

Managing The Visual Impairment And Global State Of Affairs : Policies, And Concerns

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Abstract : *World Health Organization (WHO) reports that there are 2.2 billion people who are visually impaired and proposed global action plans 2014-2019 to focus on effective eye care accessibility and controlling the blindness and visually impaired in the world; furthermore, the blind people association known as World Blind Union collaborates all the blind and visually impaired in the world together providing quality of life along with fundamental rights and principles of dignity, full participation, liberty, protection and equality, and accessibility of various services like transport, education, vocational training, and health (WHO, 2013; Hartin & Mittal, 2014). This paper detail out select policies and programmes for the visually impaired in India. Moreover, policies and concerns on visual impairment in some other states are also given in precise. There is a need of legislation, with a global orientation, that ensure the holistic inclusive development of the visually impaired.*

Keywords: *Visual impairment, policies and programmes, visually impaired learners.*

I. Introduction

The way to see our world derives from the vision that leads to the views of the world. All the living beings in the world can witness the reality gave for them. Besides, some of us are unable to see reality; however, they wish they could be and decides to break the limitation and enable the impossible in their life (Sobnath, 2020). As we can see, most of the technological environment helps them to realize the world within, and the society they live has the turns the imagination into reality (Doush et al., 2020). As a result, people with impairment can walk through without any difficulties in the developing world of technologies, even though the loss vision is the difficult one, and it needs to be focused one way or another (Aileni, 2020). Furthermore, the challenges they face, lack of feeling of consideration, insecurities, and mobility make it difficult for them in the world; however, the rise of new assistive technologies and policies lessen the degree of difficulty they face in their life. (Barnes and Mercer, 2003; Hakobyan et al., 2013; Skouby et al., 2014;; WHO, 2019). Besides, our country India provides a national policy that supports the healthy and a way of life to the people of visual impairment (National Human Rights Commission, 2005; Chopra, 2015).

According to the PwD act of 1995, equal protection, opportunity, social rights, and full participation in the events of society have been enabled, and it has been taken care of since; furthermore, the act of 1995 leads to the development of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), a statutory body under the government of India, which completely focuses on the development of the disabled (RCI, 1992). However, they provide various researches in the field of special education and rehabilitation. Similarly, their empowerment, independence, and protection have been considered through the National Trust Act (NTA) of 1999 (National Trust Act (NTA), 1999; National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (NPPD), 2006; Kumar, 2006; Naik et al., 2013; Chopra, 2015; Vakil et al., 2016).

The International Council of Education of People with Visual Impairment provides quality and equitable education, though they collaborated with WHO and developed an initiative known as Vision 2020 that focuses on the elimination of avoidable blindness and visual impairment (Gilbert & Foster, 2001; Foster & Resnikoff, 2005; Adhoc Committee on an International Convention (ACIC), 2004; Pizzarello et al., 2004;; Gupta & Kocur, 2014; Hartin & Mittal, 2014).

1. Policies on Persons with Disabilities and Visually Impaired in India

Various policies in India changed the life of PwDs including that of visually impaired, and some of them have discussed below.

a. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

The policy of 2006, the govt focuses on the recognition and development of PwDs, the protection of rights, and full participation in society, and the policy focuses on various areas on the prevention of disabilities,

rehabilitation, women with disabilities, children with disabilities, social security, barrier-free environment, promotion of NGOs, Issue of disability certificates, the right to access sports, recreation and cultural facilities, collection of regular information on persons with disabilities, research, education of PwDs, and employment (National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (NPPD), 2006; Kumar, 2006).

b. National Institutes of visually impaired

In 1982 National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun became an autonomous body under Govt. of India and focuses on the various research programs, provision of training along with trained workforce to handle visually impaired (Kumar et al., 2017). National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan), Chennai, focuses on the promotion of research in the areas of multiple disabilities, however, providing an equal right to lead a better life. Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Cuttack, concentrates on the promotion of education, research, rehabilitation therapy, and vocational training along with placement (Verma & Arora, 2016; Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR). 2020; National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan) (NIEPMD), 2020).

c. The National Action Plan for Skill Training of PwDs

The skill or vocational training and employment opportunities concentrate on the quality life of the person with disabilities, enhancing their overall skills, family gains, economic contribution and training institutions along with the Project Monitoring Unit for the empowerment of PwDs (Skill Development of PwDs, 2015; Swavalamban, 2020; Singh, 2017).

d. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (PWD Act) and 2016

These acts having a focus on the prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment, affirmative action, non-discriminative, research and human resources development, recognition of institutions, social securities for PwDs, and elucidation of discrimination mental illness and barriers, and turns the definition of a person with a disability to a person with long-term mental, sensory, physical, or intellectual impairment (PwD Act, 1995; Bhatnagar & Das, 2013; Balakrishnan et al., 2019).

e. The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 and amended in 2000 (RCI Act)

This act provides and promotes the regulation of training of rehabilitation professionals and personals working with PwDs and promotes research and special education of a central rehabilitation and matters connected along, although it keeps uniformity with the help of continuous monitoring and evaluation (RCI Act 1992/ Amendment 2000; Naik et al., 2013; Vakil et al., 2016).

II. Global Concerns and Policies

a. Global Disability Action Plan 2014–2021

World Health Organization (WHO) proposed the global action plan to achieve the rights and health of PwDs. It focuses on the strengthening of rehabilitation, assistive devices, collection of data based on disability, providing research on disability, and fulfilling the quality life of PwDs in the world (WHO, 2013; Gutenbrunner et al., 2015; Khan et al., 2017).

b. UN convention on rights of persons with disabilities, 2007

The initiative focuses on the development of people with disabilities; however, the main considerations are equal rights and fundamental freedoms of all PwDs along with respecting their dignity, right to education, vote, health, participation, access to justice, protection of the integrity, respect for the family, work and employment, standard living and social protection, emergency, recognition, discrimination prevention, and reasonable accommodation (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2007; Hendriks, 2007; Waddington, 2009; Stein & Lord, 2009).

c. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons)

This scheme focuses on the purpose of enabling a PwD to secure, retain, and advance in suitable employment and thereby to reintegrate into society, and the promotion of employment and equal opportunities and treatment, along with vocational guidance, training, placement, and employment of PwDs, are included (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (VREC), 1983; Welti, 2018).

d. Disability Policy in Canada

The policy ensures protection and elimination of discrimination, participation in all aspects of society, and acquire goods and services to meet the person with disability's needs and provide quality of life (McColl et al., 2017).

e. Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

This act, as a guardian, prohibits discrimination and protects against discrimination. However, it covers the plan of employability of disabled that allows the PwDs to have job training, and public transportation and accommodation, providing suitable aids (Blanck, 2019; Melson-Silimon et al., 2019).

f. The Revised Regulation on the Education of Disabled Persons-China

General education came as the primary point of the people with disabilities in China, along with special education as an optional as the government focused on the development of them through education as first. It promotes participation in public, enforcement, and having supporting and investment of resources (Zhao & Zhang, 2017).

III. Conclusion

Managing people with visual impairment is one of the concerns of every nation along with the people with other physical and mental difficulties and disabilities. In India, there are many initiatives in this line through various policies and institutions. This paper dealt the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, functions of National Institutes of visually impaired, The National Action Plan for Skill Training of PwDs, and The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (PWD Act) and 2016. Similarly, The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 and its amendment in 2000 also discussed much about the issues of people with visual impairment. There are many initiatives globally as well; for example, Global Disability Action Plan 2014–2021, UN convention on rights of persons with disabilities, 2007, and the schemes for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons). Moreover, a sketch on disability Policy in Canada, America, and China are also outlined. Lack of consideration, insecurities, and issues of mobility make it difficult for the visually impaired in the world. They are mostly excluded from the mainstream due to the issues of access and movement. There should be more inclusive policies and practices for making the visually impaired strengthen.

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