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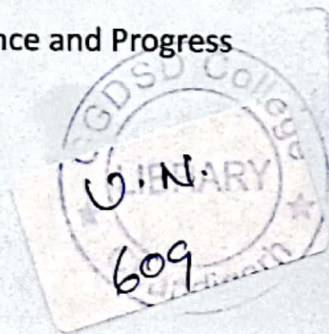
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# Impact of Constitutional Provisions and Disability Acts on Library Services for Disabled Users in India: An Overview

Chandrakanth HG\*

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*The Constitution of India recognises all persons as equal before the law and guarantees them the right to live life with dignity. This would necessarily mean that the State (Government) should create conditions that would allow disabled persons to live and enjoy the same quality of life as other people. However, this has not become a reality in India, because of the continued physical and social barriers that have successfully stigmatised disability in society. The Constitution of India entails special provisions for the disabled population in India. In order to minimise cases of discrimination, it is important that each and every person is aware of their rights. In this article, the constitutional and legal provisions, as well as government orders pertaining to the domain of visual impairment, are discussed. Additionally, judgments given by various courts, the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) are also listed [Abstract].*

The Constitution of India is like one big umbrella embracing within its fold each person living in India. It is the lifeline of the people of India. It is the Parent Act from which emanates the numerous legislations enacted by the Parliament. The protection from the umbrella does not distinguish between people on the basis of their physical and mental differences. It applies to all irrespective of caste, creed, race, language, geographical boundaries, etc. The Constitution of India is premised on the principle of social justice and human rights. The Preamble, the Directive principle of State Policy and the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution stand testimony to the commitment of the State to its people. These provisions envisage a very positive role for the State in the enhancement of the status of the disadvantaged groups.

The term 'disability' does not hold a distinctive position in the Constitution of India. Women and children are the only groups that are considered to be vulnerable and require extra care and security. The framers of the Constitution failed to identify other at-risk groups, viz., the aged, disabled, orphans, homeless, etc. These categories of persons, too, need special legislation and State protection.

### Constitutional Provisions for the Disabled

The framers of the Constitution of India seemed to have been aware of the problems of the poorer sections of society and the

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