

# **Centre For Studies Related To Persons With Disabilities**



**RESEARCH CENTRE FOR STUDIES RELATED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CSD)  
Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.**

## **CONFERENCE REPORT**

**{Two-Day International Seminar on Disability Rights and Law, and Law Relating to Women and Children}**

# DISABILITY RIGHTS, LAW, WOMEN & CHILDREN: HIMACHAL PRADESH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

## “Towards Equality Perspectives on Disability and Gender Rights”

The **two-day international seminar on Disability Rights and Law**, as well as **Law Relating to Women and Children**, took place at the **Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU)** on **January 19th and 20th, 2024**. This significant event was organized by the **Centre for Studies Related to Persons with Disabilities (CSD)** of HPNLU in collaboration with the **Law Mantra Trust**.

During the seminar, legal luminaries, academicians, and student representatives gathered to discuss critical issues related to these important areas. Here are some highlights:

1. **Inaugural Address:** The event began with a welcome address by **Mr. Aditya Mishra**, Managing Trustee of Law Mantra Trust and Advocate at the Supreme Court of India.
2. **Distinguished Speakers:** Esteemed guests who addressed the gathering included:
  - **Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha**, Director of The Indian Law Institute, New Delhi
  - **Prof. (Dr.) Koen De Feyter**, Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp, Belgium
  - **Dr. S.K. Rungta**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
  - **Prof. (Dr.) Nishtha Jaswal**, Vice-Chancellor of HPNLU, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest
  - **Dr. Sachin Sharma**, Director of the Centre for Studies Related to Persons with Disabilities (CSD) at HPNLU, Shimla
3. **Presentations and Research Papers:** Students from CSD presented research papers. Notably student representatives **Mr. Ritik Jinata** (Student Advisor) and **Mr. Himanshu Sharma** (Editorial Member) contributed to the discourse.
4. **Key Focus Areas:** The seminar provided a valuable platform for discussions on legal frameworks safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, women, and children. Participants delved into current challenges and explored potential solutions to ensure equal opportunities, access to justice, and a life of dignity for these vulnerable groups.

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

- **SEMINAR TITLE:** TWO DAYS E- INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DISABILITY RIGHTS AND LAW AND LAW RELATING TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN
- **DATE:** JANUARY 19TH AND 20TH, 2024
- **ORGANIZERS:** Centre for Studies Related to Persons with Disabilities (CSRPD), Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU), in collaboration with Law Mantra Trust.
- **MODE :** Online

## DURING THE SEMINAR

**Dr. Sachin Sharma**, the Director of the **Centre for Studies Related to Persons with Disabilities (CSD)** at **Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla**, plays a **pivotal role** in advancing research and activism in this field. His profound insights shed light on critical aspects:

### 1. Diversity and Recognition:

- The human experience is inherently diverse, a fact acknowledged by philosophers across eras.
- **Transformative constitutionalism** underscores principles of equality, autonomy, and dignity.
- Immanuel Levinas' concept of **“One and Other as Same”** invites us to view identity from a pluralistic human perspective, respecting all diversity within our species.
- Vedic literature encourages self-questioning until it becomes selfless.

### 2. Discrimination and Vulnerability:

- Despite legal protections, people with disabilities often face discrimination.
- Constructed stereotypes and semantics perpetuate binary narratives.
- The **COVID pandemic** exposed the vulnerability of this community, especially concerning their right to health and dignified treatment.
- Indigenous populations, including those with disabilities, encounter similar challenges due to geographical isolation, lack of education, and limited awareness.

### 3. The Role of Research and Activism:

- The **CSD** aims to address welfare and healthcare concerns for people with diversities.
- These include healthcare, education, employment, social and cultural life, and access to justice.
- By studying disabilities and cultural diversities, particularly in the context of health and welfare laws, the center seeks to **amplify the voices of those affected**.
- The mantra of disability jurisprudence—**“Nothing about us without us”**—applies equally to people facing indignity.

**Dr. Rohit Sharma**, a dedicated **Assistant Professor of Law** at **Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU)**, has made his presence felt in the **Two-Day E-International Seminar on Disability Rights and Law and Law Relating to Women and Children**. This significant event, held on **19th and 20th January 2024**, aimed to foster awareness and understanding of crucial legal aspects related to disability rights, women, and children.

The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the vulnerability of people with disabilities, who faced discrimination while accessing healthcare and dignified treatment. Indigenous populations, including those with disabilities, also encounter barriers due to geographical challenges and lack of education. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Health Organization have expressed concern for diverse communities, emphasizing the need for studying disabilities and cultural diversities within the framework of health and welfare laws.

In disability jurisprudence, the mantra “Nothing about us without us” resonates strongly. Dr. Rohit Sharma’s active participation in the seminar contributes to advancing these critical discussions and promoting inclusive legal perspectives. His commitment to raising first-person voices and sharing personal experiences underscores the importance of recognizing and respecting diverse identities.

**Mr. Ritik Jinata**, the **Student Advisor**, and **Mr. Himanshu Sharma**, the **Editorial Member**, gave their valuable contribution to the Two-Day E-International Seminar on Disability Rights and Law and Law Relating to Women and Children.

They presented a research paper titled “**Inclusive Empowerment: Bridging Gaps through the Right to Education and Employment for Persons with Disabilities**”. This topic addresses critical issues related to the empowerment of individuals with disabilities, focusing on education and employment opportunities.

This research paper delves into the critical theme of "Inclusive Empowerment: Bridging Gaps through the Right to Education and Employment for Persons with Disabilities." Anchored in a transformative rights-based framework, the study explores the complex dynamics of fostering inclusivity for individuals with disabilities, particularly in the realms of education and employment. By examining the landscape of fundamental rights, the paper unveils the transformative potential of providing equal access to education and employment opportunities in empowering persons with disabilities and reducing societal disparities. Through an extensive examination of existing literature, case studies, and policy analyses, this research offers nuanced insights into the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in accessing education and employment. Moreover, it highlights the profound impact of upholding these rights on their overall empowerment, emphasizing the imperative for systemic changes. The findings contribute significantly to the ongoing discourse on disability rights, providing valuable perspectives for policymakers, educators, and advocates committed to fostering an inclusive society that embraces and uplifts the diverse abilities of all its members.

## VOTE OF THANKS

At last, the Vote of Thanks was given by Mr. Aditya Mishra, Managing Trustee, Law Mantra Trust and Advocate, Supreme Court of India.

