

AN OVERVIEW OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The idea of a welfare state aims to promote the economic, political, and social prosperity of people. It is a major cause of expanded public expenditure in many nations. Public expenditure plays a pertinent role in the process of economic development and promotion of welfare of the people. Most of the persons with disabilities have been facing several barriers that limit their participation in mainstream societal activities and they are forced to lead more or less a secluded life. In general, the barriers include poor understanding of their abilities and aspirations and inadequate measures and services available for their rehabilitation. It is imperative that sincere efforts are made for the upliftment and empowerment of the disabled population. Higher budgetary allocations and enhanced public expenditure would be necessary for the development of PwDs. The paper using secondary data endeavors to present an overview of budgetary allocations on empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India. An attempt has also been made to analyze the performance of various schemes of scholarship whose key objective is to inculcate self-confidence among them through self-employment and utilize their experience and wisdom gained through education and professional training. Further the performance of National Institutions as well as National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) which is engaged in human resource development in the field of disability has also been analyzed.

Keywords: Budgetary allocation, CDC, PwDs, ILO, NHFDC

INTRODUCTION

According to CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) a disability is any state of the body or brain (weakness) that makes it harder for the individual with the condition to do certain exercises (action constraint) and collaborate with their general surroundings (investment limitations). According to

the World Health Organization, disability is defined as an impairment in a person's body structure or function, or mental functioning; examples of impairments include loss of a limb, loss of vision or memory loss; activity limitation, such as difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, or problem solving; participation restrictions in normal daily activities,

such as working, engaging in sports or solving problems.

A person with an insufficiency as a person who has a physical or mental failure that fundamentally confines at any rate one huge life development. This incorporates individuals who have a record of such limitations, regardless of whether they don't at present have a disability. It additionally incorporates people who don't have incapacity yet are viewed as having an inability. Disability is broadly portrayed as the consequence of an inadequacy that may be physical, mental, material, eager, developmental, or a mix of these. An inability might occur from birth, or occur during a person's lifetime. It is an umbrella term, covering weaknesses, development cutoff points, and speculation impediments. Hindrances may incorporate physical, tangible, and psychological or formative incapacities. Mental issues (otherwise called mental or psychosocial incapacity) and various kinds of persistent sickness may likewise qualify as incapacities. People with incapacities should have the option to satisfy their role in the society and partake on an equivalent basis with others. It is essential to look on the strength (ability) and not on the weaknesses (disability) of a person. Often, attitudes based on stigma and discrimination, as well as archaic ideas about disability and persons with disabilities, affect the societal image of persons with disabilities, and are frequently the greatest impediment to their full and equal participation in society and development on an equal footing with others. It is critical to recognize that disability is a natural feature of the human experience and that each of us is or will become disabled to some degree over our lifetimes.

In India, Census 2011 has tried to collect data on eight different forms of disability, up from five in 2001. It is designed to address the majority of disabilities as defined in the "Person with Disabilities Act, 1995" and the "National Trust Act, 1999." According to Census 2011, a total 26.81 million populations in India are disabled out of which 14.98 million are males and 11.82 million are females. It has also revealed that a large disabled population

exists in rural part around 18.63 million, in comparison to urban area which has about 8.17 million. The literacy rate among the disabled population was recorded much below (54.52% of the total disabled population) as compared to the literacy rate of the General population (74.04% of general population). As per Census 2011, only 36% of disabled populations are working and 64% are non-working. Globally, the estimated billions of people living with disabilities encounter significant barriers to inclusion in a variety of critical sectors of society. As a result, people with disabilities do not have equal access to society in areas like as health, work, education, and social and political involvement.

According to CBM (Christian Blind Mission), persons with disabilities frequently face severe discrimination and marginalization in poor nations regarding fundamental rights such as the right to food, housing, and even the right to life. Around 89 percent of all disabled children receive no formal education, a violation of the right to education guaranteed by article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), unemployment among people with disabilities is much higher than that of the general population – up to 80 percent in some countries. Individuals with disabilities are more likely to work in low-wage jobs, and the majority of them in developing nations labour in the informal sector.

Social sector spending for the upliftment of disabled people has a positive outcome on curtailing barriers which are creating hindrances for a person to have dignified live and hence, increasing such expenditure is considered pertinent to achieve overall human development goals. Such social expenditure improves efficiency by providing adequate infrastructure, education, health and personal and social interests (Arora, 2001; Mundle, 1998; Mazumdar, 2005; Guha and Chakraborty, 2003). According to a research done by K.P. Kumaran (2000), organising them into self-help groups enabled them to leave their homes and learn more about their rights and entitlements, while also

claiming benefits due to them. However, disabled people are not universally organised to collectively bargain for their rights and entitlements. However, Abosi (2007) asserts that, despite the government's commitment to special education development, a plethora of other obstacles could hinder timely delivery. The study discovered that, despite various acts passed by the government for the welfare of PwDs, the measures given by these acts are not yet being implemented effectively due to poor implementation (Pal H.R. and et.al. 2004). Disabled persons confront significant job difficulties since they suffer from a variety of disabilities of varying degrees and severity, making it difficult to categorise them into those who can work and those who cannot (Richard Berthoud: 2006).

The present work based on secondary data makes an attempt to undertake an analysis of the budgetary allocations for the development and empowerment of PwDs in India and related issues. The study has been divided into four sections including the introduction. The second section provides details of the institutional arrangement and initiatives taken by the government for PwD's development. The third section deals with the analysis of budgetary allocations for upliftment of PwDs and the fourth section concludes the discussion.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PWDS

Accessibility is a core principle of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Article 2 of the CRPD promotes the concept of universal design by addressing concerns of access for women and men, girls and boys with disabilities. This results in a more inclusive environment for everyone. Article 3(f) highlights the need of governments, policymakers, and planners addressing accessibility across all initiatives, policies, and programmes. Article 9 outlines the States Parties' responsibilities to "take appropriate measures to ensure that

persons with disabilities have equal access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, and other facilities and services open to the public, both in urban and rural areas."

Article 19 guarantees self-sufficiency and community integration. Article 24 establishes a right to health, Article 25 establishes a right to education, and Article 28 establishes a right to work and employment, an adequate standard of living and social protection, participation in political and public life (Article 29), and participation in cultural, recreational, leisure, and sporting activities (Article 30). These notions and the accessibility principle underlie all of the CRPD's provisions aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of all persons with disabilities.

India adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007 and presented its initial report in 2015. To ensure the effective implementation of the CRPD, numerous established organisations dedicated to the uplift of disabled people, such as the National Disability Network (NDN), the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), collaborated and coordinated with each other.

In the line with the obligations under UNCRPD, the government of India have taken various initiative in recent past for the inclusion and empowerment of PwDs. Major initiatives like: - the enactment of the Comprehensive Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) 2016 by repealing the old Act of 1995, launch of Accessible India Campaign, establishment of centre for disability sports, distribution of aids and assistive devices, etc. Additionally, to ensure PwD involvement, collaborative efforts have been made to build a complete infrastructure for manpower development through the provision of courses/training tailored to the needs of people with disabilities.

The government established seven national institutions specialising in various forms of disabilities and eight Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) to conduct research and provide training to improve service delivery to the disabled. While current national institutions are being strengthened regularly, new national centres of excellence are being built, such as the National Institute of Universal Design and the Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation. Additionally, the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center was founded to advance sign language education, research, and standardization in India.

Additionally, the Indian government has chosen to establish a National Institute of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies to encourage higher education for people with disabilities and capacity building in the country's disability sector. The establishment of Spinal Injury Centers, Braille Presses, and Disability Sports Centers are being prioritised. It is a significant step toward ensuring equal opportunity and full participation of individuals with disabilities in nation-building. The National Handicapped Finance Corporation (NHFDC) was created in 1997 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the sole purpose of empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) by providing them with opportunities and options for economic self-sufficiency. To uphold this stance an institution is proving concessional credits towards self-employment opportunities and vocational training. Through various Schemes like Divyangjan Microfinance Yojana and the Swavalamban Yojana, NHFDC aims to achieve the objective of development of PwDs and their inclusion in the mainstream.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR PWDS

The government of India provides numerous supports for the empowerment of PWD. Hence the government is giving the special attention for the people with disabilities in educational sector, employment opportunities and so on. The Indian government of Ministry of Social justice and

empowerment has launched extremely wonderful schemes for the people with disability, which provides them equal opportunities of education, training, workplace and participation in social, cultural and political life.

The subject of disability is included in the State List of the Constitution's Seventh Schedule. The Government of India has always had a proactive stance in the disability sector. Not only does it operate seven National Institutes (NIs) that deal with various types of disabilities and seven Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) that provide rehabilitation services to PwDs and offer training to rehabilitation professionals, but it also funds a large number of NGOs that provide similar services, as well as a National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) that provides loans at concessionary rates.

The subject has received varying degrees of attention from various state governments, and at the central level, disability is one of the M/oSJ&E's core responsibilities, and because of its importance, a separate department dedicated to PwDs was established within the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In 2012, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established two departments: I the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samajik Nyaya and Adhikarita Vibhag); and (ii) the Department of Disability Affairs (Nishaktata Karya Vibhag), which was renamed the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).

National Institutes work to develop and empower socially excluded human resources (PwDs), to provide rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, and to conduct research and development. Additionally, National Institutes provide vocational training, placement, and distribution of assistive equipment and appliances to people with disabilities. The brief introduction about various National Institutions is as follows:

National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun – Founded in 1979, the Institute's objectives are to

conduct, sponsor, coordinate, or fund research in biomedical engineering that results in the effective evaluation of special appliances/instruments for people with visual disabilities. Jung Ali Yavar National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai - Founded in 1983 with the mission of human development, research, clinical services, outreach and extension, socioeconomic rehabilitation, material development and collection of information, documentation and dissemination of information for individuals with speech and hearing disabilities.

National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad—The Institute was founded in 1984 with the mission of developing human resources capable of providing services through high-quality rehabilitation models that are tailored to individual needs throughout life. The institute is the apex body in the country with tripartite responsibilities for training, research, and services in the field of intellectual disability.

The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai, was founded in 2005 with the mission of serving as a National Resource Center for Persons with Multiple Disabilities. This institute was established with the purpose of providing comprehensive rehabilitation through a team-based approach - promoting inclusion and empowering individuals with multiple impairments and their families. Rehabilitation services were provided both at the Center and in the community to ensure that the largest number of persons with multiple disabilities could be served. Thirami Model Special School has been established with units for children with cerebral palsy, autism, deafblindness, and special education for early life.

This model school acts as a laboratory for trainees to gain practical experience. The Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi, was founded in 1960 with the primary goal of developing educated workforce for orthopedically impaired

persons' rehabilitation, outreach activities, and research. The institute offers three long-term graduate level programmes: Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT), Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT), and Bachelor of Prosthetics and Orthotics (BPO).

Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR) was formed in 1975 with the mission of developing human resources, implementing service delivery programmes, conducting research, and conducting outreach programmes. It sponsors and coordinates the education of personnel such as physicians, engineers, prosthetists, orthotists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and multipurpose rehabilitation therapists, as well as other personnel involved in the rehabilitation of people with physical disabilities.

The National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD) in Kolkata was founded in 1978 with the goal of developing manpower to provide services to the Orthopedically Handicapped community. Graduate programmes in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Prosthetics, and Orthotics are offered at the Institute. It offers a Post-Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation and Management of Disabilities. The remaining Diploma and Certificate programmes focus on multifunctional rehabilitation, prosthetics, and orthotics.

Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi – ISLRTC is a self-contained institution founded on September 26, 2015. The Institute's objectives are to train personnel in the use of Indian Sign Language (ISL), as well as teaching and conducting research in ISL, including bilingualism; to promote the use of Indian Sign Language as a mode of instruction for deaf students in primary, secondary, and higher education; and to conduct research in collaboration with universities and other educational institutions in India.

To educate and train various groups, including government officials, teachers, professionals, community leaders, and the general

public, on how to understand and use Indian Sign Language; To collaborate with deaf organisations and other institutions working in the field of disability to promote and propagate Indian Sign Language; To collect information on Sign Language used in other parts of the world.

The Sehore-based National Institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation (NIMHR) was established as a Society under the Societies Registration Act with the objectives of promoting mental health rehabilitation through an integrated multidisciplinary approach; promoting and undertaking capacity building and engaging in the development of trained professionals in the field of mental health rehabilitation; engaging in research and development, as well as policy formulation, with the goal of promoting mental health rehabilitation.

As with the National Institutes, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established the National scholarships for persons with disabilities with the goal of providing financial assistance to PwDs students interested in pursuing their studies. This category encompasses pre-metric, post-metric, professional, and technical courses lasting more than a year.

Scholarships are awarded beginning in the ninth grade. These schemes include Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship, National Fellowship, and Free Coaching, all of which aim to provide opportunities for work, education, and public assistance in the event of unemployment, old age, sickness, or disablement, among other circumstances.

This is geared toward the socioeconomic empowerment of people with disabilities on a broad scale.

The Government of India established the Pre-matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities with the goal of providing possibilities for higher education to students who have a disability of more than 40%. It is open to kids in classes 9 and 10 having an annual household income of INR 2 Lac.

The Post Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities was established to assist students with disabilities in continuing their education in order to make a living and establish a decent role in society. Students who have completed Class 10 or 12 and have a yearly household income of INR 2.5 Lac are eligible for this.

The Scholarship for Top-Class Education for Students with Disabilities was established to recognise and promote high-quality education among students with disabilities and to enable them to pursue post-graduate studies. Graduates with a yearly family income of less than INR 6 Lac who are enrolled in a full-time postgraduate/diploma programme are eligible.

The National Fellowship for Persons with Impairments (PwDs) was established to expand chances for students with disabilities to pursue advanced degrees such as M. Phil. and Ph.D. The programme meets the needs of disabled students pursuing research degrees at universities, research institutions, and scientific institutions. This not only qualifies students for Lecturer positions currently available in various colleges and universities, but also equips them to effectively capitalise on rising opportunities at the national and international level in the context of the new economic order.

The government established the National Overseas Scholarships to Study Overseas for Disabled Students in 2014 to enable students with disabilities to pursue advanced degrees (master's and PhD) abroad. Schemes for offering free coaching were formed with the goal of assisting economically disadvantaged students with disabilities who have a minimum 40% or greater handicap in preparing for competitive tests and securing an appropriate employment in the Government / Public / Private Sector.

AN ANALYSIS OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PWDS

Public expenditure generates both public endowments and positive externalities for the economy.

Apart from the total amount of public spending, its composition is regarded critical for economic growth and the development of disadvantaged segments of society.

Thus, it is critical to track trends in government expenditures on the welfare of persons with disabilities and to ascertain the factors that contribute to change over time. In this section an attempt has been made to analyze the Government's efforts to provide education, employment and skill training to PwDs through various schemes by studying the budgetary allocations made in this regard.

Public expenditure for PwDs in India has over a period of time systematically increased. This

is a reflection of governmental prioritization of Divyang Jan in planned growth of the country. This public expenditure has been adequately reflected through setting up of various National Institutions for PwDs, funding to the National Program for the welfare of persons with Disabilities, infrastructure set ups which are meant for disabled population, etc.

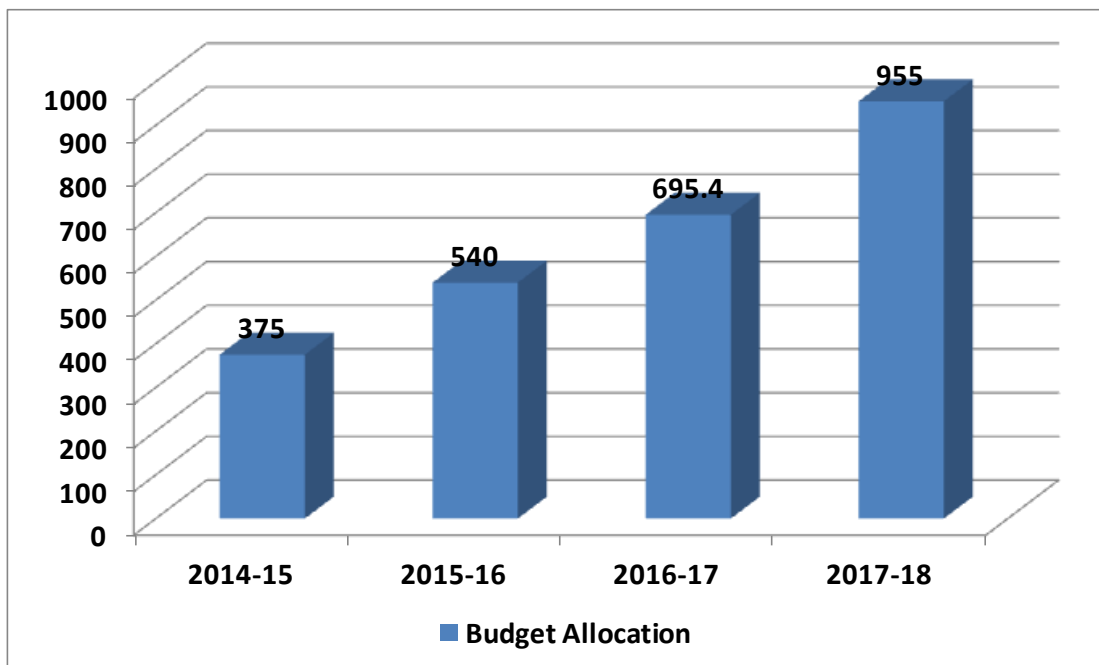
Budgetary allocation on welfare of PwDs in India is shown in Table 1. There has been an increase of 154.67¹ per cent in budget allocations during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18. Actual expenditure against budget allocations during 2017-18 constituted 97.20 per cent. Budgetary allocation on welfare of PwDs in India has shown an upward trend over a period of time. This increasing trend shows that the subject disability is the prime responsibility of the Government.

Table: 1
Budgetary Allocations on Welfare of PwDs in India
(Rs. Crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	Percentage Increase in Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	375.00		337.96
2015-16	540.00	52	487.19
2016-17	695.49	29	684.19
2017-18	955.00	37	928.32

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Chart: 1
Budgetary Allocations on Welfare of PwDs in India
(Rs. Crore)



The budgetary allocations for the welfare of persons with disabilities in India are presented in Table 2. During 2016-17, more than two-fifths of expenditure was allocated to the National Programme for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities (including allocation to various schemes such as the scheme to assist disabled persons in purchasing/fitting appliances (ADIP Scheme); the Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme, and others), while autonomous bodies accounted for 27.26 percent of expenditure. National Institutes are self-governing organisations formed to address specific sorts of impairments. There are eight National Institutes working in the field of disability under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. These institutes are involved in human resource development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to

people with disabilities, and conducting research and development. During the year, expenditure on umbrella programmes for the development of other vulnerable groups accounted for 24.18 percent of total expenditure. Over the 2016-17 to 2018-19 period, expenditure on umbrella programmes for the development of other disadvantaged populations grew. The Umbrella Program for the Development of Other Vulnerable Groups is comprised of the programmes established under the Persons with Disabilities Act 2005. The Department has allocated Rs 300 crore to these initiatives for the execution of the Persons with Disability Act, which represents 28% of the Department's budget. Approximately 90% of total expenditure was reported on social services in 2016-17. This share, however, is expected to drop in the following years.

Table: 2
Budgetary Allocations under various heads for Welfare of PwDs in India
(Rs. In Crore)

Particulars	Actual 2016-17	Budget 2017-18	Revised 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Establishment Expenditure ²	17.62 (2.28) ³	19.78 (2.31)	24.76 (2.59)	25.51 (2.38)
National Programme for Welfare of PwDs	323.49 (41.87)	351.73 (41.14)	393.27 (41.18)	443.76 (41.47)
Autonomous Bodies	210.62 (27.26)	238.75 (27.92)	242.23 (25.36)	257.25 (24.04)
Public Sector Undertakings	35.00 (4.53)	37.74 (4.41)	37.74 (3.95)	43.48 (4.06)
Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups	186.82 (24.18)	207.00 (24.21)	257.00 (26.91)	300.00 (28.04)
Grand Total	772.56 (100.00)	855.00 (100.00)	955.00 (100.00)	1070.00 (100.00)
Social Services	694.56 (89.90)	714.00 (83.51)	801.16 (83.89)	906.00 (84.67)
Other Expenses	78.00 (10.09)	141.00 (16.49)	153.84 (16.11)	164.00 (15.33)
Grand Total	772.56 (100.00)	855.00 (100.00)	955.00 (100.00)	1070.00 (100.00)

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2019

Budget allocation and fund released to National Institutions for PwDs is shown in Table 3. From the table, it is visible that there has been increase of 155.75 per cent in budget allocations to National

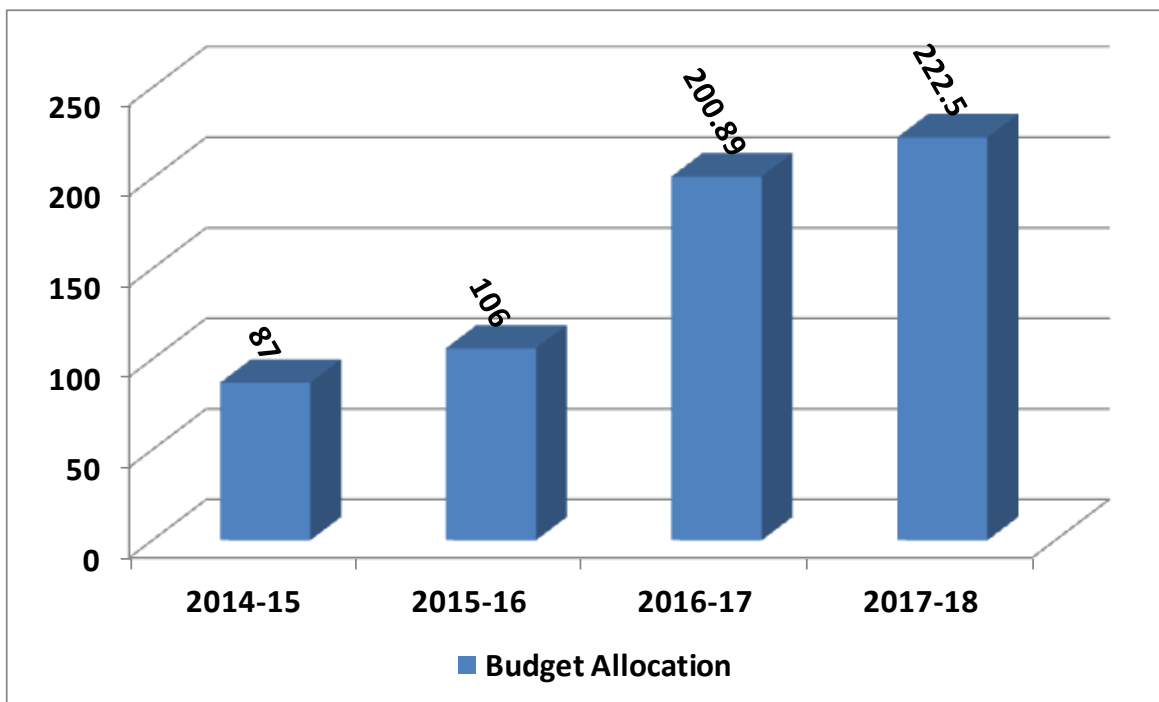
Institutions in India which reflects the Government's commitment towards PwDs. During 2016-17, the released amount was higher than budget allocations.

Table: 3
Budget Allocation and Fund Released to National Institutions for PwDs
(Rs. Crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	Percentage Increase in Budget Allocation	Amount Released
2014-15	87.0	-	78.97
2015-16	106.0	21.63	104.28
2016-17	200.89	89.51	201.39
2017-18	222.50	10.75	222.5

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Chart: 3
Budget Allocation to National Institutions for PwDs
(Rs. Crore)



Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Numbers of PwDs beneficiaries covered by national institutes in India are shown in Table 4. There has been remarkable growth in the number of beneficiaries covered by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (249.15 per cent), Ali Yavar Jung National Institute

for Persons with Speech and Hearing Disabilities (206.91 per cent) and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons Intellectual Disabilities (85.12 per cent) during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Table: 4
Number of Beneficiaries (PwDs) Covered by National Institutes in India

Name of Institute	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Growth
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons Visual Disabilities, Dehradun	220177	237259	419895	291102	32.21
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities, Kolkata	194691	204088	174241	204775	5.18
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Persons with Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai	94740	86287	286714	290768	206.91
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons Intellectual Disabilities, Secunderabad	162640	110326	289657	301077	85.12
Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack	215963	267793	288798	317790	47.15
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities, New Delhi	74837	93157	139895	130459	74.32
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai	83464	135943	292946	291411	249.15
Total	1051512	1134853	1892146	1827382	73.79

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Budgetary allocation under scholarship scheme for PwDs in India is shown in Table 5. The budgetary allocation has significantly increased for pre-matric scholarship scheme, post-matric scholarship scheme and national fellowship for PwDs during the period

of 2014-15 to 2017-18. However, budgetary allocations under free coaching for students with disabilities have declined over the corresponding period.

Table: 5
Budgetary Allocation under Scholarship Schemes for PwDs in India
(Rs. In Crore)

Name of Scheme	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Growth
Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme	1.0	5.0	6.0	10.0	900.0
Post Matric Scholarship Scheme	2.0	10.0	10.0	16.0	700.0
National Fellowship for PwDs	10.0	20.57	23.62	36.41	264.10
Top Class Scholarship Scheme	1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	-
National Overseas Scholarship Scheme	1.0	0.5	1.0	2.0	100.0
Free Coaching for Students with	3.0	0.5	1.0	2.0	-33.3

Disabilities					
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Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Number of Beneficiaries (PwDs) covered under scholarship schemes in India are shown in Table 6. There has been remarkable growth in the number of beneficiaries covered under pre-matric scholarship

scheme, top class scholarship scheme and post-matric scholarship scheme over the period of 2015-16 to 2017-18.

Table: 6

Number of Beneficiaries (PwDs) Covered Under Scholarship Schemes in India

Name of Scheme	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Growth
Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme	2368	7927	12593	731.80
Post Matric Scholarship Scheme	3565	6281	7657	114.78
National Fellowship for PwD	527	589	666	26.37
Top Class Scholarship Scheme	14	42	37	164.29
National Overseas Scholarship Scheme		2	3	50.0
Free Coaching for Students with Disabilities			250	-

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Beneficiaries and funds released for skill training programme for PwDs in India are shown in Table 7. There has been major emphasis on skill training and therefore, amount released for skill training

programme has shown an increase of more than 8 times while number of beneficiaries increased by more than 6 times during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Table: 7

Beneficiaries and Funds Released for Skill Training Programme for PwDs in India
(Rs. In Crore)

Year	Amount Released	Number of Beneficiaries
2014-15	10.23	9000
2015-16	22.04	28042
2016-17	32.99	44276
2017-18	81.85	58210

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

Performance of NHFDC in India is shown in Table 8. There has been decline in the amount under self-employment and scholarship during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18. However, amount under skill

development and number of beneficiaries covered has shown increasing trend during the corresponding period.

Table: 8
Performance of NHFDC in India
(Rs. Crore)

Year	Self Employment		Scholarships		Skill Development	
	Amount	Number of PwDs	Amount	Number of PwDs	Amount	Number of PwDs
2014-15	101.49	14703	18.08	3000	10.00	8500
2015-16	135.08	20552	19.73	2500	16.35	17000
2016-17	102.51	16101	16.40	1864	18.46	20000
2017-18	90.14	11767	⁴ -	-	-	-

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2018

CONCLUSION

The analysis clearly demonstrates that the budgetary allocation on welfare of PwDs in India has shown an upward trend. There has been an increase of 154.67 per cent in budget allocations during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18. This increasing trend indicates the government's sincere and persistent effort for the upliftment of the persons with disability. The study also shows that, more than 2/5th expenditure was reported on National Programme for Welfare of PwDs, while expenditure on autonomous bodies accounted for 27.26 per cent. Expenditure on umbrella programme for development of other vulnerable groups has increased over a period of time. There has also been increase of 155.75 per cent in budget allocations to national institutions in India during 2016-17; the released amount was higher than budget allocations. The analysis also shows that the budgetary allocation has significantly increased for scholarship schemes of PwDs. There has been major emphasis on skill training and therefore, amount released for skill training programme has shown an increase of more than 8 times while number of beneficiaries increased by more than 6 times during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18. There has been expansionary pattern in budgetary allocations and expenditure in India for the welfare of PwDs. Nonetheless, considering the extent of social dynamics and need for the amount of welfare of PwDs as well as lack of adequate infrastructure, state requires good amount of

budgetary support. Despite unprecedented increase in budgetary allocation towards welfare of people with disability, the total budgetary allocations and expenditure on welfare of persons with disabilities still remains low as against total budget allocation and requires further increase. This increase in budgetary allocation would be necessary for the amelioration of the plight of the disabled population of the nation and their empowerment.

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¹ (2017-18)-(2014-15)/2014-15*100

² Establishment expenditure is the cost for organizing the event which includes the cost of venue arrangement, Travelling Allowance/Dearness Allowance to the participating PwDs invited to exhibit their products or paintings, transportation cost etc. Cost of additional arrangements such as LCD screen, light, music etc.

³ Note: Figures mentioned in the brackets are in percentage terms and are the percentage of the respective head out of the total.

⁴(-) in the box shows that no data available in those particular years under that head