

Autism Society of India



MEMORANDUM

AUTISM SOCIETY OF INDIA (ASI) a national body of parents, professionals and well wishers of persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders presents the following facts to the Government of India :

- AUTISM is a severe neuro-developmental disorder.
- It is the fastest growing serious disability in the world*
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than diabetes, cancer, & AIDS combined*
- It is called Autism Spectrum Disorder as there is a wide range of ability and disability.
- It is characterized by impairments in communication, socialization and behavioral issues.
- As of now there is no cure for autism, but early diagnosis and intervention improve outcomes.
- **THERE ARE OVER 40 LAKH# PERSONS WITH AUTISM IN INDIA YET AUTISM IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A DISABILITY UNDER THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 1995**

All persons with autism regardless of their level of functioning are citizens of the country and are entitled to fundamental rights under the Constitution of India. These include the right to education and employment.

The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities has been signed and ratified on 1st October 2007 by the Government of India.

Necessary amendments in all disability-related legislations should be carried out IMMEDIATELY

Among these legislations are

- the Persons with Disability Act 1995,
- the National Trust Act 1999 and
- the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act 1992.

AUTISM MUST BE INCLUDED AS A DISABILITY IN THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 1995

* www.worldautismday.org (designated by the United Nations)

Autism affects as many as 1 in 150 children worldwide. For India, taking a conservative figure of 1:250, it is estimated to be over 40 lakhs.

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