

The International Day of Disability is observed on third December every year since 1992 under the aegis of United Nations with the aim of achieving total success by the year 2030 as a part of sustainable development, to leave no one behind meaning no disabled to be left without equal opportunity and dignity and all. Though it is a long continuous dedicated process but the aim behind the celebration of disability day is to encourage the well-being and rights of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society. The 2018 theme is "empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality." India has a population around 26.8 million with 2.21% population comprising of persons with disability as per 2011 census. These people are highest in the age group of 10–19 years and are mainly affected by locomotor disability, visual and hearing handicap. People with disability come under largest disorganized sector and their inclusiveness in the society is essential for the wholesome development.

With vast improvement in the field of modern medical care, rehabilitation support and education, the quality of life of these disabled people can be greatly improved and they can live a life independently dignifiedly and enjoying equal opportunity and lead a productive life.

People might be disabled by process of disease, accident or congenitally. A lot of these factors can be modified by creating adequate awareness and risk identification. Also if the social and physical environmental determinants of health are considered from the beginning along with the clinical and rehabilitation services, a lot of persons with disabilities can be included in the mainstream. Removing infrastructural, institutional and attitudinal involvement of the whole society starting from the proactive steps by the government and administration, the tertiary level medical colleges, health professionals of village level including the community rehabilitation workers and multipurpose rehabilitation workers is the need of the hour.

Awareness of the present situation is of utmost importance in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. It has to start with introduction of chapters of awareness and prevention of various disabilities in school curriculum. Prompt and advanced clinical care, extensive research in areas of assistive device, mobility aids and better treatment protocols, and proper resettlement of the person with disability will go a long way in reduction and giving equal opportunity and dignity to these people. The whole system, manpower and funds for the people with disability have to be integrated both horizontally and vertically.

Technology with artificial intelligence, smart disabled friendly barrier free environment, neuroprosthetic or myoelectric devices and technology, advances in stem cell technology are other great opportunities in the horizon of the future. Empowered individuals with disability can get sustainable and equitable development.

