

**Name of the Scholar:** Reena Gupta

**Name of Supervisor:** Dr. Bharti Sharma

**Name of Institution:** Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education (IASE),  
Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-110025

**Topic of Research:** Equitable Participation of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education: A Study

### **ABSTRACT**

**Keywords:** *Access, Equitable Participation, Higher Education, Gender and Students with Disabilities.*

As per UN, 2006, around 650 million persons of the world population, 10 percent of the total population, live with having disabilities. Data also showed that eighty percent of the world population living with disabilities lives in developing countries (UN, 2006). Thus, the population of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) is an emerging part of the society as well as in educational institutions. Education is a powerful instrument for social change (Kothari, 1966). It worked as a tool in uplifting socio-economic status and to provide a respectable place to any person in the society. Higher Education is important means for exploring, generating, conserving and transmitting knowledge (Kiranmayi, 1989). Higher Education is directly related to skill development, nation building, national integration, employment and research. It enhanced the potential to make economic as well as social development. Thus, higher education plays a vital role in socio-economic, political and industrial development of the country. The objectives of the study were; to study the current status of students with disabilities in higher education, to study the various measures taken by universities to cater the needs of students with disabilities in higher education, to study the problems faced by students with disabilities in higher education for equitable participation and to study the socio-cultural forces that hinders the participation of students with disabilities in higher education in context of gender. The study was descriptive and

exploratory in nature. The population of the study constituted all the Students with Disabilities who are pursuing graduation degree (Both Academic and Professional degree), Faculty Members, Administrators and Official Staff of central universities situated in Delhi. Only two central universities had been selected i.e. University of Delhi, Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi as a sample. Out of these central universities 120 Students with Disabilities have been selected from Academic Courses and Professional Courses respectively including 60 faculty members and 4 administrators. The researcher used self constructed tools for data collection. The tools were; 1) Performa for assessing current status of SWDs in higher education, 2) Accessible infrastructure rating scale, 3) Interview schedule for the administrators of the university/college, 4) Questionnaire for the faculty members of the university/college, 5) Questionnaire for the Students with Disabilities and 6) Case study format. The tools were validated by the experts. The reliability of tools was calculated by using Cronbach Alpha. Mixed Method was used to analysis of data. Qualitative data was analysed by *thematic content analysis* process. The analysis of quantitative data was calculated by Percentages and Mean with the help of statistical analysed software SPSS 22 version. The findings of the study revealed that there is a need of accessible infrastructure for all types of SWDs, the services of library should be advanced and accessible for all the SWDs, the HEIs should provide financial assistance to all SWDs so that they can continue their higher studies, awareness programme should run by the HEIs for awareness of teachers, staff, students, parents and for the community about the need of the SWDs and a positive attitude of the society is needed towards disabled persons. Educational implications of the study discussed briefly. The study concluded with the suggestions and recommendations for further studies.