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Study On Socio-Economic Problems Of Disabled Persons In Haryana

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Abstract: Persons with disabilities in Haryana continue to encounter significant socio-economic challenges that impede their full participation in society and the economy. These challenges stem from a combination of inadequate infrastructure, limited access to education and employment, pervasive societal stigma, and insufficient support systems. Despite policy initiatives such as the expansion of the Divyang pension scheme to include ten new disability categories, benefiting an additional 32,000 Persons with disabilities, and the Haryana Saksham Yojana aimed at promoting accessibility and awareness, systemic barriers persist. Infrastructure remains largely inaccessible, with public spaces and transportation lacking essential features like ramps and tactile paving. Educational exclusion continues, with many Persons with disabilities facing barriers in accessing quality education due to the lack of inclusive schools and trained teachers. Employment opportunities are limited, with workplace discrimination and societal prejudices creating significant barriers. Healthcare access is also a concern, with varying levels of accessibility across districts, particularly in rural areas. This study aims to identify the socio-economic problems faced by Persons with disabilities in Haryana, understand the barriers to their full integration, and propose solutions for their inclusion in mainstream society.

Index Terms- Disabled, challenges, comprehensive, integration

1. INTRODUCTION

Haryana, a state located in northern India, has been making considerable progress in many sectors like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. However, disabled individuals in the state continue to face significant socio-economic challenges that hinder their participation in the society and economy. These challenges often result from inadequate infrastructure, limited access to education and employment, societal stigma, and a lack of comprehensive support systems. This study aims to identify the socio-economic problems faced by disabled persons in Haryana, understand the barriers to their full integration, and propose solutions for their inclusion in mainstream society. Through questionnaires, personal interviews, and secondary research, this study investigates

The following aspects:

1. Access to education
2. Employment opportunities
3. Social acceptance and stigma
4. Access to healthcare and assistive devices
5. Government schemes and their impact

2. Objectives of the Study

- To identify the socio-economic problems faced by disabled individuals in Haryana.
- To examine the effectiveness of government policies and schemes in addressing the needs of disabled persons.
- To analyze the availability and accessibility of public services like healthcare, education, and employment.
- To raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities for disabled people in Haryana.

3. Research Methodology

This study employs both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies:

Primary Research: Questionnaires and interviews with disabled persons, caregivers, social workers and healthcare professionals in Haryana.

Secondary Research: Review of existing literature, government reports, and statistical data on disability in Haryana.

The questionnaire is designed to gather insights from disabled individuals about their experiences with education, employment, social life, healthcare, and government support.

4. Socio-Economic Challenges Faced by Disabled Persons

a) Education is a fundamental right, but many disabled individuals in Haryana face barriers to receiving proper education. Some of the key problems include:

Lack of accessible infrastructure: Many schools do not have ramps, accessible toilets, or special educators for children with disabilities.

Stigma and discrimination: Disabled children often face bullying and exclusion in regular classrooms.

Limited special education centers: There are few schools catering specifically to children with Special needs.

b) Employment

The unemployment rate among disabled persons in Haryana is disproportionately high due to several factors:

Limited access to vocational training: Few vocational training programs are available to disabled persons.

Prejudices and discrimination: Employers often have biases against hiring disabled individuals, viewing them as less capable or requiring additional resources.

Lack of workplace accessibility: Many workplaces do not have necessary adjustments for disabled employees, such as wheelchairs, elevators, or accessible restrooms.

c) Social Stigma

Disabled individuals in Haryana face social exclusion and stigmatization. There is a lack of awareness about disability, which results in:

Social isolation: Disabled individuals may experience neglect from society and their families.

Negative attitudes: Prejudices and stereotypes about disabled persons are widespread.

Inaccessible public spaces: Many public spaces, such as parks and transport systems, do not cater to disabled individuals.

d) Healthcare and Assistive Devices

Access to healthcare is another significant issue for disabled persons in Haryana. They often struggle to get specialized medical care due to:

Lack of trained healthcare professionals: There are limited healthcare providers who specialize in treating or supporting disabled individuals.

High cost of treatment and assistive devices: Many disabled people cannot afford the necessary treatment or devices, such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, or prosthetics.

Limited insurance coverage: Disability is often not adequately covered by health insurance policies.

e) Government Schemes and Support

Although the Indian government has introduced several schemes for the welfare of disabled persons, such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and financial assistance programs, implementation is often slow, and accessibility remains a challenge. Some issues include:

Lack of awareness about schemes: Many disabled persons are unaware of the government schemes available to them. Bureaucratic hurdles: Application processes for disability-related benefits can be complicated and slow. Insufficient funds: The financial assistance provided often does not cover the actual needs of the disabled individuals.

5. Analysis and Discussion

The collected data from the questionnaires will be analyzed to identify key trends, issues, and challenges faced by disabled individuals in Haryana. Common themes will be explored to determine how access to education, healthcare, employment, and social inclusion can be improved. Recommendations for better government policies, infrastructure, and social awareness will be made.

6. Conclusion

The socio-economic challenges faced by disabled individuals in Haryana are multifaceted and require a comprehensive approach from the government, private sector, and society. While some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go in terms of accessibility, employment, education, and healthcare. Addressing these challenges will not only improve the lives of disabled persons but also contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

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