



**Centre for Disability Studies and Health Laws  
National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam**

**CALL FOR PAPERS FOR  
CHAPTERS IN  
EDITED BOOK**

**DISABILITY  
STUDIES IN  
INDIA: PAST,  
PRESENT AND  
THE WAY  
FORWARD**

**Last Date of Submission: March 31, 2022**

## Summary

It has been more than twelve years since the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities came into force. It was the culmination of decades of previous work done by the UN to change the attitude and approaches towards persons with disability. Societal approach towards persons with disabilities has been that of someone who is an “object” of charity in need of medical treatment and social protection which has the effect of denying one individuality, autonomy, dignity and personality. This convention intended to change that into viewing persons with disabilities as “subjects” with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights for themselves and of making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent and are active members of the society and in effect restoring their individuality, autonomy, dignity and personality. India signed and ratified the UNCRPD in 2007, thus taking upon itself the responsibility of protecting these rights and soon started the process of enacting a new legislation in place of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 in the year 2010 in order to give domestic legal force to these rights. And thus emerged the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016 after a long process of consultation meetings and drafting process. The Act recognizes certain principles in order to empower persons with disabilities. These include respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons. Further, non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, respect for difference and acceptance of disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, equality of opportunity, accessibility, equality between men and women, respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities, and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities are some other important essential principles recognized by the Act.

However, movements, activism and the struggle for the rights of persons with disabilities have existed in India for a long time. It has been also the area of many inter-disciplinary studies and research that have generated invaluable amount of jurisprudence in this area broadly in the field of autonomy, consent, personality, individuality and dignity. The RPWD is also going to complete five years of its existence later this year. It seems only natural and urgent that we revisit the successes of these various movements and ideas in the field of rights of persons and with disabilities in the historical context in India from a multidisciplinary perspective, how these rights are actually being protected by the State since the enactment of the RPWD Act 2016 and also the other ways in which it can be improved so as to fulfil the requirements and obligations as laid down under the UNCRPD in total recognition of autonomy, individuality, freedom and dignity of rights of persons with disability.

Moreover, The Mental Healthcare Act of 2017 that received presidential assent on 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017, provides for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services. Mental health and healthcare is an inseparable and probably one of the most important part of the broader discourse on disability studies and therefore requires much needed interest and intellectual engagement.

This edited book named, **DISABILITY STUDIES IN INDIA: PAST, PRESENT AND THE WAY FORWARD** is therefore an attempt at giving a common platform to some of the best researches done in this field and come up with a compendium of ideas and inputs from various stakeholders that can further advance the cause of rights of persons with disabilities.

## **About the University**

The National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUJAA) was established by the Government of Assam by way of enactment of the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam Act, 2009 (Assam Act No. XXV of 2009). The Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court is the Chancellor of the University. Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Ahuja is the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University. NLUJAA promotes and makes available modern legal education and research facilities to its students, scholars and faculty drawn from across the country, including the North East, hailing from different socio-economic, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.

## **Why this Edited Book?**

National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam being a premier law institute working in the cutting edge of legal, social and inter-disciplinary research has the responsibility to contribute to the cause of rights of persons with disabilities recognized not only under the international laws but also under domestic laws. Having a Centre specially for right of persons with disabilities and health laws, it becomes all the more imperative that we contribute to the cause rights of fellow members of society based on the principles of equity, equality, non-discrimination and human dignity as are already recognized by the Constitution of India. Moreover, it is to be remembered that one of the groups that have been hit the hardest by the COVID pandemic are the Persons with Disabilities and their rights, it is our important moral responsibility to champion the cause of the rights of those who are forgotten easily in times of distress like this.

## **Tentative Thematic Areas to be Covered:**

1. History of Movements on Rights of Persons With Disabilities in India.
2. Philosophy of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Interdisciplinary studies.
3. Disability and Autonomy, Disability and Dignity, Disability and Legal Personality, Disability and Consent etc.
4. Disability and International Human Rights Laws.
5. Rights of Persons with Disability and the Constitution of India.
6. The Functioning of the RPWD Act, 2016 and the Way Forward.
7. The Functioning of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and the Way Forward.
8. Disability and Accessibility: Public Transport, Public Buildings, City and Common space, Educational Institutions, Offices etc.
9. Marrakesh Treaty, Copy Right and Accessibility of Published Work for Persons Who are Visually Impaired and Print Disabled.
10. Intersection of Disability and Gender Studies.

11. Disability and Reproductive Rights.
12. Disability and Sexuality.
13. Disability and Right to Health.
14. Disability and Right to Education: Inclusivity in Education
15. Disability and the New Education Policy.
16. Disability and Franchisee Rights.
17. Disability and Right to Work.
18. Affirmative Action for Persons with Disabilities.
19. Disability Rights and Judicial Activism.
20. Right to Privacy of Persons with Disabilities.
21. Disability Rights during the times COVID Pandemic.
22. Disability and Public Policy.
23. Access to Justice of Persons with Disability.
24. Right of Persons with Disabilities to Participate in the Cultural Life of Society.
25. Rights of Persons with Disabilities with Respect to Social Security.
26. And other allied areas.

## **About Submission**

The Centre for Disability Studies and Health Laws, NLUJA, Assam is inviting quality Research Papers and Articles in the above mentioned thematic areas for Chapters in the edited book titled **“DISABILITY STUDIES IN INDIA: PAST, PRESENT AND THE WAY FORWARD”** from:

- Academicians and professionals (inter/multi-disciplinary with law);
- Judges and Advocates;
- Research Scholars; and
- Students, if the editorial board deems it fit to be an extraordinary work of scholarly merit

## **Requirements of Submission**

Research papers and Articles should broadly be within thematic areas mentioned above. It should have proper research questions or hypotheses and should also reflect the findings. It should be within the word limits of 8000 to 10000 words. Authors have to submit research papers which comprehensively examine the topic. It should reflect innovative re-assessment of the theme. Purely theoretical-analytical pieces are also welcome.

## **8. GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION**

1. Submissions should be in Times New Roman, 12 fonts with 1.5 line spacing, justified text and 1 inch margins on all sides of an A4 sheet.
2. Footnotes should be in Times New Roman, 10-font size with 1.0 line spacing.
3. Endnotes / Bibliography and in-text citations are not allowed.
4. Graphics, Charts, Tables, and Diagrams should be numbered consecutively and included in the body of the work.
5. Headings should follow the following standard:
  - a. **TITLE OF THE SUBMISSION:** Upper-case, bold, font size 14
  - b. **HEADINGS:** Upper-case, bold, font size 14
  - c. **Sub-Headings:** Title-case, bold, font size 12
  - d. **Sub-Sub-Heading:** Title-case, italics, font size 12
6. Submissions must contain an Abstract (250-300 words) that outlines the main questions or themes addressed in the paper followed with five Keywords.
7. The Research Paper has to be submitted along with a Covering Letter, addressed to Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Centre Head, CDSHL.
8. Submissions must be emailed at **cds@nluassam.ac.in** (only in .docx format). The cover letter should include the author's profile.
9. The submission must be the original work of the author and must not have been submitted elsewhere or pending review.
10. Co-authorship is allowed. Maximum number of Co-author for a submission shall only be one.
11. Mode of citation will be **The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 20th Edition**.
12. For further queries kindly e-mail at **cds@nluassam.ac.in**

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## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

The Last Date for submissions is March 31, 2022.

## **MODE OF SUBMISSION: Online only**

The manuscript should be accompanied with the author's name, designation, institute, contact number and e-mail for future reference.