

**A STUDY OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE DISABLE IN  
THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

By

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**THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI  
JAYAWARDENEPURA AS A PARTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR  
AWARDING OF THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY**

**JANUARY 2008**

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis titled "Study of the Involvement of the Disabled in the Process of Social Development" is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of **MASTER OF ARTS**, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Nugegoda. The work described in the thesis was carried out by me in the areas of Kandaketiya in Badulla District and Nochchiyagama and Thambuttegama in Anuradhapura district under the supervision of Dr. Sawranalatha Perera, Senior Lecturer Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura. This thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree of this university or any other university to the best of our knowledge.

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I here by certify that, the above statement made by the candidate is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and this thesis on "Study of the Involvement of the Disabled in the Process of Social Development" is suitable for submission to the University of Sri Jayawardenepura for the purpose of evaluation.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This thesis is an outcome of a field research and a literature review conducted from August 2004 to January 2008 for period of three years. The thesis titled as “**A Study of the Involvement of the Disable in the process of Social Development**” is a comparative study of a “development with disabled” and “development for disabled” projects implemented in Sri Lanka. The two project were implemented by Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) and Association of Women with Disabilities (AKASA) in two respective Divisional Secretary division \ Kandaketiya in Badulla district and Nochchiyagama and Thambuttegama in Anuradapura district.

There are many institutions and individuals have supported to complete this study successfully. First of all I greatly appreciate the kind contribution extended by the PWDs, their family members and the CBOs members in Kandaketiya, Nochchiyagama and Thambuttegama where the selected two samples to conduct the research study.

Dr Swarna Perera, former Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Jayawardenapura who act as my supervisor for this research, gave me clear guidance and direction in completing this study. During the past three years of time her guidance throughout the research and completing the thesis had contributed largely to keep my motivational level high for the research. Her encouragement is one of the main factors for the successful completion of this thesis.

Prof. Tennison Perera and Dr. Pranith Abayasundara, Head of the Department of Sociology, Mr. Udayakumar Lecturer of the Department of Sociology also gave me the necessary encouragement and support to complete my thesis.

Dr. Vishaka Hidellage, Country Director of ITDG granted permission and motivated me to initiated my studies while engage in general official work when I was working with ITDG. Mrs. Kumarini Wickramasuriya, the founder and the Chairperson of Nawajeewana for supporting me to complete the study and the thesis while engaging in official work of Nawajeewana. Ms. Kamalawathi and the project team of AKASA gave the permission to study their organisation and provided all the information that I required.

I greatly appreciate the contribution extended by my friends Upali, Ranga Nandana, Azisa, Nilanthi, Dusha, Neeshiya, Prasanna, Chandana, Minidu, Thiwanka, Asitha and Indrajith for their encouraging by words, and the assistance in collection of the data from the field survey and their help in editing and formatting the thesis.

## List of Abbreviations

AGA	Assistant Government Agent
AKASA	Association of Women with Disabilities
A/L	Advanced Level
CBO	Community Base Organization
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CBRDTC	Community Based Rehabilitation Development and Training Centre
DFID	Department for International Development
DOC	Divisional Operational Committee
DOJF	Disability Organizations Join Front
DS	District Secretariat / District Secretary
DSD	District Secretariat Divisions
GCE	General Certificate of English
GO	Government Organizations
GN	Grama Niladarie
GND	Grama Niladarie Division
HEIS	Household Expenditure and Income Surveys
IBR	Institutional Based Rehabilitation
ICFDH	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ICIDH	International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons

IGA	Income Generation Activities
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programmed
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NYSC	National Youth Services Council
O/L	Ordinary Level
PO	Partner Organization
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SSO	Social Services Officer
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VRC	Village Rehabilitation Committee
VSHLI	Village Self Help Learning Initiative
WHO	World Health Organization

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# **A Study of the Involvement of the Disabled in the Process of Social Development**

**D.H.J.P. HEMATHILAKA**

## **Abstract**

Certain groups and communities across the world are being marginalized attributing to many reasons including ethnicity, religion, caste, gender and age. People with disabilities (PWDs) are one of the marginalized groups of which the world is widely discussing nowadays. The issue of inclusion of this community group in the mainstream social development process while many programmes and projects are being developed and implemented through various governmental and non-governmental organizations. During the early stages, it is accepted that the social development of PWDs is not carried out in a proper designed manner. In later stages these programmes were challenged based on the real opportunities provided for PWDs to actively participate in social development process. The concept of “development with disabled” evolved based on the conceptual dialogues and discussion created as a consequence of the challenges posed. There are two approaches in inclusion of PWDs in social development process *viz*; with PWDs and for PWDs. This study investigates on the contribution to inclusion and mainstreaming PWDs in social development by these two approaches. The main objective of the study is to determine the co- relation of the organization involved in social development of Person with Disabilities. The specific objectives of the study are to examine projects implemented for rehabilitation and development of the PWDs, to analyze and of development projects for the disabled and development with disability projects and to study the changes in life pattern of PWDs

and the reduction of marginalization through participants of the social development process.

Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study. Primary data were collected from two programmes implemented in Sri Lanka. The programme implemented by Disabled Women's Association (AKASA) in two Divisional Secretariats in Anuradhapura districts of North-Central province for PWDs and a programme implemented by Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) – South Asia with PWDs in one divisional secretariat in Badulla District of Uva province have been selected as sample programme for the study. Related secondary data were collected from various sources. Data analysis was done through basic tabulation and in relation to social development concepts and models.

PWDs have potential to participate and contribute to mainstream social development. Both the approaches for mainstreaming disability into development studied under the research; with PWDs and for PWDs, found to be effective to improve the living conditions of the PWDs. Subsequently it has a positive contribution towards mainstreaming. The programme “for PWDs” again treats PWDs separately and therefore, the contribution towards mainstreaming found to be less compared to programmes “with PWDs”. Programmes “with PWDs” create more opportunities for PWDs to expand their social interactions and networks contributing effective mainstreaming.

The mainstreaming disability in social development can be achieved effectively through creating space and opportunities for PWDs in all development programmes. The capacities of development institutions and development programmes should be enhanced on addressing the needs of PWDs and making opportunities. Though the programmes with PWDs are effective in mainstreamed social development, the need of programmes for PWDs is still in existence. The special needs of PWDs are there those cannot be addressed through general development programmes with PWDs.

Improved capacities and awareness on disability and development among the development programmes and officers will enhance the opportunities available for PWDS to participate actively in social development process. It is recommended that the development programmes should be enriched with disability focus so that the opportunities available for mainstreaming are enhanced. However, the programmes “for PWDs” should be implemented in parallel to address the special needs of PWDs. Proper interactions and integration between both types of programmes can yield higher level of mainstreamed social development.