Role of Government in disability & development sector

Tulika Das
SANCHAR
an organisation working towards an inclusive society
equal rights for ‘ALL’ irrespective of their abilities.
Disability & development sector: India has witnessed the emergence of many NGOs in the last few decades

• Large bi-lateral funding institutions

• Intermediary NGOs are generally comprised of some individuals who have for some reasons and motivations started to work either on behalf or with the people with disabilities.

• Grass root organisations /Disabled People’s Organisations (DPO) /parents organisations, women’s groups etc., who are mainly peoples organisations, comprised of individuals, who came together by particular interest or common characteristics.
Disability and development sector is reaching the people who are in need. They are:

- Effective, efficient, innovative
- Responsible to the problems at grass roots
- Speak to and speak for economically, socially and politically marginalised people.

Working for an Inclusive society with equal rights and opportunities for ‘All’
Disability & development sector

Major players:

• NGOs – disability/development organisations including the support organisations
• People’s organisations
• Community
• Government (Central & state – different departments)
The Constitution of India clearly defines the role of Central and State Governments in relation to the fundamental rights of the citizens of India.

• The Fundamental Rights are contained in exclusive Part III of the Constitution. They are the –
  • 1. Right to Equality –
  • 2. Right to Freedom –
  • 3. Right against Exploitation –
  • 4. Right to Freedom of Religion –
  • 5. Cultural and Educational Rights –
Health, education, livelihood, social security: the components of disability & development

Government is primarily responsible for all these major sectors which requires availability of adequate funds, appropriate policy framework, and effective delivery machinery.

• The Government of India is involved in a large number of programmes in these sectors/area.

• It is important for the national government to make policies to minimize inequalities not only amongst individuals or groups of people living in few States but also amongst these people residing in different areas of the country/all states.

• All the Govt. programmes/facility should maintain a standard/quality not only the quantity.

• Govt. facilities should be delivered with due respect to the individuals/people who are in need.

• Disability, women, children should be a cross cutting agenda.
Role of Government: existing schemes & facilities

• Govt. is responsible for the implementation of existing schemes and facilities for the development of economically and socially disadvantaged people.
• Monitoring & evaluation of the impact in their life.
• Service delivery through different departments for the economically and socially marginalised people with a special focus on women and children.
• Appropriate amendments of the existing schemes and facilities in consultation with the stakeholders.
• Mass awareness /dissemination of information.
• Sensitisation / orientation of the service providers.
• Use of media (print and audio-visual) and IEC.
New policies, new laws, new programmes based on the needs and rights of people

• Govt. should have proper data base on number and needs of grass root level people and should be ready with allocation of budget based on that information.

• Govt. should formulate new policies, new laws, new programmes in consultation with the stakeholders/civil society / users of the programmes.

• Should use the experience and expertise of the NGO sector in developing, implementation, monitoring of all Govt. programmes.

• Govt. should use the disability & development sector to reach the grass root level people who are in need of Govt. support.

• Govt. should have good network with the NGOs at all level.
Govt. and international forums, corporates, support agencies etc.

- Working with the private sector and funding institutions to influence their policies and practices to include issues of disabilities and other development issues, especially the issues of women and children.
- Working with UN and other international bodies for regular updates from all over the world.
- Signing and ratification of different UN treaty and policy formulation to fulfill that obligations. The policies should govern the various laws and programmes. The proper budget allocation for implementation of those programmes.
- Formulation of rules and provisions for the Corporate and private sector to motivate them to join hands with the Govt. and NGOs for the development of the nation through a right based model.
Govt. & NGOs

• Govt and NGOs should join hands at all levels.
• Govt. must find out replicable models developed by the NGOs with an aim to take up and implement the same throughout out the country. The model should ensure inclusion with a special focus on women and children and reaching the unreached population.
• Govt. must use/utilise the vast experience & expertise and the network of the NGO sector.
• Instititutionalisation of the good practices of NGOs in a systematic manner to bring changes in the life of the people.
• Monitoring & evaluation should be done by the civil society.
• Govt. should be transparent and accountable to the people.
Changes being seen

- Gradually removing the misconception about disability and other marginalised use and demystifying disability.
- Crucial role played in formation of new policies, Acts etc.
- Implementation of Govt. schemes like ADIP, NT’s, NREGS, NRLM, SSM, IAY etc through NGOs.
- Paradigm shift in disability rehabilitation—medical model to social model... right based model
- Involvement of persons with disabilities, their families and disability-development organisations in consultations.
- National & international network, forum
- Inclusion of the issues of disabilities in other Govt. departments and policies and schemes.
Challenges

• Financial constraints (as stated by the Govt.)
• Huge population and under developed rural area / many parts of the country
• Insufficient appropriate personnel
• Initiatives are at primary stage
• Lack of interest of primary duty bearers
• Disability and other right based issues are not yet important issue /cross cutting agenda in development agenda of Govt. & non govt sector.
• Lack of appropriate political will.
• Citizens of India is not aware of their rights.
• Right based movements are not yet bottom – up process.
Conclusion

• Disability & development sector is incomplete without the collaboration in between Govt. and NGOs / Development organisations.

• Not always criticise but join hands – collaborate, coordinate, guide and advocate for the rights.

• Help the people with disabilities / others to raise their voice and do advocacy directly with the Govt.

• Connect the Govt. with the people at all levels.

• Ngos also need to be more transparent and accountable to motivate Govt to join hands.

• Need for more collaborative efforts with Govt.
Let’s join hands and work together towards a just society with equal rights for ‘ALL’.

THANK YOU

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Merry Christmas & a very happy new year

Wish you all the best in 2013