study findings and recommendations for altering the current system are presented to the government in the form of a report. Its work is completed after its report is sent. The government is not required to follow the suggestions made in this way.²⁰

The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017

It guarantees informed consent, forbids discrimination, and requires easily available mental health care. By recognizing mental illness as a disability, the Act makes it possible for people with mental health issues to receive

¹⁸ Ranabir Samaddar, STATE OF JUSTICE IN INDIA: ISSUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 172 (2009).

¹⁹ United Nations, DISABILITY AT A GLANCE: A PROFILE 28 COUNTRIES AND AREAS IN ASIA AND PACIFIC 49 (2007).

²⁰ M. Laxmikanth, GOVERNANCE IN INDIA 123 (2011).

benefits and protections under frameworks for disability rights. In general, it encourages people with disabilities to get inclusive, rights-based mental health care.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

In order to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Indian government passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Within the current liberal framework, which does not go beyond the accepted definition of disability as an impairment, the Act addresses the concerns of human development and freedom. The liberal approach that upholds the principles of justice, equality, and reciprocity within the framework of politics and ethics that see human flourishing as the ultimate goal is the source of the Act. It aspires to a perfect society where social justice is understood as an equitable allocation of resources that guarantees the right to the fundamental capacities required for human functioning, freedom, and choice. The Act serves as a normalizing mechanism made possible by the methodical development, recognition, categorization, and management of social abnormalities that led to the separation of some subjects from others. In many of its significant rulings, the Supreme Court has expressed appreciation for the Act of 2016.²¹

Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign)

The goal of the Accessible India Campaign is to improve accessibility in public areas, transit, and services in order to foster an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities (PWDs). It was introduced by the Indian government in 2015 and places a strong emphasis on inclusive policies, accessible structures, and barrier-free infrastructure. In order to create a more inclusive society where everyone may live in dignity, the project aims to empower PWDs, encourage their independence, and provide equal possibilities in social engagement, work, and education.

The Impact of Accessibility Initiatives on the Rights and Well-being of Persons with Disabilities in India

The introduction of accessibility initiatives has added a bright thread of hope, dignity, and empowerment for people with disabilities to the rich tapestry of India's varied sociocultural fabric. These revolutionary initiatives act as a wake-up call, reaffirming the country's steadfast dedication to protecting each person's fundamental rights regardless of their physical or mental limitations. India has started to remove the strong obstacles that once kept innumerable souls in the shadows of marginalization and neglect by putting in place tactile walkways, ramps, sign language interpreters, and accessible public services.

These initiatives represent a deep understanding of the inherent value and potential of people with disabilities, going beyond simple infrastructure. Society creates an atmosphere where talents thrive and dreams soar by promoting diversity in public areas, employment, and education. Such accessibility has a positive knock-on effect that not only improves personal wellbeing by fostering self-assurance, independence, and joy, but also fosters a more just and caring community.

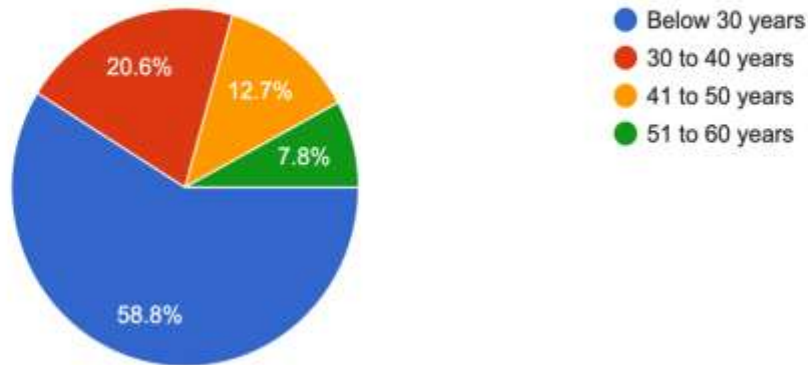
Furthermore, by bringing legislative demands to life, these initiatives align with India's fundamental values of equality and justice. Accessibility sparks a cultural revolution by promoting tolerance, acceptance, and respect as it gets more and more integrated into daily life. These initiatives show a future in which all Indians, regardless of ability, can fully participate in the diverse tapestry of Indian society, creating a country that embraces diversity and steadfastly defends the rights of its most vulnerable inhabitants. Through its dynamic accessibility programs, the Indian government is changing the environment for people with disabilities and illuminating a path of hope. By integrating inclusivity into society, these innovative initiatives enable people to rise over obstacles with honor and pride. Together, architecture, technology, and politics create a more promising and just future where everyone's opinions are valued, their rights are respected, and their well-being is acknowledged. These efforts do, in fact, portend a new era of boundless potential and brilliant empowerment.

²¹ *Bhavneet Singh v. IRCON International Ltd.*, W.P.(C) 12404/2022.

The Report of the empirical work is discussed below which was conducted by the authors to know the real position relating to “Accessible India Campaign” and the working of the government’s initiatives. The authors in this research has collected responses with help of self-designed open ended questionnaire which is used in this study. The findings are given below:

Age

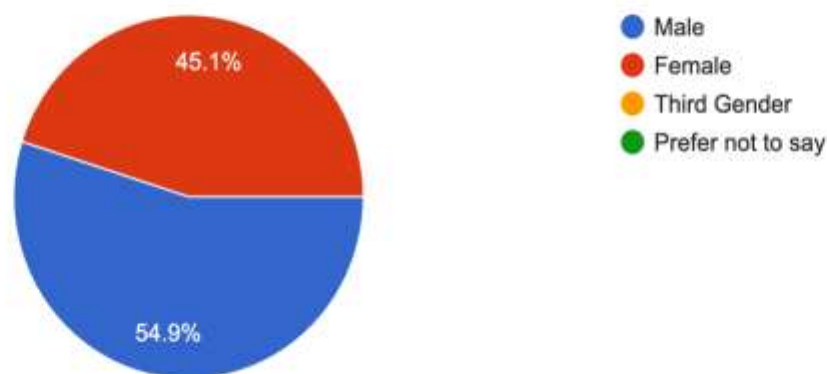
102 responses



The demographic distribution of survey respondents by age is as follows: A majority of young people participated in the survey, as evidenced by the fact that 58.8% of respondents are under 30 years old. 20.6% of participants are between the ages of 30 to 40, and 12.7% are between the ages of 41 to 50. Finally, 7.8% of all participants are between the ages of 51 to 60. With a sizable percentage of respondents under 30, this distribution emphasizes how young the bulk of respondents are.

What is your gender?

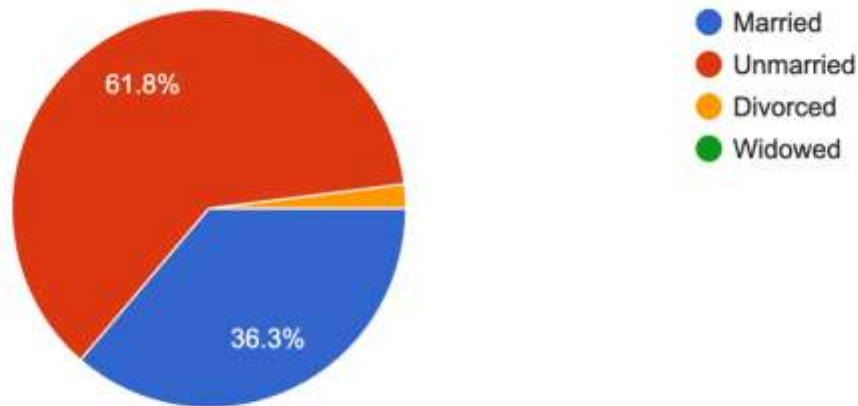
102 responses



According to the demographic distribution of survey respondents, 45.1% are women and 54.9% are men. This suggests that there are somewhat more men than women among the responses. Analyzing the survey findings requires an understanding of this gender distribution since it may affect opinions and answers about the subject under study. According to the data, there is a modest male majority and a generally balanced participation rate.

What is your marital status?

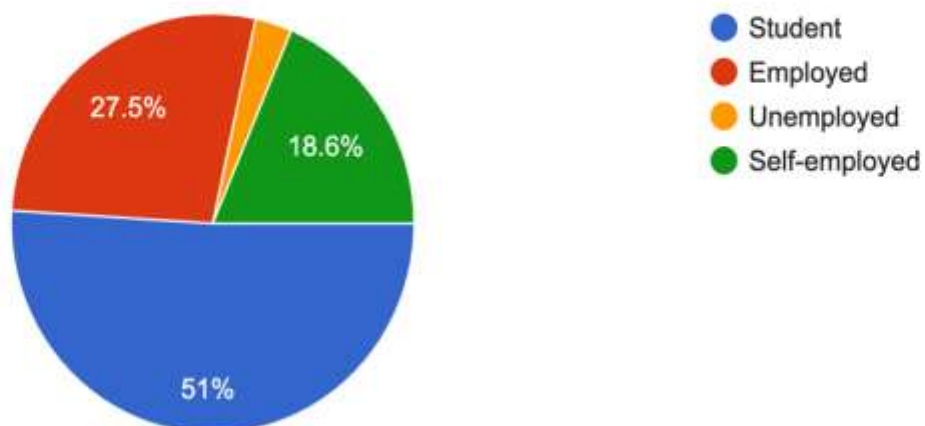
102 responses



The following describes the demographic distribution of survey respondents: Of the population, 61.8% are single, 2% are divorced, and 36.3% are married. This information sheds light on the respondents' marital status, showing that the majority are single, followed by a sizable fraction of married people and a little percentage of divorced people. Analyzing how marital status may affect responses or behaviors related to the survey's focus can be made easier with an understanding of this distribution.

Occupation:

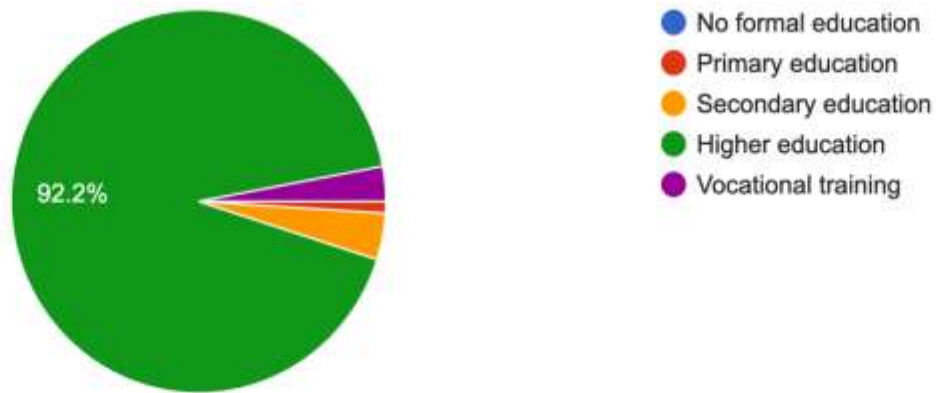
102 responses



The majority of responders are presently seeking education, as seen by the fact that 51% are students. A total of 27.5% of the participants are employed, representing those who have regular jobs. 18.6% of respondents were self-employed, indicating that they are business owners or entrepreneurs. Finally, 2.9% of the sample is unemployed, indicating a modest percentage of the population is unemployed. The poll respondents' varied backgrounds are revealed by this demographic split.

Educational Qualifications:

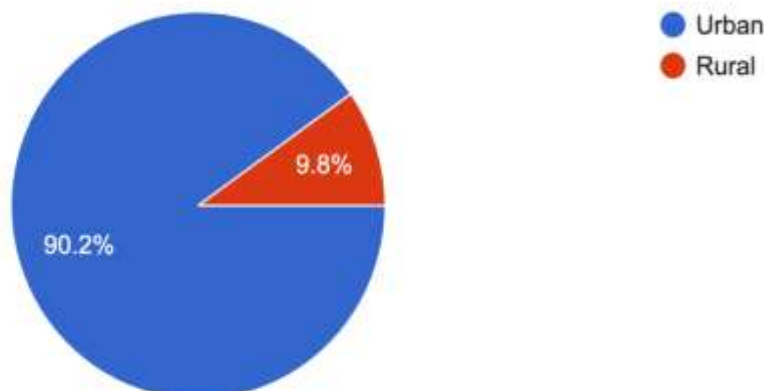
102 responses



92.2%, a sizable majority, have completed college. This suggests a highly educated sample, with the majority of responders holding college or university degrees. 3.9% of participants have secondary education levels, indicating that fewer have finished high school or a similar program. 2.9% of respondents have vocational training, suggesting that they have specific skills from technical or trade schools. Finally, 1% of participants have only completed primary school, which represents those with fundamental education. All things considered, the data points to a largely educated population, which may have an impact on the perceptions and answers obtained from the poll.

Location:

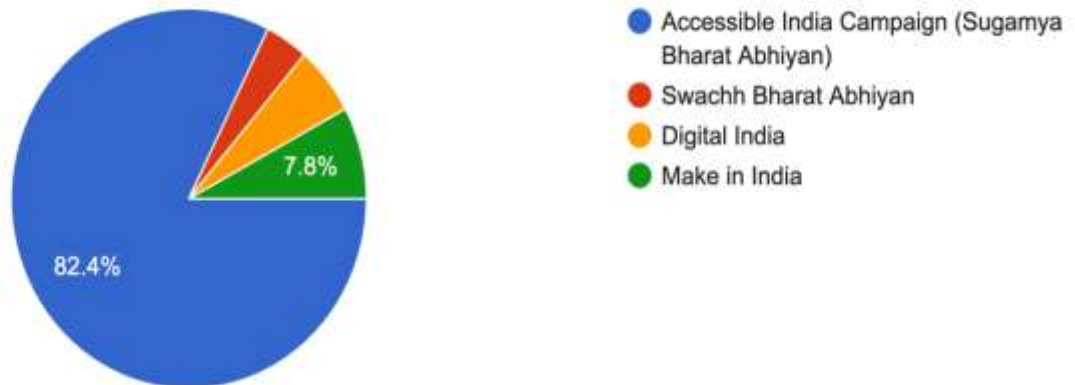
102 responses



Among the respondents who took part in this study, 90.2% lived in cities and 9.8% in rural regions. This distribution suggests that most of the participants are from urban areas, underscoring a notable urban-centric viewpoint in the information gathered. The comparatively lower percentage of respondents from rural areas raises the possibility that the results are more representative of urban experiences and perspectives, which may be significant to take into account when interpreting the data and extrapolating survey conclusions.

Are you aware of which government scheme aims to improve accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities?

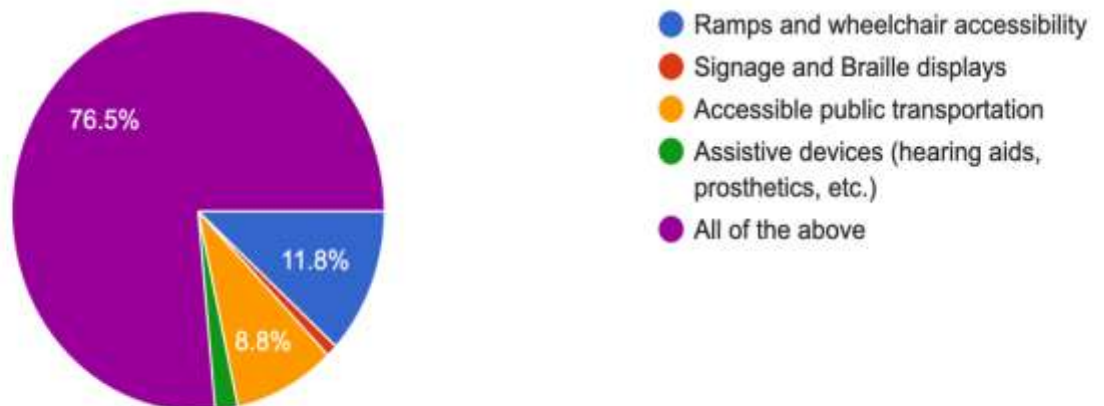
102 responses



In this survey we found that 82.4% of respondent knows about the Accessible India Campaign, 7.8% of the respondent opted Make in India, 5.9% of the respondent opted Digital India and 3.9% of the respondent opted Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

If yes, which initiatives are you aware of?

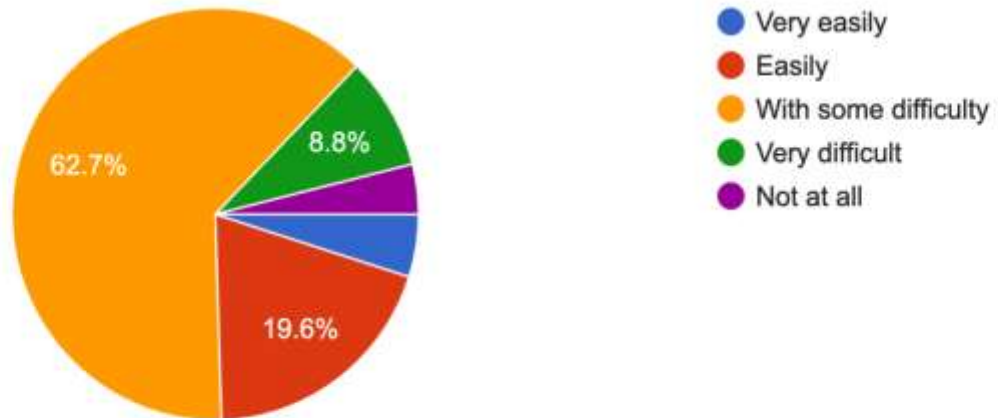
102 responses



76.5% aware about all the facilities which provided by the government through accessible India Campaign, 11.8% opted only Ramps and wheelchair accessibility, 8.8% knows about the Accessible public transportation, 2% opted that Assistive devices (hearing aids, prosthetics, etc.) and 1% opted Signage and Braille displays.

How easily can persons with disability access these initiatives/services?

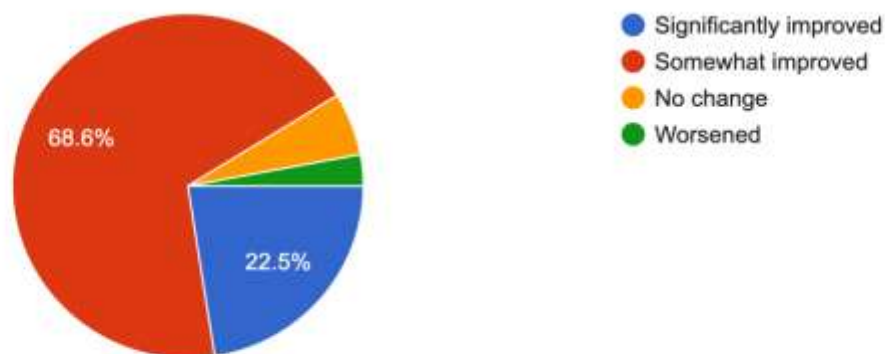
102 responses



62.7% said that with some difficult the persons with disability access these initiatives/services, 19.6% said that easily can persons with disability access these initiatives/services, 8.8% said that with very much difficulties the persons with disability access these initiatives/services, 4.9% said that very easily the persons with disability access these initiatives/services and 3.9% said that not at all.

Do you feel that accessibility initiatives have improved persons with disability to exercise their rights (education, employment, healthcare, voting)?

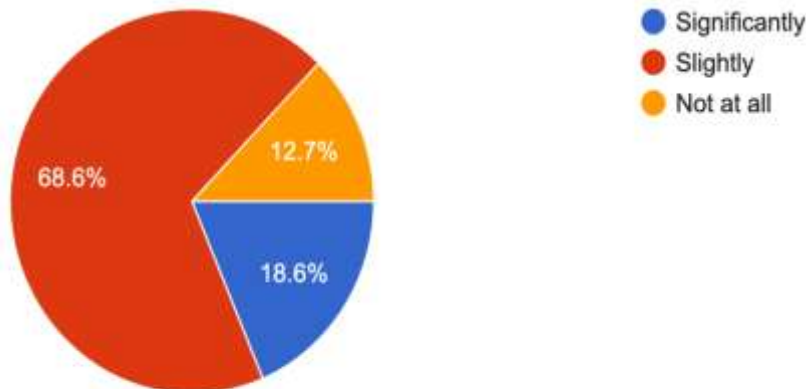
102 responses



68.6% opted that accessibility initiatives have somewhat improved persons with disability to exercise their rights (education, employment, healthcare, voting), 22.5% opted Significantly improved, 5.9% said that there is no change and 2.9% said that the conditioned is worsened.

Do you feel that these initiatives have reduced stigma or discrimination against persons with disabilities in your community?

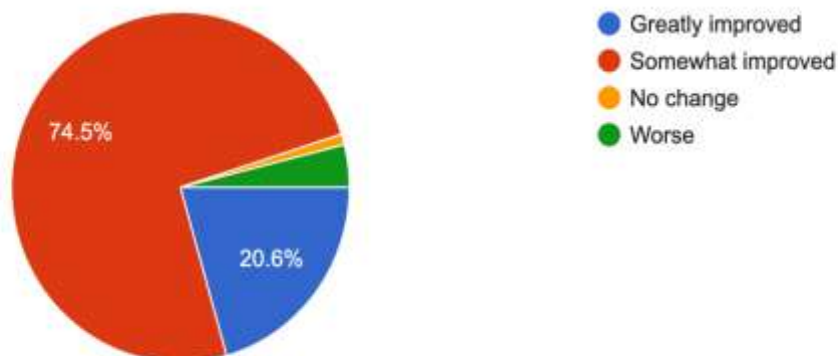
102 responses



Respondents to this survey were asked if they thought efforts to lessen stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities in our society had been successful. The responses show that individuals' perceptions differed. In particular, 68.6% of those surveyed thought that these efforts had a minor effect, suggesting some advancement but possibly not a significant change. In contrast, 18.6% of respondents thought that the programs had much decreased discrimination and stigma, indicating a more favorable opinion of their efficacy. In the other hand, 12.7% of those surveyed believed that these programs had no effect whatsoever in lowering stigma or discrimination against people with disabilities. Overall, the survey reveals a largely cautious optimism over the impact of ongoing activities, with a smaller segment acknowledging more significant progress and the majority seeing only a slight improvement.

How has the availability of accessible infrastructure affected persons with disability overall quality of life?

102 responses

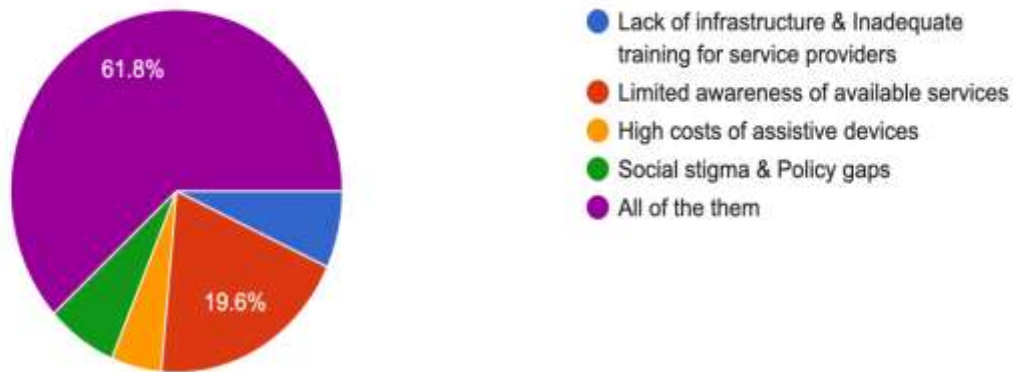


Respondents to this study were asked how the general quality of life for people with disabilities has been affected by the provision of accessible infrastructure. The findings reveal a largely favorable opinion: 74.5% of participants think that having access to infrastructure has enhanced their quality of life to some extent, and a noteworthy 20.6% think it has significantly improved their circumstances. However, only 1% reported no change

at all, and a tiny minority—3.9%—perceive the impact as worse. According to these data, most people with disabilities report at least some improvement in their living situations as a result of improved accessibility measures.

What are the main challenges you face regarding accessibility?

102 responses

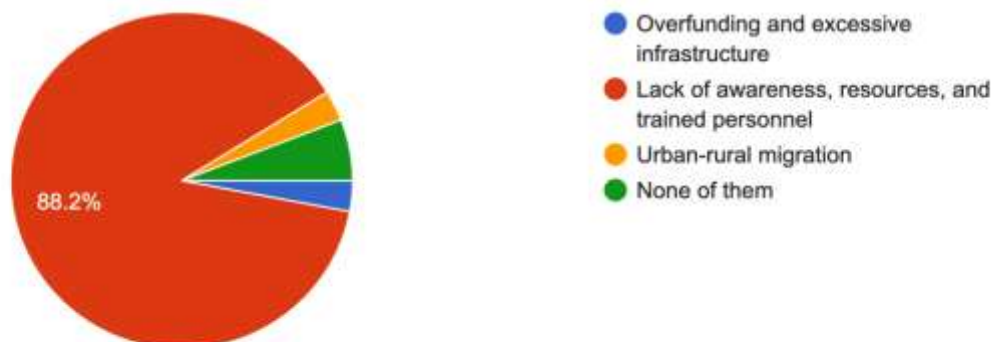


Respondents were asked to list the primary accessibility-related difficulties they encounter in this poll. 61.8% of participants agreed that all of the indicators presented are substantial obstacles, indicating a strong consensus on the main issues affecting accessibility. This implies that the majority of respondents believe that accessibility is hampered by a number of hurdles taken together. Furthermore, 19.6% of respondents cited a lack of knowledge about accessible services as the main barrier, suggesting that many people are not aware of the tools or support networks that are available to them. Lack of infrastructure and insufficient training for service providers are two other noteworthy issues that were mentioned by 6.9% of participants, indicating deficiencies in both professional capacity and physical facilities. 6.9% of respondents also cited social stigma and policy gaps as obstacles, highlighting the part that cultural norms and legal frameworks play in accessibility concerns. Last but not least, 4.9% of respondents cited the high price of assistive equipment as a major obstacle, illustrating the financial difficulties that many people in need of such assistance confront.

All things considered, the study emphasizes how complex accessibility issues are, encompassing social, economic, systemic, and infrastructure elements that must be addressed to increase access for anyone.

What is a common barrier to the effective implementation of accessibility initiatives in rural India?

102 responses



Respondents to this study were asked to list the typical obstacles that rural India faces while implementing accessibility efforts. The findings showed that a substantial majority, 88.2%, concur that the main obstacles are a lack of knowledge, inadequate funding, and a scarcity of qualified staff. This suggests that the majority of respondents believe these elements to be the main obstacles to effective accessibility initiatives in rural regions. 5.9% of respondents said there are no major obstacles, indicating that some people think accessibility measures are not very difficult. Overfunding and excessive infrastructure were cited as barriers by 2.9% of respondents, which may be a reflection of worries about resource misallocation or inefficiency. The remaining 2.9% cited obstacles to migration from rural to urban regions, suggesting that the focus and longevity of accessibility initiatives may be impacted by population shifts from rural to urban areas.

The survey's overall findings highlight how crucial it is to raise awareness, allocate resources, and provide staff training in order to increase the efficacy of accessibility programs in rural India. By addressing these fundamental problems, such initiatives' reach and inclusivity could be greatly increased.

Critical Evaluation of Policy Implementation Gaps

Policy implementation gaps exist in rural areas, particularly in how effective or ineffective they are, and through no fault of their own. Generally speaking, while there are some very progressive legal frameworks and accessibility initiatives, they are primarily focused in urban areas as shown by who made up the sample and what the level of awareness of available services are. Unfortunately, rural areas continue to be at a great disadvantage due to limited infrastructure, lack of trained personnel and financial resources to support these needs; as such, very few beneficiaries were aware of the programs and therefore unable to utilize any services. As a result of being disproportionately affected by exclusion due to factors including limited financial resources, social stigma and digital divides, individuals from marginalised groups are particularly disadvantaged when it comes to implementing all facets of the disability rights framework. The needs of all populations must be addressed to enable equitable realization of disability rights regardless of the socio-economic circumstances, which calls for more focus on decentralising policy implementation, developing targeted outreach programs and using contextual factors for developing the policy.

CONCLUSION

The actual situation on the ground still falls short of these admirable goals, even with India's extensive legal and regulatory framework designed to advance the rights and welfare of people with disabilities. The constitutional provisions, which place a high emphasis on equality, dignity, and social justice, provide a solid basis for protecting the rights of people with disabilities. In addition, the judiciary's proactive involvement has resulted in progressive decisions that promote accessibility and non-discrimination while defending the rights of those with disabilities. The condition of people with disabilities (PWDs) in India is still far from perfect, nevertheless, in spite of these legal protections and judicial interventions, underscoring enduring discrepancies between legislation and practice.

The implementation deficiency is one important cause behind this disparity. Two examples of well enacted laws and regulations that adhere to international standards like the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are the Mental Healthcare Act of 2017 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016. However, their ground-level enforcement is frequently ineffective or uneven. Effective implementation is hampered by societal attitudes, insufficient resource allocation, bureaucratic inefficiency, and ignorance. For example, many public areas, transit systems, and buildings are still inaccessible despite the legislative necessity for accessible infrastructure, which negates the goal of the laws. Furthermore, people with impairments still face extremely difficult socioeconomic circumstances. Their incorporation into mainstream society is hampered by social stigma, poverty, a lack of educational possibilities, and restricted employment chances. Though their reach is constrained by administrative obstacles and awareness problems, legislation frameworks like the Employees' Compensation Act of 1923 and the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act of 2019 seek to offer protection as well as to facilitate mobility and livelihood possibilities. Welfare and inclusive development are intended to be

encouraged by the National Trust Act of 1999 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities of 2006, but implementation problems prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Furthermore, the necessity of an inclusive environment is emphasized by the Law Commission Reports on Disability and programs such as the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan). Although these initiatives are praiseworthy and have resulted in some advancements, change is happening slowly. Due to the size of the nation and regional differences, benefits frequently do not reach rural areas or underprivileged groups, where the bulk of people with disabilities live. Another important factor in the continuation of exclusion and prejudice is societal attitudes and cultural views. Many people with disabilities experience social stigma, marginalization, and lack of acceptance despite legal protections, which limits their access to opportunities and prevents them from participating in society. Education, community involvement, and persistent awareness efforts are necessary but frequently insufficient to change society attitudes.

According to the empirical analysis, the goals of the Accessible India Campaign have not been effectively met. In spite of initiatives to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities, the campaign has mostly fallen short of offering sufficient support. One of the main causes, which prevents efficient implementation, is a lack of awareness among stakeholders and the general public. Additionally, development has been further hampered by subpar performance at several administrative levels. Because of this, people with disabilities still encounter major obstacles, and the goal of fostering an inclusive workplace is not achieved. In order to fully achieve the campaign's potential, the report emphasizes the urgent need for increased awareness and strong execution tactics.

Even though India has a strong legal and policy framework in place to protect the rights of people with disabilities, implementation issues, socioeconomic constraints, societal attitudes, and infrastructure shortcomings mean that these people's actual conditions are nonetheless below ideal. Adopting comprehensive development methods, changing societal attitudes, and enforcing laws effectively are all necessary to achieve true inclusion. The only way to close the gap between policy and reality and guarantee that people with disabilities are truly empowered and assimilated into Indian society is through coordinated efforts from the government, civil society, and communities.