

# Role of Educational Rehabilitation Center in the Prevention of Disability at Nearby Locality in India

According to the Disability Act of 2016 in India, person with disability (PWD) is someone with significant physical, mental, or intellectual challenges that affect their ability to interact with others and fully participate in society. Globally, 16% of the population lives with some form of disability, and this number continues to rise due to a lack of awareness and increasing health issues. People with disabilities face major challenges in education, employment, and health care.<sup>[1]</sup>

## NEED OF REHABILITATION

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a United Nations treaty that was adopted on December 13, 2006, and opened for signature on March 30, 2007. It aims to protect and promote the rights of PWDs across the globe. The Convention was adopted to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as others and it emphasizes the importance of equality, dignity and nondiscrimination.<sup>[2]</sup>

To protect the rights of people with disabilities, rehabilitation helps them perform daily activities independently and earn livelihood, leading to a dignified life in society. The goal of rehabilitation is to improve their remaining abilities through coordinated medical, social, educational, and vocational efforts, making their lives more meaningful and fulfilling.

## EDUCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

The Educational Rehabilitation Centre, established by the Government of India, provides treatment and services to people with disabilities. It also trains professionals such as doctors, prosthetics and orthotics (P and O) professionals, physical therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, and social workers to support disability rehabilitation.

## REHABILITATION TEAM

The psychologists provide services which include early identification, planning and counselling to patients and their family members.

The P and O department gives rehabilitation treatment to persons with locomotor disabilities; and provide prosthetic limbs and orthotic devices to promote independence in activities of daily living. They provide proper prescription and act as a leader in designing, fabrication and fitment of Orthotic and Prosthetic appliances to Divyangjan.

Similarly, physiotherapy department focuses on assessment, planning, application, and advice exercise therapeutic

treatment for various disabilities. It provides treatment that deals with exercises, mobilization, traction, ultrasound, etc.

Occupational therapy section provides treatment by focusing on enabling Patient to perform everyday tasks and improving their quality of life. They assist individuals with cognitive challenges such as memory, attention, and problem-solving. Qualities using various strategies and exercises. This treatment enhances participation in daily activities by accepting the environment, modifying tasks, teaching skills, and educating the client and their family.

A physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor develops tailored treatment plans and provides ongoing progress monitoring to improve the quality of life for patients.

The speech and hearing section assesses speech and language impairments, provides speech therapy and offers audiological services, including hearing assessments and the distribution of hearing aids and appliances for hearing impairment.<sup>[3]</sup>

All the mentioned departments in these educational rehabilitation centers provide clinical services and training, which gives benefit to many rehabilitation professionals who join the field to offer quality services to Divyangjan (PWDs). These institutes, work under the Rehabilitation Council of India, offer bachelor's and master's degree courses and organize awareness programs to educate the community about various disabilities and their treatments.

## AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAM

All the departments regularly organize various national and international level conferences and Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programs to train professionals working in the field of disability.

The programs approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India give valuable opportunities for professionals to enhance their skills and expertise in treating patients with disabilities. Through CREs, professionals learn the latest advancements in disability care, applying new knowledge through workshops, case studies, and interactive sessions to improve patient care and outcomes.<sup>[4]</sup>

CREs and health camps focus on social inclusion, accessibility, and disability rights, fostering discussions and initiatives to address barriers and promote equality for people with disabilities. They serve as catalysts for positive change, raising awareness, empathy and advocacy in the community.<sup>[5]</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The comprehensive treatment approach in the rehabilitation of patients involves the collaboration and involvement of all healthcare professionals from various disciplines. Each professional brings unique expertise and perspectives to the table, contributing to a holistic and integrated approach to care. This approach indirectly improves clinical outcomes but also enhances the overall quality of life for individuals with disabilities by promoting independence, autonomy, and social inclusion.

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## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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