PRIMARY RESEARCH

Tech for Inclusion: Empowering people with special needs in India

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Abstract

Every member of the human family has inherent worth and dignity, and their equality and unalienable rights are declared to be the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. The exclusion and marginalization of people with special needs is a human rights issue. Accessibility is necessary for people with special needs to exercise their human rights. In fact, without it, people with special needs are deprived of the freedom to express themselves, the right to an education, a job, good health, and the opportunity to exercise their rights. It will be difficult to obtain justice by filing complaints or obtaining remedies for infringing rights. people with special needs must engage in all facets of society on an equal basis with their non-disabled peers, according to a human rights-based perspective on disability. It is possible to help these people participate fully in society using specific technological tools. The study emphasizes the obstacles that people with special needs confront, notably in terms of human rights issues and the necessity for assistive technology to survive in the digital age. Technology advancements can lessen the effects of these people's infirmities, but these people still frequently face stigma and discrimination from society. The study also notes that it intends to investigate the numerous human rights challenges that these people face, with a particular emphasis on how technology may empower them and the societal constraints that remain.

INTRODUCTON

Regardless of colour, nationality, religion, gender, or any other status, everyone is entitled to fundamental human rights (UN, n.d).A wide range of rights are included in the concept of human rights, such as the freedom from torture and enslavement, the right to life and liberty, the freedom of speech, the right to work and an education, and many more rights. Without exception, everyone is entitled to these rights (UN, n.d).People with special needs are entitled to a fair level of living as well as social and economic security. Individuals have the right to join trade unions and to get and hold onto employment or to participate in a beneficial, profitable, and productive activity, depending on their abilities (OHCHR, n.d). Human rights violations against people with special needs are numerous and include institutionalization, exclusion, discrimination, stigma, and lack of access to opportunities for education, work, and health. people with special needs frequently encounter discrimination and must overcome numerous barriers throughout their life.

People with special needs can participate in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural spheres with equal opportunities thanks to a number of international treaties and agreements, including the International Covenants on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Apart from the commitments given by the signatory states, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities tackles a number of matters, such as the broad principles that must steer the advancement and protection of the rights of people with special needs.

Objectives of the Study

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:
- To examine how assistive technology is being used by

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individuals with special needs, identify any accessibility or availability gaps, and assess the state of the field.

- Identify human rights violations encountered by people with disabilities, whether in school, employment, or access to public services.
- Examine how discrimination and stigma appear in various contexts, such as the workplace, educational institutions, and medical facilities, to gain an understanding of social views.
- Propose solutions to increase the adoption of assistive technology and eliminate discrimination, such as policy recommendations, awareness campaigns, or community efforts.
- Examining the various international tools to safeguard the human rights of individuals with exceptional needs.
- Evaluate legal and constitutional measures in India that protect the rights of people with special needs.
- Evaluate the necessity for assistive technology to ensure the human rights of individuals with special needs.
- To investigate the children's educational rights of those with special needs.

Statement of the Problem

Disability is a controversial issue with varying definitions across societies. It can refer to physical or mental characteristics that some organizations, particularly those in medicine, believe must be fixed. The term may allude to limitations imposed on people by the standards of the most physically fit community. persons with disabilities have the same health standards as persons without impairments when it comes to immunizations, cancer screenings, and other procedures. Their poverty and social marginalization may also result in a limited range of health experiences.

The phrase "cap in hand," which refers to the mediaeval practice when beggars would extend their caps to receive alms, is widely thought to be the source of the term handicap. It is an offensive term (Mikkelson, 2011). Gradually, the term "disabled" began to replace the word "handicapped". The Americans with Disabilities Act was created in 1990 as a result of this struggle for equal rights (ADA). A handicap is sometimes described as a problem, disruption, or loss in the regular operation of a person's physical, mental, or psychological processes, as well as learning or social adjustment challenges that prevent a person from growing and developing typically. Approximately 600 million people worldwide are thought to have some disability. Almost two-thirds of them live in developing nations with

high population density, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia, where they face social isolation and poverty (Mohit, 2006).
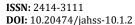
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The integration of technology into society has opened up new possibilities for individuals with special needs. Assistive technology (AT) has the potential to empower people with disabilities, enabling them to participate more fully in education, employment, and social life. India, with its large population and diverse range of disabilities, presents a unique context for exploring the impact of technology on inclusion. The rights of disabled persons have gained significant attention in recent decades, with international conventions and domestic legislation being enacted to protect and promote their rights. Numerous books have been written on this topic, exploring various aspects of disability rights, from legal frameworks to personal narratives.

Many books examine the international and domestic legal frameworks that govern the rights of disabled persons. They analyze the provisions of conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and domestic laws in different countries. Some books adopt a social model of disability, which emphasizes that disability is primarily a social construct rather than an individual impairment. This perspective argues that it is society's attitudes, structures, and barriers that create disability. A number of books feature personal narratives from individuals with disabilities, providing firsthand accounts of their experiences, challenges, and triumphs. These narratives can be powerful tools for raising awareness and promoting empathy. Some books explore the intersection of disability with other marginalized identities, such as race, gender, and class. They argue that individuals with disabilities may face multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion. Several books focus on the role of technology in promoting inclusion for disabled persons. They examine the potential of assistive technology to enhance accessibility and improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

Michael Stein's

"Disability Rights: A Global Perspective" is a comprehensive and insightful exploration of the international legal framework governing the rights of persons with disabilities. The book provides a detailed analysis of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the most significant international treaty on disability rights. The book delves into the key provisions of the CRPD, examining its scope, principles, and obligations for states. Stein empha-

sizes the importance of the CRPD in promoting a rights-based approach to disability and challenging discriminatory attitudes and practices.

Susan Wendell's Life on the Edge

The Struggle for Disability Rights is a seminal work in the field of disability studies. This book offers a powerful and personal exploration of disability, challenging societal attitudes and stereotypes. Wendell, herself a person with a disability, provides a unique perspective that is both insightful and deeply moving.

James Charlton's

Disability and the Human Rights Movement is a seminal work in the field of disability studies. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the historical and contemporary relationship between disability and human rights, arguing that disability is a fundamental human rights issue. The book addresses the challenges faced by people with disabilities in securing their rights, as well as the opportunities for progress in the future.

An excellent work on the rights of people with disabilities is (Ahmed, 2015), Rights of Persons with Disability in India. The global recognition and validation of disability rights have been greatly enhanced with the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. India was one of the first countries to join the Convention, although its domestic laws have not yet been updated to reflect its requirements. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights, and Full Participation) Act (shortened to PWD Act), passed in 1995, continues to be the main piece of legislation for people with disabilities, despite the fact that new disability legislation has been pending in Parliament for quite some time. .. As a result, the PWD Act is now out of date, with many critical elements missing. With the aid of significant court rulings, this book has sincerely attempted to critically evaluate the PWD Act as well as other current laws pertaining to people with disabilities in India. An attempt has been made to contrast the provisions with the disability laws of India. Along with analyzing the legislative responses and the legal framework for disability rights in India, it also covers the historical development of disability (legal) rights and policies in that country. The study also examines legislation pertaining to the disabled person's right to an education. The book has made an effort to address every aspect of disability-related issues and worries in India, with a focus on the legal rights of those who are disabled. For those working to advance the causes and rights of the disabled, it

can be a valuable resource. The book is a great resource for anyone looking for first-hand knowledge of disability rights in India.

The literature on disability rights is rich and diverse, offering valuable insights into the experiences and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. By exploring these books, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the legal frameworks, social models, and personal narratives that shape the disability rights movement.

Human Rights perspective

For individuals with special needs, accessibility is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of their human rights. People with special needs have a civic and human right to have access to technology at the same cost as people without disabilities. International human rights legislation mandates that nation-states uphold the idea that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" as well as respect, preserve, and fulfil such rights. All people have certain basic freedoms and rights from the moment of conception until the moment of death. Individuals are entitled to the same fundamental legal protections regardless of their gender, race, country, ethnicity, religion, language, or any other factor. All people's practice and enjoyment of human rights are essential for our growth as human beings on a comprehensive scale. Charlton asserts that disability is a human rights issue, not merely a medical or social problem. People with special needs have the same rights as everyone else, including the right to equality, dignity, and non-discrimination (Charlton, 2000).

Individuals with disabilities include a substantial segment of the global populace; however, they continue to be among the most marginalized and susceptible groups. Accurate data on the global population with impairments is hard to get since different countries have different methods for calculating disability, and different applications use the data for different purposes (Samboma, 2024). One human right violated might have a detrimental effect on other human rights as well. People with disabilities can benefit from technology by being able to do things that they were previously unable to do or by having access to options that were previously unavailable to them. Thus, to wrap up our research, we must make the case that technology is incredibly important for advancing human rights (Siegel, 2019). Many [people with special needs] find their lives negatively impacted by a lack of accessible communication and information. Both in developing and wealthy nations, those who struggle with communication issues—such as hearing or speech impairments—face severe societal disadvantages.

According to the (WHO, 2011), this disadvantage is especially felt in fields including health care, education, local administration, and justice where good communication is essential (WHO, 2011). Wendell argues that disability is not merely a biological condition but a social construct. It is shaped by societal attitudes, barriers, and the ways in which people with disabilities are treated.

Human Rights of the disabled

All humans are born with equal rights and dignity as well as freedom. There are essential rights that are not exclusive to people with disabilities. Similar to all other rights, those about disabilities encompass non-discrimination, accessibility, equal opportunities, integration, and complete involvement in society. People with disabilities face stigma, discrimination, and human rights violations everywhere in the world. A person is considered to have a disability if they frequently experience difficulty performing tasks that other people take for granted. Depending on a variety of social conditions, people with disabilities may be involved in or excluded from various activities, which may have an impact on how they develop or perceive themselves. Thus, a disability is not a medical issue. It's a complicated event that shows how the physical and people with disabilities are included or excluded from different activities depending on a range of social conditions, which can affect how these individuals develop or see themselves. Disability is, therefore, not a health problem. The relationship between an individual's physical attributes is reflected in this complex phenomenon. A person's development or self-esteem may be impacted by a variety of social circumstances, including whether or not they are allowed to participate in certain activities. Disability, therefore, is not a medical condition. This intricate phenomenon reflects the interplay between an individual's physical attributes and the characteristics of their social environment.
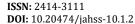
Technology Access

It is estimated that half a billion individuals with disabilities live in underdeveloped nations, with just 5-15% of them requiring access to assistive technology. Thus, it is positive that the CRPD mandates that governments supply reasonably priced assistive technology and essential services to guarantee the complete and equal fulfilment of all human rights for those with disabilities. It is the right of people with impairments to use technology. For those with disabilities, having access to modern technology—particularly digital communication technology—is essential to exercising their other civic, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. In the modern world, technology is essential for helping with medical problems. A person with ongoing medical issues may become accustomed to using a laptop or mobile phone for a variety of pragmatic reasons. People with impairments can become less dependent on others by emailing health experts (Living, 2020). However, there are more sophisticated apps that can assist with difficult-to-manage diseases. This technological advancement guarantees independence and empowers disabled persons with restricted movement to control challenging circumstances. Disabled individuals shouldn't feel excluded or left behind when it comes to technology. Choose the best decisions; the rewards might be plentiful with practice (White, 2019). This study primarily examines the conceptual foundation for arguments for enhancing human rights for impaired individuals through technology.

Utilizing certain forms of technology (medical gadgets that target specific limits), people with special needs can be encouraged to fully engage in society. According to Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum's "capability approach," an individual's quality of life is influenced by any kind of impact that allows them to achieve their important goals (Siegel, 2019). The basic principles underlying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities However, because of prejudice and discrimination, the rights of people with disabilities are frequently infringed. Disability can also be marginalized through institutional, standardized, and physical limitations. Utilizing specialized forms of technology, one can assist people with disabilities in participating fully in society. Numerous specialists argue that medical exoskeletons or wheelchairs with motorized stand-up features open up new possibilities for persons with severe disabilities. The quality of life is directly impacted and significantly enhanced by these opportunities.

According to his capacity approach, Amartya Sen holds that "any sort of impact that enables a person to pursue what they regard as essential improves the quality of their life." These opportunities have a huge impact and immediately affect people's quality of life. In his capabilities approach, Amartya Sen "assumes that any form of impact influences a person's quality of life by enabling them to pursue what they deem essential" (Arambala, 2022). Our lives are growing increasingly dependent on technology. This situation is even more realistic for individuals with disabilities because assistive technology, or AT, is drastically enhancing and altering their lives.

Assistive Technology for People with Special Needs

Assistive technology tremendously empowers people with special needs, enabling them to overcome challenges and participate fully in society. This technology is used to improve the functional capacities of people with impairments. It varies from basic tools to sophisticated digital solutions. Any apparatus, a piece of machinery, or a system that enables people with disabilities to carry out tasks that would otherwise be challenging or impossible is referred to as assistive technology. Depending on the type of disability it treats—such as mobility, communication, vision, hearing, or cognitive impairments—it can be divided into several categories.

Assistive Technology Tools

- Aids for Mobility-Scooters and Wheelchairs: These tools help people who are limited in their movement get around on their own.
- Prosthetics: Artificial limbs enable people who have lost limbs to regain mobility and usefulness.
- Walkers and canes- They provide stability and support to people who have balance or strength concerns.
- Hearing Aids: These gadgets improve sound to enable persons who are hard of hearing converse and listen to noises more readily. surgically implanted devices that restore hearing to people who are severely deaf or extremely hard of hearing.
- Visual aids-Software that reads aloud text from a screen to help people with vision impairments utilize computers and cell phones. Braille Displays: Technology that converts text on a screen into Braille so that people with vision impairments can read digital content.
- Magnifiers: Electronic or optical devices that help people with limited vision read or see text larger.
- Communication aids- Speech Generating Devices (SGDs): These are gadgets that translate written words or symbols into spoken words, enabling people with speech difficulties to communicate.
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices: Include a wide range of instruments, from picture boards to sophisticated software, that assist people with communication problems in expressing themselves.
- Cognitive aids: Memory aids are gadgets, such as electronic organizers or applications, that make it easier for people with cognitive impairments to organize their everyday activities and retain crucial information.* Task Management Tools: Software and apps that help people with cognitive impairments organize tasks, make reminders, and manage their time.
- Environmental Management-Smart Home Technologies: Voice commands, switches, or applications can be used by people with disabilities to control different parts of their surroundings, such as lighting, heating, and appliances.
- Adaptive Keyboards and Mice: Modified input devices that help people with physical disabilities to use computers more successfully.

Effects of Assistive Technology

- With the use of assistive technology, people with special needs can carry out daily duties on their own, decreasing their need for carers and improving their quality of life. For example, mobility aids make it possible for people to move about freely, and communication gadgets let people who have trouble speaking communicate with others.
- Students with impairments can participate in mainstream education thanks to assistive technologies like screen readers and Braille displays, which make instructional information more accessible to them.
- Specialized software and applications facilitate learning by meeting a variety of demands, such as giving alternate methods to interact with instructional information.
- By providing solutions that are tailored to each user's needs, assistive technology makes it possible for individuals with special needs to join and succeed in the workforce. For example, adaptable computer hardware and software enable people with physical or sensory disabilities to do job-related tasks efficiently.
- Communication aids and gadgets enable people with special needs to interact with others, participate in community events, and form relationships, minimizing social isolation. The utilization of assistive technology facilitates involvement in a variety of life activities, hence promoting a feeling of inclusion and belonging.

Barriers to Accessing Assistive Technology

- Many assistive gadgets are too expensive, rendering them unavailable to individuals who cannot afford them. This is especially true in low-income areas or for cutting-edge technologies such as prosthetics and high-tech communication gadgets.
- People with special needs, their families, and even healthcare providers are frequently unaware of ac-

cessible assistive technologies. This can keep people from using things that could dramatically improve their quality of life.

- Assistive technology is not widely available in many regions, particularly those that are rural or impoverished. The distribution networks for these devices are frequently limited, making it difficult for users to access the required instruments.
- It's not always possible to get training and continuous support for using assistive technology properly. Without sufficient training, users may not completely benefit from the technology, or it may be underutilized.
- The stigma associated with assistive technology in some communities can discourage people from using it. The use of assistive technology can also be influenced by societal perceptions of disability.

The Rights of Disabled Persons Declaration

The Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons is a resolution that was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1975. People with disabilities must be able to exercise all of the rights described in this declaration without hindrance or prejudice Regardless of the cause, kind, or severity of their imp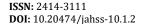airments, people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights and should be treated with respect for their human dignityThe same civil and political rights apply to people with impairments as they do to everyone else. Policies that will support individuals with impairments in achieving maximum independence are entitled to be implemented. It is the right of individuals with disabilities to get economic and social security, which includes the opportunity to work in a job that best suits their abilities and to find and maintain employment.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to programs aimed at helping them become as independent as possible. People with disabilities are entitled to economic and social security, which includes the right to join trade unions and, depending on their capacity, the right to find and hold down a job or work in a worthwhile, profitable, and productive profession. People with disabilities are entitled to live with their families or with foster parents, and they can engage in any kind of social, artistic, or recreational activity. It is imperative to safeguard those with disabilities against any kind of prejudice, mistreatment, and inhumane treatment. People with disabilities are subjected to a variety of human rights violations, including institutionalization, exclusion, stigma, discrimination, and restricted access to chances for jobs, education, and health.

TABLE 1. Human Rights Instruments for the rights the rights of people with special needs

Rights	UDHR	CRPD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	ICERD	CRC
Non-discrimination and equality	Art.1, 2	Art. 5	Art. 2(1),3	Art. 2(2),3	Art. 2, All	Art. 2,5, All	Art. 2
Equality before the Law	Art. 6	Art. 5(1), Art. 12	Art. 16, Art. 26			Art. 5	
Right to Health	Art. 25	Art. 25		Art. 12	Art. 12	Art. 5(e)(iv)	Art. 23 (3, 4), Art. 24
Sexual and Reproductive Health		Art. 25(a)			Art. 12(1), Art. 14(2)(b)		Art. 24(2)(f)
Education	Art. 26	Art. 24		Art. 13	Art. 10	Art. 5(e)(v)	Art. 23(3, 4), Art. 28, Art. 29
Right to Life	Art. 3	Art. 10	Art. 6(1)				Art. 6(1)
Liberty and Security of person	Art. 3	Art. 14	Art. 9(1)				Art. 37(b)
Exploitation, Violence and Abuse		Art. 16					Art. 19, Art. 32(1), Art. 34, Art. 36
Torture or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment	Art. 5	Art. 15	Art. 7				Art. 37(a)

Source: Boston (2014).Disability and human rights. Health and Human Rights Resource

Right to Health

As to Article 25 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, individuals with disabilities are entitled to the highest attainable standard of health that is reasonably achievable, free from discrimination based on their disability. In this context, health is defined as "a condition of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, rather than only the absence of sickness or illness." Emphasizing that the CRPD states that disability is not always a medical condition is crucial. It also highlights that barriers that are mental and environmental, rather than physical (if any), are what prevent people with disabilities from fully and equally participating in society. It should not be assumed that individuals with disabilities always need medical care for conditions related to their impairment.

Equity in Social, Economic and Cultural Rights

People with special needs have the right to the best standard of health that is reasonably possible, free from discrimination on the basis of their disability, according to 25 (n.d.). Here, health is not just the absence of sickness or illness but also a condition of whole physical, mental, and social well-being. If states wish to allow everyone to enjoy this right equally and without discrimination, they must guarantee lifelong learning and inclusive education at all levels. They contended that the constitution should expressly guarantee the right to education, the right to free education, the right to required education, or the right to protection from discrimination in education based on a disability in order to provide education for children with disabilities (education, n.d).

Right to Work

On December 9, 1975, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution known as the Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons. All of the rights outlined in this declaration must be accessible to people with special needs without restriction or discrimination. Regardless of the cause, character, or severity of their disabilities, people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights and are entitled to respect for their human dignity. People with disabilities are entitled to the same civil and political rights as everyone else. People with disabilities are entitled to policies that will help them become as independent as possible. People with disabilities have a right to economic and social security, including the ability to find and keep a job or participate in a job that suits their skills. Disabled people are entitled to measures designed to enable them to become as self-reliant as possible. Disabled people have the right to economic and social security, including the right, according to their capabilities, to secure and retain employment or to engage in a useful, productive, and remunerative occupation and to join trade unions. Disabled people have the right to live with their families or with foster parents and to participate in all social, creative, or recreational activities. People with disabilities must be protected from all forms of discrimination, abuse, and degrading treatment. With disabilities face wide-ranging human rights abuses, including institutionalization, isolation, stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to health, education, and employment opportunities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

United Nations international human rights convention aimed at defending the rights and dignity of people with disabilities is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Stein, 2012). The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted and put into effect, which considerably raised its visibility and strengthened disability rights around the world (Ahmed, 2015). The full enjoyment of a person's human rights, as well as their legal equality, must be promoted, safeguarded, and ensured by Parties to the Convention. Encouraging respect for the inherent dignity of individuals with disabilities and ensuring that they can all equally and completely enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms are the two main objectives of the Convention. It addresses the situation of individuals with disabilities by applying acknowledged human rights concepts from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Stein, 2012). It includes social and economic rights related to things like work, health care, education, and transportation, as well as civil and political rights to equal treatment and freedom from discrimination. States that sign the UN Convention pledge to provide individuals with disabilities with civil and political rights as well as the progressive realization of social and economic rights (UN, 2006).

According to the UN charter, each member of the human family has equal and inalienable rights that serve as the foundation for global freedom, justice, and peace. (Broderick, 2020). In contrast, the international agreements on economic, social, and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have a significant impact on addressing the severe social marginalization that people with disabilities experience as well as promoting their equal participation in the political, social, and cultural spheres in both developed and developing countries. The Convention on the Rights of Individuals with Disabil-

ities covers a wide range of topics, including the guiding principles that should guide the growth and protection of those rights. One of the subjects covered by the Convention on the Rights of Persons is general accessibility. The Convention covers a wide range of topics, including the ideas that should guide the advancement and protection of these rights. This includes general accessibility as one of its subjects. State parties' commitments to act and the overarching guidelines for advancing and defending the rights of individuals with disabilities are covered by the Convention (UN, 2006).

A new protocol to the current Convention permits communications from or on behalf of individuals or groups of individuals alleging they were victims of a state party breaching the current Convention's provisions to be accepted and taken into consideration by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Recalling that all people with disabilities have the right to be free from discrimination and to enjoy all human rights in full and equal measure, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination The human rights paradigm states that everyone, including disabled individuals, has an unalienable fundamental right to life, social interactions, cultural experiences, leisure, and unrestrained sport. It is thought that social interactions, social inclusion, and other services—like inclusive sports—should be available to both impaired and non-disabled persons (Asare, 2020).

TABLE 2. Status of Distribution of Pension for the people with special needs tribal Persons in Kerala

Sl.No	District	Total Number of Disabled	Pension Beneficiaries	% to Total
1	Thiruvananthapuram	526	42	7.98
2	Kollam	131	8	6.11
3	Pathanamthitta	227	16	7.05
4	Alappuzha	39	20	51.28
5	Kottayam	508	24	4.72
6	Idukki	1547	37	2.39
7	Eranakulam	265	18	6.79
8	Thrissur	218	9	4.13
9	Palakkad	331	57	17.22
10	Malappuram	564	37	6.56
11	Kozhikode	295	33	11.19
12	Wayanad	2957	245	8.29
13	Kannur	904	79	8.74
14	Kasaragod	618	93	15.05
	State	9130	718	7.86

Source: Government of Kerala (2013), Scheduled Tribes of Kerala, Report on the Socio-Economic Status, Scheduled Tribes Development Department Government of Kerala, Retrieved Fromhttps://Www.Stdd.Kerala.Gov.In/Sites/Default/Files/Inline-Files/Surveyd_2008.Pdf

FINDINGS

This method would provide a full overview of the difficulties at hand, as well as realistic solutions. the rights of people with special needs frequently confront multiple educational problems, which might impede their academic and emotional development. Among the main concerns are:

- Many educational institutions lack the necessary infrastructure, such as ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms, making it difficult for students with mobility impairments to navigate campus.
- Digital Accessibility: Online learning platforms, educational websites, and digital resources are frequently constructed without accessibility in mind, making it difficult for students with visual, hearing, or cognitive disabilities to access content.
- There is frequently a scarcity of educated special education instructors who understand the unique requirements and rights of people with special needs.
- Students' capacity to fully participate in their education may be hampered by schools' poor supply of assistive technology and software, such as screen readers, speech-to-text programs, and hearing aids.

- Students with disabilities frequently experience stigma, exclusion, or bullying from their peers, which can negatively affect their self-worth, mental health, and academic achievement. Negative stereotypes and discriminatory behaviour can persist due to a lack of awareness and understanding on the part of educators as well as students.
- It is common for traditional curricula to not be modified to accommodate kids with special needs. For example, educational resources might not be offered in audio, large print, or Braille formats.
- Curricula's inflexible framework could make it difficult to provide for the flexibility required to meet the needs of various learning styles and rates.
- Students with disabilities may face obstacles when transferring to a higher education institution, including inadequate support services, inaccessible campuses, and admission tests that disregard their qualifications. Financial constraints can also prevent them from pursuing higher education, especially if they require specialized services or equipment that are not covered by grants or scholarships.
- Due to a lack of training in inclusive education approaches, many teachers may not provide children with disabilities with the necessary support in the classroom. It's possible that educators lack the skills necessary to adapt lessons or provide modifications that let all students participate in the learning process.
- Inadequate policies or the poor application of existing laws in many places make it difficult to ensure the educational rights of people with disabilities. It's also possible that efforts and programs aimed at advancing inclusive education are not receiving enough funding.

Suggestions

- In order to tackle these educational obstacles, it is important that
- Increase physical and digital accessibility in educational institutions.
- Improve the availability of assistive technologies and support services.
- Encourage educators to become more aware of and trained in inclusive teaching approaches.
- Policy development and enforcement are necessary to guarantee equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities.
- Creating an inclusive and respectful culture in an educational setting is essential for ensuring that all students feel valued, supported, and empowered.

CONCLUSION

People with special needs have traditionally been viewed as passive users of assistance, frequently reduced to their health needs as a result of their impairments. People with disabilities must participate in all aspects of society on an equal footing with their non-disabled peers, according to a human rights-based approach to disability. Numerous development initiatives employ a range of tools for capacity-building, communication, and awareness-raising. The disabled section's human rights should be safeguarded to strengthen democratic norms. People with impairments can improve their lives with the help of technology, improving their quality of life."States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information, and communications, including information and communications technology," states Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To advance the human rights of people with disabilities, a world free from exploitation and stigma is essential.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Governments should give subsidies, insurance coverage, and other financial assistance to make assistive devices more affordable and accessible. Widespread access depends on policies that support the creation, use, and distribution of assistive technologies.
- Awareness campaigns and education initiatives can help differently-abled people, their families, and healthcare providers understand the benefits and availability of assistive technology. Training programs should be implemented to guarantee that consumers and professionals can effectively use and maintain these technologies.
- Awareness campaigns and education initiatives can help the people with special needs, their families, and healthcare providers understand the benefits and availability of assistive technology. It is imperative to build training programs that guarantee the proficient use and upkeep of these technologies by both specialists and individuals.
- To create more efficient, cost-effective, and user-friendly gadgets, assistive technology research and innovation must continue. Governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses in the private sector can

work together to progress technology in a way that meets the varied requirements of people with disabilities.

- Technology developers must prioritize inclusive design principles to make new products practical and accessible to a wide range of users, irrespective of their skills. To produce more useful solutions, the design and development process should take into account user feedback from people with disabilities.
- By solving these issues and creating a supportive atmosphere, assistive technology can continue to improve the lives of people with special needs, allowing them to be more independent, satisfying, and inclusive.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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