



RTE Act 2009 and Learning Disability in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The Indian Higher Education system is said to be the world's third largest, preceded by the ones in China and United States. However higher education in India, in itself stands for a great contradiction. On one side, the Indian



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Institute of Technology ranks among the best universities in the entire world, and on the other there are numerous schools which lack proper infrastructure for basic student needs. In the midst of all these problems is a nation that is working towards ensuring equal access and education for all. Individuals with learning disabilities are attending institutions of higher education in greater numbers than ever before. In attempts to accommodate these students in the classroom, faculty often have the ethical concern of balancing the rights of students with learning disabilities not only in terms of gaining physical access to buildings, but also in relation to much wider access issues concerning the curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment. This paper articulates a brief description of learning disabilities and policies and provision of government about learning disabled. This paper also examines the challenges students with learning disabilities face in college, and provides suggestions to overcome these problems.

Keywords: Learning Disabilities, Policies, Challenges, Implementations, Higher Education, Right to Education.

RTE Act 2009 : The Right of children to Free and Compulsory Education Act came into force from April 1, 2010. This is a historic day for the people of India as from this day the right to education will be accorded the same legal status as the Right to Life as provided by Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. Every child in the age group of 6- 14 years will be provided 8 years of elementary education in an age appropriate classroom in the vicinity of his/her neighbourhood. Any cost that prevents a child from accessing school will be borne by the State which shall have the responsibility of enrolling the child as well as ensuring attendance and completion of 8 years of schooling. No child shall be denied admission for want of documents; no child shall be turned away if the admission cycle in the school is over and no child shall be asked to take an admission test. Children with disabilities will also be educated on the mainstream schools. The Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh has emphasized that it is important for the country that if we nurture our children and young people with the right of education, India's future as a strong and prosperous country is secure.

All private schools shall be required to enrol children from weaker section and disadvantaged communities in their incoming class to the extent of 25% of their enrolment, by simple random selection. No seats in this quota can be left vacant. These children will be treated in par with all the other children in the school and subsidized by the State at the rate if average per learner costs in the government schools.

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