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**Book Review**

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***Disability Development in India* by Dr.J.P.Singh & Dr.M.K.Dash, New Delhi: Kanishka  
Publisher, 2005, Pages: viii+241, Price: \$14.69, ISBN 81-7391-793-0**

This book was written by Dr. J.P. Singh and Dr. M. K. Dash at the Rehabilitation Council of India. The book is an important contribution towards creation of awareness both in society at large and within the disability sector in particular. The book consists of twelve chapters that capture various facets of the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PWD's). A sincere attempt has been made in the preceding chapters to give a holistic view of various services that are available for the PWD's in India. The introduction begins with a conceptual framework to understand disability. The book covers a range of topics including prevention programs to curb the threat of disability. It highlights the legal provisions and the enactments made through the provisions of the Indian Constitution to protect the rights of the PWD's; it also elaborates upon policy formulations and follow up steps that have been taken by various organs of the government to fulfill the pronouncements made in various legislations enacted from time to time in the fields of educational, vocational, psycho-social rehabilitation and integration of the PWD's within the society. The outcome is an interesting document built around the concept of 'equal opportunities'.

The book's focuses on the roles and initiatives taken by the government of India, NGOs and other agencies to promote the integration of the PWD's. Further the authors argue that in spite of the holistic approach of the government the PWD's are not unable to avail these opportunities as a result of the lack of consistent awareness about the programs and lack of organized strength among the PWD's and the people as well as organizations working for them. In order to achieve this goal the authors call for a meaningful and strong partnership between government and non-government organizations and a legal and social reform agenda which can render effective service to persons with disabilities. The book ends with an optimistic and meaningful note that all these agencies can take the country towards the equalization of opportunities if they work together.

The main criticism of this book is that the authors have not given a coherent and complete idea regarding how far the PWD's have benefited and are aware of these services and provisions initiated by the government of India. There were so many books which were talking about initiative taken by GOI for PWD's. In the view of this the authors fail to contribute new knowledge to the already existing discourse on disability development in India. The authors should also have focused more on the actual development in the condition of people with disabilities, their living experiences and also how far the society has accepted them and come forward to remove barriers which form the biggest obstacles in the field of disability development. Thus from this point of view, field research and empirical evidence

becomes important in order to present a holistic view of the problems in this area. One more drawback is that the book also suffers from the reluctance of the authors to provide a summary at the end of each chapter.

Even though there are several books on initiatives taken by the GOI, the one in discussion offers a useful window on disability development in India and also enables us to know where we stand today. The language of the book is simple. Overall, this book will be particularly useful to activists, students, and scholars interested in disability development and similar issues in India. The book would perhaps be most useful to readers interested in a comparative treatment of disability in India.