

Equity and Equality in Access to Higher Education:  
The Experiences of Students with Disabilities in a University

Kurukhetra Dip  
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Education is considered as an important vehicle of social change as well to move a better society. Education is the deliberate and systematic influence exerted by the mature person upon the immature, through instruction, discipline, and harmonious development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual powers of the human beings (Erwin: 1991). Education in general and post-secondary education in particular, is a predictor of gainful employment in meaningful occupations, opening opportunities for career development, hence for quality of life. This study was conducted through the lens of disability theory based in the emerging, interdisciplinary field of disability studies. Physical structure of any building is one of major barrier to access the same for differently abled persons. Therefore, it is important to start arguments with the reference to physical environment of an educational institution. The study have three objectives, these are (i) to understand the experiences of with disabilities at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), (ii) to understand the attitudes of non-disabled students towards the with disabilities and (iii) to with disabilities. The methodological approach will be qualitative study base on case study method, where Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi India will be the case for study. The study will be carryout through focus group discussion, unstructured interview with open ended questions. The researcher consciously engaged with narrative analysis co-creating the plot of the story of student, considering four generally used strategies of enquiry, namely: reflexivity as recognition of self; reflexivity as recognition of other; reflexivity as truth; and reflexivity as transcendence (Pillow: 2003).

Bio:

The Author is a Senior Research Scholar at Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has submitted his pre-doctoral theses (known as M. Phil Dissertation) on "Disability and Social Justice Discourse in India: Affirmative Action, Citizenship and Quest for a Just Society". He has also contributed a chapter "Babasaheb, You, have been Betrayed" to an edited volume, What Babasaheb Ambedkar Means to Me edited by Ambedkar Age Collective and Published by Share Mirror Publishing House. Areas of interest are Disability Studies, Social Theory, Methods and Methodology, Sociology of Education, Social Movement. He also working with various campus activities likes 'student activism' and 'student politics'.