

**Registration Fee:**

• Academicians & Others : Rs.1000/-, Research Scholars: Rs. 500/-, Students: Rs.300/-. The participants can pay the registration fee at the Seminar Venue and obtain a receipt.

**Travel and Accommodation:**

Sleeper class train fare by shortest route only will be given to outstation participants who will submit and present a paper at the Seminar and on production of tickets. However, the participants are requested to seek sponsorship of their institutions for their travel. Moderate accommodation and local hospitality will be provided to outstation participants only on Seminar dates. In case of multi-authors, only one author will be paid travel charges. Multi-authors will be given certificates only on payment of registration fee. The participants are advised to make their own travel arrangements and inform the arrival and departure time and dates for making necessary arrangements.

  
**Seminar Organizing Committee****Chief Patron****Prof. G. Sasibhusana Rao**

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**Seminar Director****Dr. P. Subba Rao**

Director, Centre for Study of Social Inclusion, Andhra University

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**Centre for Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI)**  
**Andhra University, Visakhapatnam - 530 003**



*Two -Day National Seminar on*

**“Towards Inclusion: Empowering Persons with Disabilities  
for a Developed India by 2047”**

**(03-04, December, 2024)**

**About the National Seminar:**

As India looks ahead to its 100<sup>th</sup> year of independence in 2047, the nation's vision of becoming a fully developed, self-reliant, and inclusive country hinges on one critical factor: the empowerment and inclusion of all citizens, especially persons with disabilities (PwDs). Without ensuring their full participation, India cannot truly achieve its aspirations of 'Viksit Bharat.' According to the 2011 Census, over 26 million people in India live with some form of disability, a figure that experts believe is significantly underreported. The true number could be much higher, making it imperative that policies cater to the real needs of this often-overlooked population. This significant segment of society faces numerous challenges, often due to systemic barriers that prevent their full participation in social, economic, and cultural life.

Social inclusion for people with disabilities means ensuring that they have access to the same opportunities as others and are integrated into the mainstream of society. Empowering PwDs, ensuring their inclusion in all facets of life, and recognizing their rights are essential steps toward building an equitable, inclusive, and developed nation by 2047. To achieve this, it is essential to have robust policies that ensure inclusion, accessibility, and dignity for persons with disabilities. Social inclusion of persons with disabilities in India is hindered by several barriers, including societal attitudes, lack of infrastructure, and insufficient policy implementation. These barriers can be categorized into Attitudinal Barriers, Physical Barriers, Educational Barriers, Employment Barriers and Health and Rehabilitation Services that are important.

India has made significant strides in formulating laws and policies aimed at empowering disabled persons. The country is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and has enacted national laws to align with international standards. Some of the important legislations in this direction are: The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992; National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006; The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. In addition to these, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society play a crucial role in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities.

While these laws are progressive, their implementation is fraught with challenges. For example, rural areas suffer from a lack of awareness and infrastructure, leading to inadequate enforcement of these laws. Additionally, monitoring mechanisms are often insufficient to ensure compliance. This inconsistency between policy and practice remains a key barrier to achieving true inclusion for PwDs. By studying international frameworks like the European Union's strategy on disability rights and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), India can draw lessons on how to improve accessibility, employment, and education for PwDs. Collaborating with international organizations, such as the United Nations, will be crucial to fast-tracking these efforts. India's progress toward inclusivity can be greatly enhanced by adapting these international best practices to suit its unique socio-cultural context. The empowerment of persons with disabilities is not only a matter of social justice but a crucial component in realizing India's full potential as a developed nation by 2047. By embracing inclusivity, ensuring equal opportunities, and making society accessible for all, India can build a nation where every individual, regardless of disability, contributes to and benefits from its progress.

The Seminar "**Towards Inclusion: Empowering Persons with Disabilities for a Developed India by 2047**" will serve as a platform to drive forward these goals and create actionable pathways to a truly inclusive India. By 2047, India can be a model of inclusivity, ensuring that no one is left behind on its path to progress. Policymakers, civil society, and the private sector need to work together to create an environment where disabled persons can access education, employment, healthcare, and social services without discrimination. Only then can India claim to be a truly inclusive society.

In this backdrop, *The Centre for Study of Social Inclusion, Andhra University*, proposes to organize a two-day national seminar to examine the historical and causative factors that discriminate against the PwD communities, preventing access to social participation, resources, education, health, rights, and other entitlements. The seminar provides a platform for academics, scholars, students, executives, professionals, and NGOs to discuss the existing socio-economic inequalities faced by these communities in India.

#### **Sub-themes of the National Seminar:**

The seminar will address several core themes critical to achieving the goal of empowerment and inclusion of PwDs in India. They are:

- ❖ **Legal Framework for Disability Rights in India:**
  - This theme will explore the existing legal frameworks and identify gaps in enforcement, with a particular focus on how to strengthen these laws to ensure their effectiveness by 2047.
- ❖ **Barriers to Social Inclusion:**
  - Delve into the various societal and institutional barriers that prevent PwDs from accessing equal opportunities and full participation in society.
- ❖ **Role of Civil Society and NGOs:**

- This theme will examine the vital role that non-governmental organizations and civil society play in advocating for and supporting the rights of persons with disabilities.
- ❖ **Inclusive Education and Skill Development:**
  - Addressing the gaps in educational infrastructure and skill development for PwDs and proposing methods to create more inclusive learning environments.
- ❖ **Employment Opportunities and Economic Independence:**
  - This theme will focus on increasing employment opportunities for PwDs, reducing barriers to workplace entry, and promoting economic independence.
- ❖ **Accessible Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion:**
  - Explore how accessible infrastructure, both physical and digital, can enhance social and economic participation for PwDs.
- ❖ **Healthcare Access and Social Security:**
  - Address the inequalities in healthcare access for PwDs, discussing ways to provide adequate healthcare services and social security.
- ❖ **Policy and Legislative Support:**
  - Policymakers, organizations, and civil society must work together to ensure robust policies and legislation that promote the empowerment of PwDs by 2047.
- ❖ **Any Other Issues on Social Inclusion, Equity, and Empowerment:**
  - This open theme invites discussions on additional challenges and solutions related to the broader inclusion and equity of PwDs in Indian society.

#### **Call for Papers:**

Papers are invited from participants on any of the themes mentioned in the thrust areas.

#### **Mode of Presentation:**

Resource persons are invited to make presentations on any key theme. The duration of the presentation for selected papers will be for 15 minutes.

#### **Guidelines for Authors:**

- Abstract not exceeding 300 words and Full papers not exceeding 5000 words typed on MS Word format (Times New Roman), font size 12 with title, name of author(s), complete address, mobile number and e-mail address of the author should reach the Director of the Seminar, by an e-mail attachment by **25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**. In case of co-authors, these details should also be provided for each co-author.
- A Committee will review the abstracts and full papers submitted and acceptance will be communicated to the authors subsequently by mail.
- The selected papers will be published in an edited book.
- The authors are requested to send their abstracts and full papers to the e-mail: [Disabilityseminar2024.au@gmail.com](mailto:Disabilityseminar2024.au@gmail.com)