



SNDT Women's University (SNDTWU)

Department of Special Education

Juhu Campus, Mumbai

Organizes

A National Seminar on

"Rights of Differently Abled Women (DAW)"

sponsored by

National Commission for Women

December 15 - 16, 2022

RCI Accredited CRE Status

We, Department of Special Education (DSE), SNDT Women's University (SNDTWU) are planning to conduct an offline 2-day national seminar with the theme 'Differently Abled Women' sponsored by National Commission for Women (NCW), Delhi.

Background and Justification

India is a vast country with a population of more than one billion and nearly 70 million persons (based on the projections made by various international agencies such as the United Nations, WHO and World Bank). with disabilities. About 48 percent of them are women. Women in India have been struggling to get their rights. The women's rights movement itself is in its initial stages. They are fighting

all the stereotypes that have been ingrained in the nation. Women with disabilities are disadvantaged because women's work is seen as secondary to that of men.

The general attitude is still that a disabled woman has little hope of becoming a wife or a mother, or of getting a productive and rewarding job. Thus, the normal tendency among the laymen is to visualize the women with disabilities as a burden on her family, society or the state – a dependant for the rest of her life.

Women with disabilities face double discrimination due to prevalence of traditional gender roles and expectations. Disabilities locate the individual in a compromised position not only as a function of biology but also as a product of a complex interaction amongst the non-biological factors like gender, caste, class, neighbourhood relations, the nature of kinship and family structure.

According to Census-2001, there are 93.01 lakh women with disabilities, which constitute 42.46 percent of total disabled population. The women with disabilities require protection against exploitation and abuse.

Scott Hamilton said that "The only disability in life is a bad attitude." This kind of mentality is what is required for everyone who wants to find happiness in life. No benefit comes from thinking over spilled milk, one should always have a positive attitude and know that there is light at the end of the tunnel. There are certain challenges faced by women with disabilities such as accessibility, education, access to healthcare, lack of employment opportunities, etc.

Relevance of the Seminar:

India has made rapid progress in improving the education system during the last few decades through various national and international laws, commitments and guidelines emphasizing equitable and sustainable educational opportunities for all.

There needs to be a shift from a charity-based approach to a rights-based approach. The main problem lies in the psyche of a significant mass which considers Women with Disabilities a liability, and this leads to discrimination and harassment against them and their isolation from the mainstream. Today there is an immense need for all the rights-based challenges, provisions and practices to be addressed by the various stakeholders from different disciplines.

This seminar provides a platform for all the special educators, and stakeholders to promote gender equality and empowerment of women as it is essential to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Women and girls with disabilities experience double discrimination, which places them at higher risk of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation.

Aims and objectives:

- a. To create a space to discuss the double disadvantage of gender and disability
- b. To apprise the legal framework for Indian women with disability
- c. To understand the perspectives about working women and women with disability
- d. To acquaint with the portrayal of disability in media
- e. To familiarise with the strategies of image change of gender and disability

Desired Outcome:

- a. Sensitization and awareness building of the stakeholders
- b. Promote gender equality and empowerment of differently abled women
- c. Realign perspectives about working women and women with disability for all stakeholders

Themes:

- Gender at Work: Perspectives and Gaps
- Disabled Women: An Excluded Agenda of Indian Feminism
- Double Sword of Gender and Disability
- Employment and Rehabilitation of Women with Disabilities
- Role of Media and Perception of Disability
- Strategies to Develop a Positive Image of Gender and Disability

- Women with Disability and Indian Legal Framework
- Our Lives, Our Identity (A Panel Discussion)