



# SAKHI KENDRA EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

## E- Book

IPPL – Green Park, Kanpur Organized by Sakhi Kendra



**FIRST EVER  
WOMEN'S  
PARA  
CRICKET  
TEAM**

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# **INTRODUCTION**

According to the World Health Organization 15% of the population has some or the other form of disability. The Disabled Population in India as per census 2011 (2016 updated) states that in India, out of the 121 Cr population, 2.21% Indians have some form of disability. Among the disabled population 56% (1.5 Cr) are Males and 44% (1.18 Cr) are Females. In the total population, the male and female population are 51% and 49% respectively .

In the 1981 census 3 categories of disabilities were used; in 2001 census the categories was increased to 5 and in the 2011 census 8 categories of disability were used which were 1) seeing disability, 2) hearing disability, 3) speech disability, 4) movement disability, 5) mental retardation, 6) mental illness, 7) any other disability, and 8) multiple disability.

## **OVER VIEW OF THE DISABILITY LAWS**

There are innumerable types of disabilities that can affect a human being. Some of these conditions are more common than the others. Some of the types of disabilities are recognized by the government in order to provide disability benefits to those who need it the most.

On right of person with disability). The Persons with disability Act 2016 cover up to 21 conditions of disability which also includes 'acid attack and Parkinson's disease'. **The Disability Act 1995** had 7 disabilities specified under it. This was replaced by **The Rights Persons with disability Act 2016**. The government found the need to make a proper right-based act for people with disability to give them equality and remove the social stigma and thus align the domestic laws with the UNCRPD (United nations convention.

In landmark judgment in 2015, **Parivartan Kendra vs. UOI & Ors** a Public Interest Litigation on Acid Attack Cases, the Supreme Court ruled that acid attack victims were to be recognised as disabled.

Article 41 of our constitution also enjoins that, *"The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement."*

The rights covered Article 36 to Article 51 comprise directive principles and are theoretically non-justifiable. However, in **Article 37, the constitution** clarifies: (a) That the directive principles are fundamental in the governance of the country, and (b) *It shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws. In view of these obligations, disability has been an integral component of policy planning.*

# GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare Department** vision is to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

**And its mission** is to empower Persons with Disabilities, through its various Acts/Institutions/Organizations and Schemes for rehabilitation and to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and enables them to participate as independent and productive members of society

Under Scheme of **Assistance to Disabled Persons** the government's objective is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern





Standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. Assistive devices are given to People with Disabilities with an aim to improve their independent functioning. The scheme also envisages conduct of corrective surgeries, wherever required, before providing an assistive device. (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) provides for purchase and distribution of aids and assistive devices.

Unfortunately, the time taken to avail these devices is not only very long drawn but also requires a lot of coordination with various agencies. The financial, physical and mental strain on the specially abled persons especially women and girls is challenging.

## **Sakhi Kendra – Upholding Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Sakhi Kendra has witnessed the misuse of section 498A of the Indian penal Code against persons with disabilities .For the empowerment of persons with disabilities and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of diversity and humanity, it is essential that; directions are issued to the Police for conducting the impartial investigation in every 498-A Cases and make every an effort for not to cause harassment to differently abled persons during investigation and speedier disposal of the cases for the Persons with Disabilities.

Persons With Disability continue to experience rights-denial and barriers to shaping policy and accessing social welfare. There is a ‘disconnect’ between state and civil spheres that hampers effective implementation. Sakhi kendra has been the beacon of light for many women and girls with disabilities who face barriers, discrimination and exclusion especially when they are victims of violence.

If any family member is involved in physical mental or sexual crime on whom the family is dependent on then they are willing to suffer in silence and they are unwilling to knock the doors of justice. While access to justice is an unalienable right of every person, women and girls with disabilities often find themselves excluded from this very right. There are many reasons for it and some of them are;

The financial constraints of women and girls with disabilities to fight a legal battle is a major limiting factor. If one has to weigh hunger, finance, livelihood and getting justice on a scale, the fight to ward off hunger and the necessity to earn a livelihood for day-to-day existence wins the battle.

- If the woman or girl with disability is violated by a family member, in most cases no action will be taken against those persons. Even if a complaint is made the retraction is very quick making it very difficult for service providers.
- Lengthy and arduous police investigations, refusal to write a complaint by the police and long drawn judicial processes are deterrents to come forward and seek redressal.
- Though the courts have been progressive in awarding compensation to disabled people, there have been cases where the accused has never been identified and the disabled women and girls long battle to be compensated only results in financial setbacks, depression and lack of familial support.

Sakhi Kendra handles more than 36 cases of violence against differently able women and girls. What the organisation has noticed is that if a man is disabled the wife generally looks after him and he also likes to throw his weight around while if the wife is disabled then the husband and members of the family do not take care of the disabled woman.

Differently abled young girls are often violated upon by strangers. 25% Women and girls with different disabilities face high risk of sexual violence in India. Those with physical disabilities may find it more difficult to escape from violent situations due to limited mobility. Young girls and women who have mental health disorders suffer indignity, discrimination and loss of self-esteem within their families. More often than not the members of the family who should be the protectors turn into the aggressors, thus jeopardising the situation. Sakhi Kendra has till date has addressed around 41,025 cases of violence and resolved 24,360 cases. 3500 cases involved physically challenged women who faced discrimination at home, workplace, has been eve teased, been sexually violated and victims of rape.

Most of us are looking for partners who can understand us, validate and our feelings and differently abled girls are no different. Falling in love for these girls comes down to the relationship and connection feeling easy, natural and organic, hence they are searching for the ease of compatibility over anything else. In families where sexuality and desire are rarely talked about, differently-abled persons find themselves in the margins. But the problem is, young differently-abled girls are manipulated and isolated by their suitors and begin experiencing both mental, physical and sexual abuse. The isolation from family members, discrimination of being disable and the abuse experienced in the relationship pushes her feeling depressed, anxious and trapped in her disability.



In India, where patriarchal notions are entrenched in our society; gender preference (herein boys) go hand in hand with gender discrimination. The stereotypical ideas of viewing a girl child 's as a 'burden', continues the bias against girls. When a family has a differently abled girl child who is either physically or mentally challenged, the parents are completely crestfallen and pray for the death of the girl child. For differently abled women and girls the fight is at many levels on an existential basis making survival an everyday struggle.

Sakhi Kendra has been championing the rights of the physically challenged children, their education, health and development for the past 30 years by creating awareness in the society. The organisation with support from ALIMCO has been procuring devices and equipment for the differently abled. Every year 150 to 200 people get this equipment through Sakhi Kendra.

COVID 19 was a very difficult period for the differently abled women and girls. The lockdowns had a devastating effect on them. Essential goods were not accessible, hospitals were looking after COVID 19 patients, livelihoods were lost and most importantly many differently abled women and girls were the most affected. Sakhi Kendra was a pillar of strength for them. The organisation with the support of Christian Aid UK and MISEREOR, deposited Rs. 5000 into the bank accounts of more than 1200 differently abled women and also provided them with essential goods. Some women used the money to start small businesses using their tricycles as mobile shops.

# INDIAN PREMIER PARA LEAGUE

Sakhi Kendra started using sports as a medium of hidden potential as future sportsmen and women and be able to participate in the national and South Asian games Sakhi bringing young differently abled boys and girls so bring positive change in their lives and to let them explore their .

They organised **IPPL a cricket tournament** in the lines of the famous IPL for these young boys and girls at an international stadium in Green Park, Kanpur. There were 120 players and out of which 46 players were women. Many of them had stepped out of their villages for the first time. The aim and intention behind organising this tournament was to give them an opportunity to interact with mainstream society and successfully be integrated into it as well. The organisation has been engaged in advocacy and lobbying to leverage their cause with all stakeholders.



# EXPERIENCES OF SURVIVORS

**Soni**, a young differently abled girl lived with her parents, her brother and sister. She was always discriminated against by her parents. She was made to do all the household work. Her brother would beat her and throw her out of the house, but the parents never intervened to protect her.

Soni reached out to Sakhi Kendra seven years ago. After she told them the violence she was facing at home, her parents and siblings were counseled by the organisation. Sakhi Kendra provided her with a tricycle.

The organisation ensured that she was no longer discriminated or violated by the members of her family. Four years back she married a well-educated differently abled man who is employed as a teacher. During COVID-19, Soni converted her tricycle into a shop and earning up to Rs. 400 to 500 every day. She also counsels other women like her with the help of Sakhi Kendra to bring about a positive change in their lives. Soni and her husband are happy and thriving.



# Anisha

and her husband are both differently abled. Her husband would beat her often and many times throw her out of the house. Unable to bear the violence, Anisha sought the help of Saki Kendra, where both of them were counseled by the counselors.

Anisha decided to stay away from her husband for a while. Hence the organisation enrolled her to a livelihood programme and bought her a sewing machine. The organisation ensured that she kept getting enough work to hone her skills and earn some income as well. A year later she reconciled with her husband. Saki Kendra gave them a tricycle each.

During COVID-19, they were financially distraught and decided to sell their tricycle. Saki Kendra deposited Rs 5000 into their accounts so that they can buy essentials for themselves. Anisha used a small part of the money to start a small mobile shop on her tricycle. Anisha told Saki Kendra that she felt self-assured, motivated and confident. Anisha lives happily with her husband.



# Manju

was a healthy young girl. She was subjected to physical and mental violence almost every day by her husband. when she got injured in her spine due to a fall, The husband instead of providing her with medical assistance applied Chuna (limestone powder) and Haldi (Turmeric) on the wound. The wound got bigger and severely infected. Soon there were maggots in the infected wound. Seizing the opportunity, the husband threw her out of the house.

She reached out to Sakhi Kendra as 5 years ago disabled, infected with sores and with maggots. The doctors who examined her told the Sakhi Kendra that her condition is permanent and at best she can be put on analgesics and antibiotics.

Sakhi Kendra counseled her and registered a case of violence against the family members which is under jurisdiction.

Her family (sisters) are unwilling to support her. Over time with the help of Sakhi Kendra the husband has let her back in the house. But he gets drunk and throws Manju out of the house at a whim.

She cannot sit on her own and drags herself everywhere. Manju requested to be euthanized. Sakhi Kendra advocate Mr. Karim Siddiqui put in an application for euthanasia but that was rejected by the court as per Laws in India.



Manju in 2019

Sakhi Kendra observed that women who are disabled and those who are made disable are often fighting a lost battle which is exacerbated by financial limitations and support from society.

**Stereotyping, stigma, and discrimination are challenges people with disability face every day. Much of the disabled community faces exclusion from parts of society.**

**“Together with people with disabilities as agents of change, let’s build a world that is inclusive, accessible and sustainable.”**

**António Guterres Secretary-General of the UN.**



**NATIONAL WORKSHOP OF PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED  
IN KANPUR – ORGANIZED BY SAKHI KENDRA**




*Nupur Chauhan – State Coordinator at Sakhi Kendra, as a qualifying contestant on KBC.*

*From the cheque for 12 Lacs 50 thousand received by Mr. Bachchan, she was able to construct a house for herself.*

# “DIDI”

A Documentary Based on the Women who live for others



The image shows a YouTube video player thumbnail. At the top left, there is a blue circle with a white 'S' and a yellow shield with '1080p'. The title 'DIDI - A Documentary Based on the Wome...' is displayed in white text. A large black play button is centered over the video frame. Below the play button, the word 'DIDI' is written in large white letters, with the subtitle 'A documentary film based on women who live for others' underneath it. In the bottom right corner of the video frame, the words 'WATCH NOW' are written in white. The background of the video frame shows a group of women, some wearing white lab coats, in what appears to be a public setting.

Didi, is a documentary dedicated to the team of sakhi kendra and their work during the past 40 years. This films throws a light on the challenges and achievements during the work and journey of the women activists.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvkElpiKTeA&t=3s>



# QUIET PANDEMONIUM



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apfGK1MvrzY>

# IPPL Kanpur - Green Park – Organised by Sakhi Kendra and ICFD



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfHMNenzy4M>

# Sakhi Kendra's Work During COVID 19 Pandamic The Guardian



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T0\\_gwDFCM8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T0_gwDFCM8)

# Sakhi Kendra's Work During COVID 19 Pandemic Covered by The British Podcast



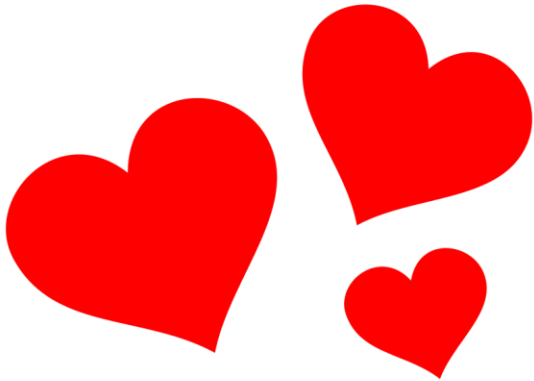
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THANK  
YOU