



Concept Note

The Indian sub-continent has its long historical past going deep into the early centuries of human kind's entrance into a community based civilized living together process. The philosophical- psycho- social- community aspects of how disability and special needs are viewed in India and in the Indian sub-continent have their own dynamics and perspectives. Further the family structures and their dynamics, the neighbourhood and community networks and dynamics not only influence individuals in general and persons with disabilities and special needs in particular in diverse ways. These influence further go and enmesh with the dynamics and inputs and processes of the educational institutions, the vocational skill centres as well as the professional I institutions which facilitate the holistic development of the individual with disabilities, diversities and special needs to become creative citizens of the country and globally. The rehabilitation professionals and all other professional and other stakeholders in the life of the person with disability influence not only their attitudes, mindsets, cognitive and psycho-social skills and behaviours but also how they provide inputs and the emergence of the outputs on the person with disabilities, the family members, neighborhood and the communities. All these further go on to influence the policy developments, guidelines, implementation of the guidelines and so much more. It is also important to document and analysis the local and traditional practices before we try and throw out the, 'baby with the bath water'. India is a very ancient culture and it has its many affirmative aspects, some which are still in the mass memory and effectively in use while other aspects have gone into the hibernation of memory.

It is important to research, document and provide grass root data both in the qualitative and quantitative formats for policy making, implementation and guidelines and processes to evolve effectively.

e-journals such as International Journal of Disability Studies, Special Education and Rehabilitation' working towards giving their inputs in that direction. This webinar on Contextualising Research with reference to Disability Studies is an attempt in that direction to get experts on disability studies to enlighten on the issues related to way forward research related to disability, diversities and special needs.

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