NCPEDP

NCPEDP - Javed Abidi Fellowship on Disability

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Baseline Report

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Impact of Climate Change on Persons with Disabilities

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1. Index of Abbreviations

BFF	Build Forward Better
CER	Corporate Environment Responsibility
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DALYs	Disability-adjusted Life Years
DDDM	Data-driven Decision-making
DiDRR	Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
EKC	Environmental Kuznets Curve
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IIH	Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension
INDCs	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
L&D	Loss and Damage
LIA	Legislative Impact Assessment
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MS	Multiple Sclerosis
NAPCC	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NCPEDP	National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NPCCHH	National Programme on Climate Change & Human Health
RPwD Act	Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
SBS	Shifting Baseline Syndrome
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UNCRPD	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

2. Index of Figures

World Map Infographic: Map of countries and regions not impacted by climate change
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Pie Chart from Survey Result: Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Disability-inclusive Climate Action
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Ulgulan Talks Postcard - Ar. Kavya Poornima Balajepalli
Ulgulan Talks Postcard - Anjali Vyas
Sakhi One Stop Centre (Ranchi) Crime Data

3. Executive Summary

"कालाति क्रमात् काल एव फलम पिबति"

(*When the right thing is not done at the right time, then the time itself destroys the essence.*)

~ *Acharya Chanakya* (*Kauṭilya* or *Vishnugupta*)

Climate change is a global-human-right threat multiplier. It worsens every other crisis, intensifies other problems, and worsens existing vulnerabilities and injustices. [1] Climate change has triggered an Era of Consequences that take different forms of negative externalities, having an impact on every aspect of our cost of living and quality of life.

The intersectionality between the climate change crisis and disability remains an unchartered territory. Even getting a mention of disability in climate action laws and policies remains a challenge. There is a lack of data-driven and evidence-based research studies, thus the subsequent absence of laws and policies comprehensively dealing with this often- ignored intersectionality and disproportionate vulnerability.

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) [2] , the policy primarily focuses on vulnerable regions and ecosystems but somehow misses out on vulnerable communities. There are studies and research about climate change and persons with disabilities, but the intersectionality between the two is still missing on ground implementation. This research, advocacy, and campaign endeavour dealt with this missing link, be it awareness, sensitisation, implementation and mainstreaming of law and policy formulation at national and international levels.

The Capability Approach provides a world view on how climate change and disability have a cascading and compounding effect resulting in capability deprivation and further income deprivation, leading to hunger and poverty, especially among vulnerable communities. [3] Climate change acts as a threat multiplier[4], having a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities concerning health, food security, adequate housing, water and sanitation, livelihoods and decent work, human mobility, and beyond.[5]

However, the focus largely remains on the natural resources within the climate action plans

and less on vulnerable communities (especially persons with disabilities), which need to change going forward towards disability-inclusive climate justice. Thus, there's a need to extend the scope of the Overton window concerning the intersectionality of climate change and disability.

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[1] *Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development to the Human Rights Council: climate change is a global human rights threat multiplier, Human Rights Council, 17 September 2021, available at: <https://www.ohchr. org/en/press-releases/2021/09/special-rapporteur-right-development-human-rights-council-climate-change?LangID=E&NewsID=27490> accessed on 6 May 2022.*

[2] *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), Press Information Bureau (PIB), posted on 1 December 2021, available at: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/ documents/2021/dec/doc202112101.pdf> accessed on 4 May 2022.*

[3] *Abhishek Kumar, Climate Change, Disability, and the Capability Approach, The Sangyan, available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/climate-change-disability-and-the-capability-approach-916a2fdfae41> accessed on 25 May 2022.*

[4] *Climate change recognised as 'threat multiplier', UN Security Council debates its impact on peace, United Nations, available at <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fr/news/climate-change-recognized-%E2%80%98threat-multiplier%E2%80%99-un-security-council-debates-its-impact-peace#:~:text=As%20climate%20change%20is%20increasingly,ways%20to%20diminish%20the%20effects> accessed on 19 October 2022.*

[5] *Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNGA Human Rights Council, A/HRC/44/30.*

4. Contextual Background

A. Introduction

As per the World Risk Report 2020, India's overall climate change-induced-disaster profile is described as moderately vulnerable and exposed to extreme weather events, disasters and climate change.[6] India is particularly prone to a large number of disasters resulting in capability and income deprivation, poverty, disability and forced displacement, and these act as threat multipliers for people with disabilities. These extreme weather events and climate change-induced disasters are frequent and increasing due to climate change, resulting in great loss of human life and natural ecosystems and triggering economic losses (losses and damages) - especially in fragile ecosystems and vulnerable communities.[7] At present, the trajectory of the extreme weather is such that India witnesses some form of natural disaster almost every day[8] with a loss and damage count of 2,755 lives lost, 1.8 million hectares of crop area affected, over 400,000 houses destroyed, and nearly 70,000 heads of livestock killed.

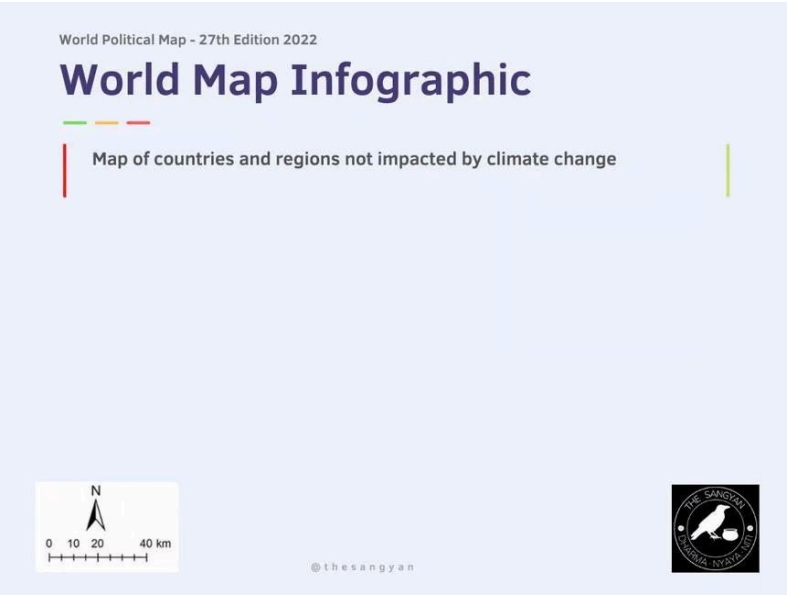

Image Description [Alt Text]: Image with the heading "World Map Infographic: Map of countries and regions not impacted by climate change" with no map in place to give the message that no area is unaffected by impacts of climate change along with Map Legend showing Scale and logo of The Sangyan at the two corners & text "World Political Map - 27th Edition 2022" at the top-left corner on a light blue background with texts in black.

Globally, 16% of the world population comprises people with disabilities[9] and 12% elderly people. UN says people with disabilities are most ignored despite being one of the most

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[6] *Abhishek Kumar, Status of Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management: Indian Perspective, The Sangyan, available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/status-of-disability-inclusion-in-disaster-risk-management-indian-perspective-aa307007146d > accessed on 26 June 2022*

[7] *Abhishek Kumar, Status of Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management: Indian Perspective, The Sangyan, Available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/status-of-disability-inclusion-in-disaster-risk-management-indian-perspective-aa307007146d > accessed on 26 June 2022.*

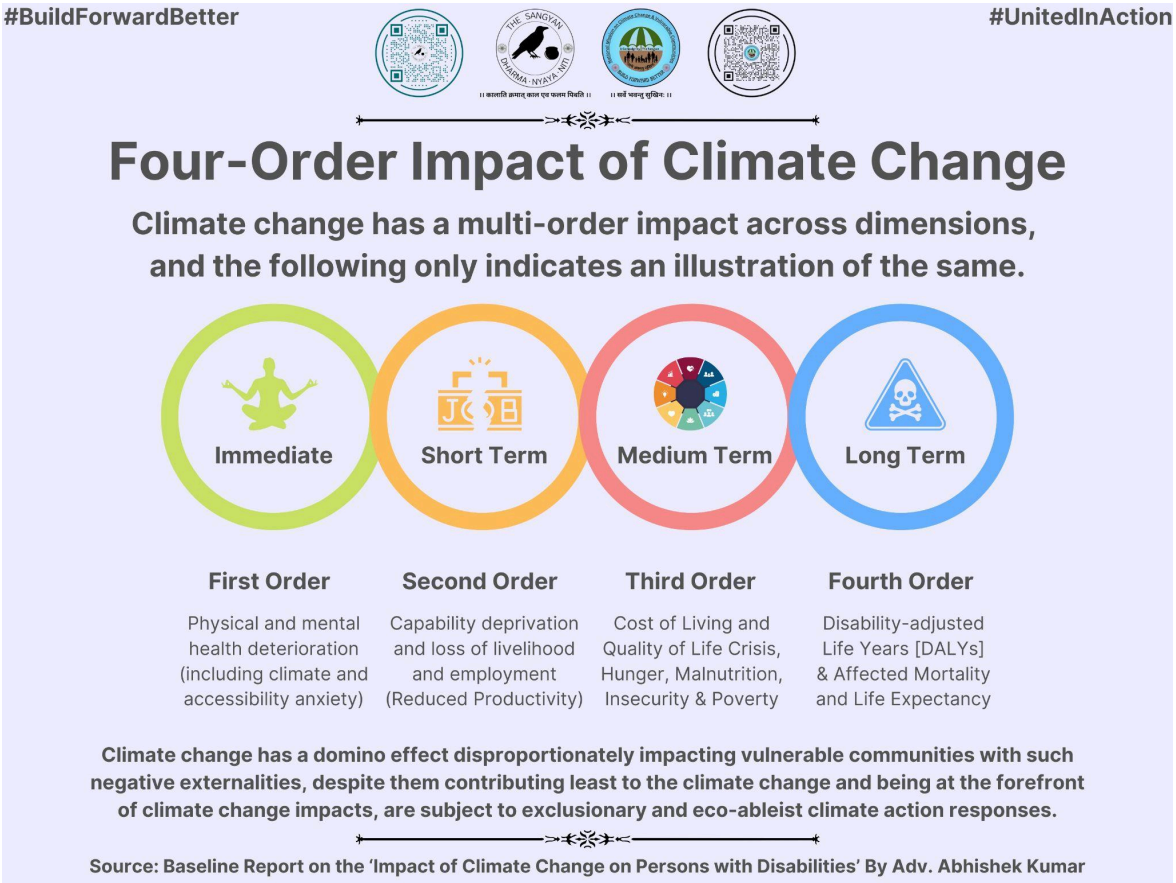
[8] *India 2022: An Assessment of Extreme Weather Events released by CSE and Down To Earth, available at <https://www.cseindia.org/in-just-nine-months-in-2022-india-witnessed-some-form-of-natural-disaster-almost-every-day-11466>.*

[9] *Disability Inclusion, The World Bank, available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability#1> accessed on 4 May 2022.*

vulnerable communities[10] along with the elderly - unlike women, indigenous people and youth, who are relatively mainstreamed. As per the 2011 Census, 2.2% of the Indian population comprises persons with disabilities. Triggered by the three Cs - COVID-19 (health crisis), climate change (and biodiversity loss), and conflict (wars and insurgencies) - the global population is going to shape up in a way where the population share of persons with disabilities and the elderly will only increase, necessitating whole of a society approach to fight climate-change-induced inequalities that further marginalise the historically-backward communities having multidimensional intersectionalities.

Climate change has a domino effect disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities with such negative externalities, despite them contributing least to the climate change and being at the forefront of climate change impacts, are subject to exclusionary and eco-ableist climate action responses. Climate change has a multi-order impact across dimensions, and the following only indicates an illustration of the same. Note: This is an illustrative list and not an exhaustive one.

I. First Order [Immediate]: Physical and mental health deterioration (including climate and accessibility anxiety).
II. Second Order [Short Term]: Capability deprivation and loss of livelihood and employment (Reduced Productivity).
III. Third Order [Medium Term]: Cost of Living and Quality of Life Crisis, Hunger, Malnutrition, Insecurity and Poverty.
IV. Fourth Order [Long Term]: Disability-adjusted Life Years [DALYs] and Affected Mortality and Life Expectancy.



Visual/Image Description [Alt Text]: On a light lavender background, there are the following texts:

"Four-Order Impact of Climate Change" (heading) and "Climate change has a multi-order impact across dimensions, and the following only indicates an illustration of the same" (sub-heading). In the centre are the graphic elements depicting the following content: I. First Order [Immediate]: Physical and mental health deterioration (including climate and accessibility anxiety); II. Second Order [Short Term]: Capability deprivation and loss of livelihood and employment (Reduced Productivity); III. Third Order [Medium Term]: Cost of Living and Quality of Life Crisis, Hunger, Malnutrition, Insecurity and Poverty; and IV. Fourth Order [Long Term]: Disability-adjusted Life Years [DALYs] and Affected Mortality and Life Expectancy. Below that are the following texts: "Climate change has a domino effect disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities with such negative externalities, despite them contributing least to the climate change and being at the forefront of climate change impacts, are subject to exclusionary and eco-ableist climate action responses." and "Source: Baseline Report on the 'Impact of Climate Change on Persons with Disabilities' By Adv. Abhishek Kumar (bottom)." At the centre-top are the logos of The Sangyan and the 'Build Forward Better' Campaign along with their respective QR codes and hashtags: #BuildForwardBetter and #UnitedInAction.

Such negative externalities of climate change disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, including - children, women, old adults and persons with disabilities, despite contributing least to climate change (historically responsible). They are at the forefront of climate change impacts and yet are subject to exclusionary and eco-ableist responses to it. The lack of disaggregated data to assess the specific vulnerability only adds to the problem of solving this challenge before human civilization.

The Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report highlights that a*ssessing vulnerability is the first step towards assessing climate risk*.[11] This very report states that Jharkhand is highly vulnerable to climate change crisis as 60% of its districts fall under the highly vulnerable category along with Bihar and Assam.[12]

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[10] The impact of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities, OHCHR and climate change, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/impact-climate-change-rights-persons-disabilities> accessed on 4 May 2022.
[11] National climate vulnerability assessment identifies eight eastern states as highly vulnerable, Press Release, Press Information Bureau (PIB), posted on 17 April 2021, available at: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712450> accessed on 4 May 2022.
[12] National climate vulnerability assessment identifies eight eastern states as highly vulnerable, Press Release, Press Information Bureau (PIB), posted on 17 April 2021, available at: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712450> accessed on 4 May 2022.

Image Description [Alt Text]: On a green (table in the centre) and clay (around borders) colour background with graphics of leaves in the corners and text "PEOPLE WHO ARE UNAFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE" (at the top of the table) followed by an empty list highlighting the fact that there is no category of people who are unaffected by climate change. At the end of the empty table, the following text "NOTE: THIS IS AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST". There is the SDG Goal 13 Climate Action logo (at the extreme top) and The Sangyan logo at the extreme bottom.

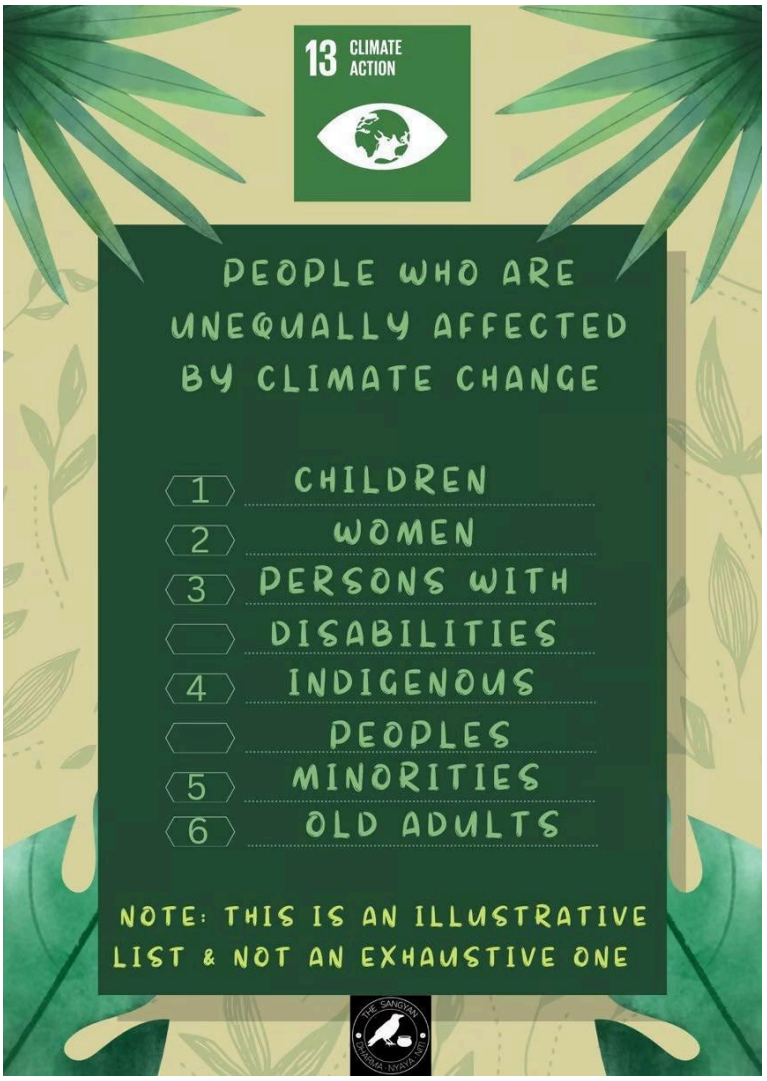

Image Description [Alt Text]: On a green (table in the centre) and clay (around borders) colour background with graphics of leaves in the corners and text "PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEQUALLY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE" followed by a list including - "1. CHILDREN 2. WOMEN 3 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 4. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 5. MINORITIES 6. OLD ADULTS" (at the top and center of the table) followed by an empty list highlighting the fact that there is no category of people who are unaffected by climate change. At the end of the empty table, the following text "NOTE: THIS IS AN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST & NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE ONE". There is the SDG Goal 13 Climate Action logo (at the extreme top) and The Sangyan logo at the extreme bottom.

B. Context Setting

To contextualise and better understand the 5Ws of climate change and disability intersectionality (Who, What, Where, When and Why), let's explore these questions using certain concepts.

1. **Boiling Frog Syndrome**

The boiling frog syndrome is a metaphoric account of a frog being placed in a tub of water that is slowly heated. However, the frog will not notice the temperature difference until it is slowly boiled to death. The boiling frog is an apologue describing a frog being slowly boiled alive. The premise is that if a frog is put suddenly into boiling water, it will jump out, but if the frog is put in tepid water, which is then brought to a boil slowly, it will not perceive the danger and will be cooked to death. The story is often used as a metaphor for the inability or unwillingness of people to react to or be aware of sinister threats that arise gradually rather than suddenly.

The boiling frog story is generally offered as a metaphor cautioning people to be aware of even gradual change lest they suffer eventual undesirable consequences. The story is often used as a metaphor for the inability or unwillingness of people to react to or be aware of threats that arise gradually rather than suddenly.

Image Description [Alt Text]: On a white background, there is a picture of two frogs sitting in a container filled with boiling water and fire beneath it. The conversation between the two frogs is as follows: Frog One says, "AILAAA, It's Hot!" and Frog Two replies with "NO, I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S GETTING WARMER IN HERE. WHY DO YOU ASK, FRED? FRED..?. At the top-right, there are the logos of The Sangyan and Build Forward Better Campaign and The Sangyan's QR Code, and at the bottom, there are the following hashtags - #BhuleTohNahi #BuildForwardBetter and #WhatsYourPlan.

Climate change is a slow-onset planetary crisis as it refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns triggered by human activities and disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities.

An excerpt from a lecture delivered on 'Human Effects of Climate Change' to the Society highlights this very phenomenon: "This is not an experiment I wish to commend, but it has lessons for another animal - ourselves. If a drastic change takes place abruptly, we notice and react to it. If it takes place gradually, over a few generations, we are hardly aware of it, and by the time that we are ready to react, it can be too late.[13]

2. Shifting Baseline Syndrome

Shifting Baseline Syndrome (SBS) is a psychological and sociological phenomenon whereby each new human generation accepts as natural or normal the situation in which it was raised. That describes a gradual change in the accepted norms for the condition of the natural environment due to a lack of human experience, memory and/or knowledge of its past condition. Consequences of SBS include an increased tolerance for progressive environmental degradation, changes in people's expectations as to what is a desirable (worth protecting) state of the natural environment, and the establishment and use of inappropriate baselines for nature conservation, restoration and management.[14]

SBS describes a persistent downgrading of perceived 'normal' environmental conditions with every sequential generation, leading to an underestimation of the true magnitude of long-term environmental change on a global scale.[15]

The global climate has been warming for several decades, yet we have been slow to react. This is largely because individuals rarely witness changes in weather patterns or the broader consequences of our actions as a species for themselves. This phenomenon was dubbed the shifting baselines syndrome and is an important factor in our inability to deal with climate change.[16]

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[13] *Tickell, Crispin (1990). "Human Effects of Climate Change: Excerpts from a Lecture Given to the Society on 26 March 1990". The Geographical Journal. 156 (3): 325–329 [p. 325]. DOI:10.2307/635534*

[14] *Masashi Soga and Kevin J. Gaston, Shifting Baseline Syndrome: Causes, Consequences and Implications.*

[15] *Jones, LP, Turvey, ST, Massimino, D, Papworth, SK. Investigating the Implications of Shifting Baseline Syndrome on Conservation. People Nat. 2020.*

[16] *Owen Mulhern, Shifting Baselines and the Elusiveness of Climate Change, Earth.org.*

3. **Domino Effect - Climate Change**

Domino effects are regarded as very low-frequency but very high-consequence events.[17] Due to the severe consequences, the risk of domino effects concerning climate change is non-negotiable, and thus, the corresponding risk assessment and management are of great significance.

An ecosystem is a geographic area in which a diverse array of plants, animals and other organisms coexist. Ecosystems can be as large as a desert or as small as a pond and contain living beings and non-living things such as rocks, sand and humidity. Every piece of an ecosystem depends on the others, like a jigsaw puzzle. For instance, a change in the temperature of an ecosystem will have knock-on effects on other things such as the type of plants and animals that can grow and live there.

Image Description [Alt Text]: A man triggering Domino Effect meme template with the logos of The Sangyan and Build Forward Better Campaign and the QR code of The Sangyan along with the following labelling - A Man [Exclusive Climate Action & Inaccessibility] triggering chain reaction with 1. Climate Change resulting in 2. Capability Deprivation, 3. Disability-adjusted Life Years (DALYs), 4. Higher Cost of Living and poorer Quality of Life, and 5. Poverty and Higher Mortality, depicting the Domino Effect caused by Climate Change.

Humans are immersed in ecosystems and depend on these interconnected networks of plants, animals and people. By removing just one species as a result of climate change, pollution, habitat loss or some other natural or man-made factors, a domino effect can occur that has a big impact on the entire ecosystem, including humans, and disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities - children, women, old adults and persons with disabilities.

[17] *Khakzad & Reniers, 2015a; Necci, Cozzani, Spadoni, & Khan, 2015.*

4. **Environmental Kuznets Curve**

Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) is a model of the relationship between energy use, economic growth and the environment. According to the EKC hypothesis, environmental pressures increase as income level increases at the initial stage of economic development, but later these pressures diminish along with the income levels. Simply put, an emerging economy prioritises development over the environment, and only when it reaches a certain stage of development does the quality of life (for instance, air and water quality and universal accessibility) gain importance in decision-making and the hierarchy of societal priorities.

A parallel to this concerning the intersectionality of climate change and disability is that persons with disabilities - despite contributing the least and being most vulnerable to climate change - are at the forefront of climate change impacts and are subject to eco-ableist climate action that often overlooks their specific needs (Sustainable Development Goal 13, related to Climate Action). Similarly, persons with disabilities are left behind within the climate action discourse and do not become a priority. A clean and healthy environment, universal accessibility and quality of life become important only after a certain stage of development.

While climate change threatens the well-being of people from all sections of society, only a few are as disproportionately affected as persons with disabilities. Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities with an indirect and disproportionately negative impact on people with disabilities due to their lack of capabilities such as education and healthcare facilities.[18] The IPCC Report of 2022 states that the best way to protect people from climate change is by tackling *inequities such as those based on gender, ethnicity, disability, age, location and income.*

Disability isn't a homogeneous identity and includes recognized disabilities (twenty-one in India) along with invisible disabilities, rare conditions, chronic illnesses, and other unrecognized disabilities. Disability forms the bedrock of diversity as disability comprises other intersectional identities like women with disabilities, children with disabilities, and old adults with disabilities.

An intersectional and universal approach to climate action and universal accessibility is essential to ensure we 'leave no one behind' in our endeavour for climate and disability justice.

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[18] *Penelope J S Stein & Michael Stein, Climate change and the right to health of people with disabilities, The Lancet - HPOD, available at < https://hpod.law.harvard.edu/news/entry/the-lancet#. Yd4AdYWpxy8.twitter> accessed on 18 February 2022.*

Image Descriptions [Alt Text]: A poster with a navy blue background featuring logos of The Sangyan, Build Forward Better Campaign, and Poornamidam at the center. Text at the top left corner reads, "Build Forward Better," and at the top right corner, it reads, "We All Belong." In the center, text reads, "CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES, TRANS WITH DISABILITIES, MINORITIES WITH DISABILITIES, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES" (highlighted in bold), "WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES, ELDERS WITH DISABILITIES, TRIBALS WITH DISABILITIES, MIGRANTS WITH DISABILITIES." Below this, there is an
infographic depicting diversity with text that reads, "Disability is Integral to Diversity. Disability isn't a Homogeneous Identity." A footnote below the infographics states, "Note: This is an illustrative list and not an exhaustive one."

C. The Intersectional Paradigm

Understanding that climate change, along with biodiversity loss and pollution, acts as a threat multiplier having a disproportionate, cascading, and compounding impact on vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities (and much more for children and women with disabilities) concerning the cost of living, quality of life, migration and displacement; physical and mental health; water and sanitation; livelihood and decent work; Disability- inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR); Capability Approach; universal accessibility; hunger, poverty, security; sustainable habitat, affordable and accessible housing; disability- adjusted life years (DALYs), eco-ableism; abuse and violence; and beyond because persons with disabilities (and much more for children and women with disabilities) have greater exposure, higher sensitivity and lower ability to adapt (capability deprivation owing to climate change). Being a vast and diverse country in population and area, India is exposed to most facets of climate change, with different regions and communities being vulnerable to some or the other climate-change-induced disasters and other externalities.

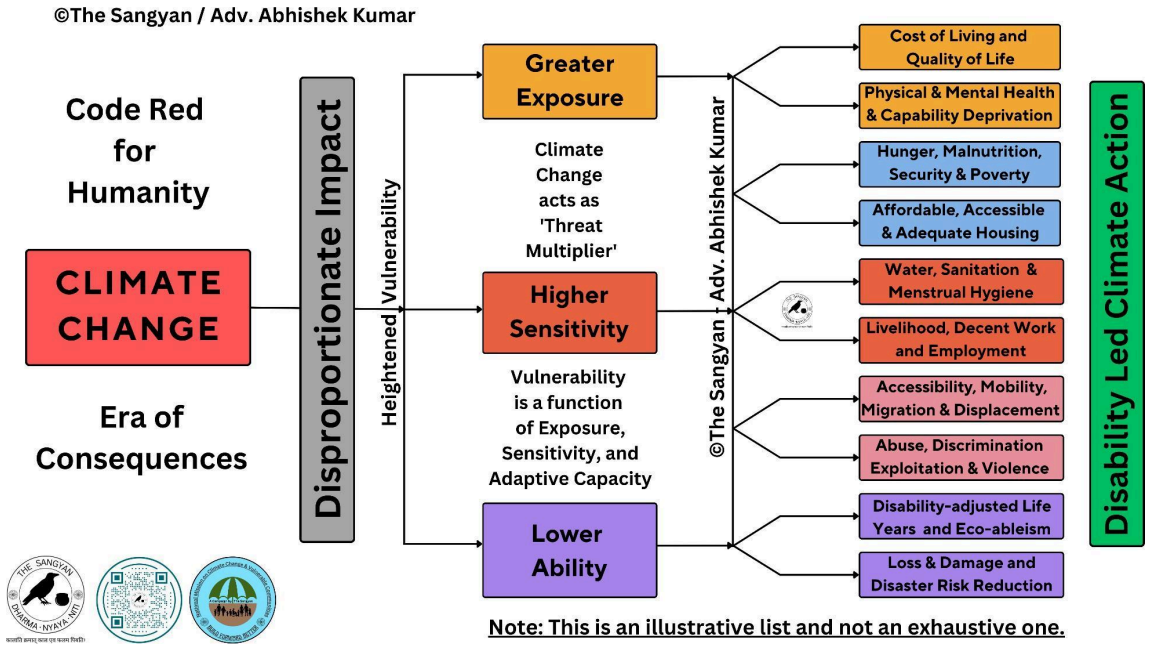

Image Description [Alt Text]: An image on a white background depicting 'Flow Chart: Dynamics of Climate Vulnerability' with the Climate Change [Code Red for Humanity] acting as 'Threat Multiplier' in the Era of Consequences, resulting in Disproportionate Impact because of Heightened Vulnerability [Vulnerability is a function of Exposure, Sensitivity, and Adaptive Capacity] viz. Greater Exposure, Higher Sensitivity, and Lower Ability - qua - 1. Cost of Living and Quality of Life; 2. Physical and Mental Health and Capability Deprivation; 3. Hunger, Malnutrition, Security, and Poverty; 4. Affordable, Accessible, and Adequate Housing; 5. Water, Sanitation, and Menstrual Hygiene; 6. Livelihood, Decent Work, and Employment; 7. Accessibility, Mobility, Migration, and Displacement; 8. Abuse, Discrimination, Exploitation, and Violence; 9. Disability-adjusted Life Years and Eco-ableism; and 10. Loss & Damage and Disaster Risk Reduction [Note: This is an illustrative list and not an exhaustive one]. At the end, there is Disability Led Climate Action as the way forward. At the top-left, there is ©The Sangyan / Adv. Abhishek Kumar and at the bottom-left, there's logos of The Sangyan and Build Forward Better Campaign as well as The Sangyan's QR Code..

Understanding that the best way to protect people from climate change is by tackling inequities such as those based on gender, ethnicity, disability, age, location and income[19], and given how data and evidence are scarce about disability in general and especially with respect to the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities, it is pertinent to pursue data-driven and evidence-based research, advocacy, and campaign wherein efforts can be led to logical conclusions.

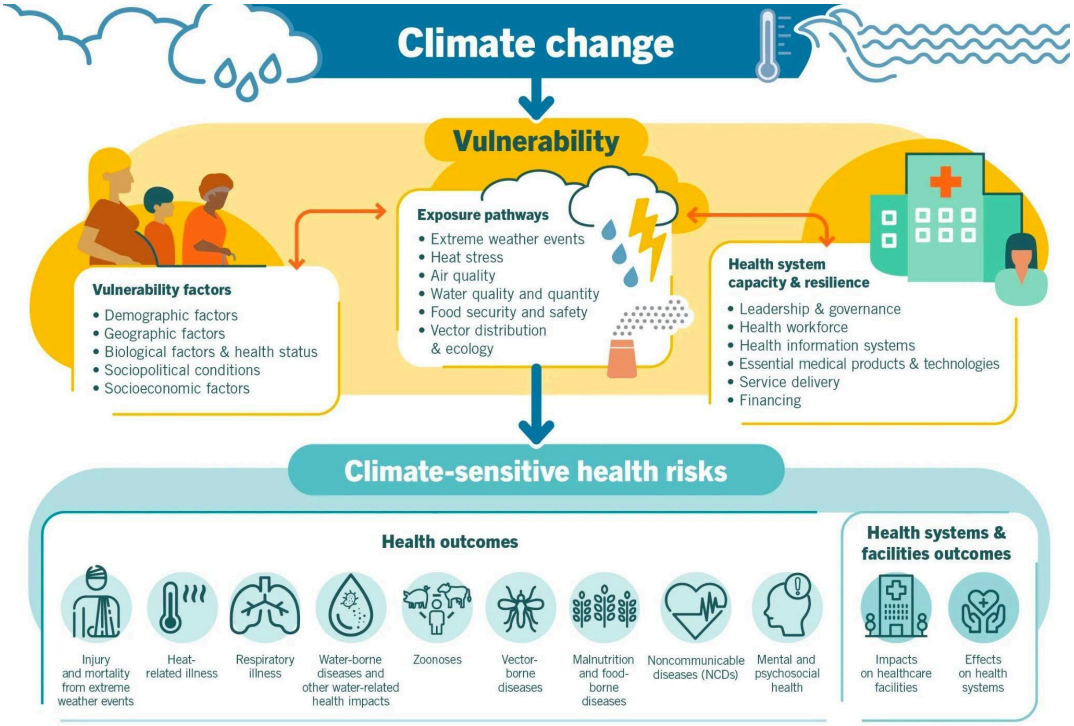

Image Description [Alt Text] - A flowchart showing Climate change (top) leading to Vulnerability (three sections with pointers in the middle of the infographic flowchart), ultimately resulting in Climate-sensitive health risks (at the bottom). The Vulnerability section has three parts - A. Vulnerability factors 1. Demographic factors 2. Geographic factors 3. Biological factors & health status 4. Sociopolitical conditions 5. Socioeconomic factors; B. Exposure pathways 1. Extreme weather events 2. Heat stress 3. Air quality 4. Water quality & quantity 5. Food security & safety 6. Vector distribution & ecology; C. Health system capacity & resilience 1. Leadership & Governance 2. Health Workforce 3. Health information systems 4. Essential medical products & technologies 5. Service delivery 6. Financing. The Vulnerability section leads to the Climate-sensitive health risks that contain two parts - A. Health outcomes 1. Injury and mortality from extreme weather events 2. Heat-related illness 3. Respiratory illness 4. Water-borne diseases and other water-related health impacts 5. Zoonoses 6. Vector-borne diseases 7. Malnutrition and food-borne diseases 8. Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) 9. Mental and psychosocial health B. Health Systems & Facilities Outcomes 1. Impacts on healthcare facilities 2. Effects on health systems.

[19] *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers, Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf> accessed on 6 May 2022.*

D. Global Perspective

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identify Climate Action (Goal 13) as one of the global goals as the *blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all..*[20] This global goal targets the mitigation and adaptation concerning people with disabilities among marginalised communities, which is interlinked with disaster risk-reduction strategies and capacity building.[21] Even when the climate change crisis doesn't lead to disability (as in the case of climate-induced disasters), it certainly worsens the experience of people with disabilities (like heat waves for people with Multiple Sclerosis)[22].

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, highlighting the climate crisis, referred to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1 Report[23] as nothing short of being *a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable…we must act decisively now*[24].

International normative frameworks relevant to the achievement of SDG targets 1.5 and 11.5 and SDG 13 for persons with disabilities (Building the resilience of persons with disabilities and reducing their exposure to and impact from climate-related hazards and other shocks and disasters) that India[25] shall adhere to, are as follows:

1. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008), Articles 11 and 32, requires that persons with disabilities benefit from and participate in disaster relief, emergency response, and disaster risk-reduction strategies. However, Article 11 does not explicitly mention the situation of climate change.
2. The outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/3) (2013)
3. The SAMOA Pathway (2014)
4. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015)

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[20] *United Nations (2017) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017, Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/71/313, available at: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/313> accessed on 20 January 2022.*

[21] *Abhishek Kumar, Climate Change and Disability: International Legal Framework, The Sangyan, available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/climate-change-and-disability-international-legal-framework-5ec2edf4752e> accessed on 18 February 2022.*

[22] *Mex M v Austria, available at <https://climate-laws.org/geographies/austria/litigation_cases/mex-m-v-austria> accessed on 18 February 2022.*

[23] *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1 Report, available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/working-group/wg1/> accessed on 14 February 2022.*

[24] *Guterres: The IPCC Report is a code red for humanity, available at <https://unric.org/en/guterres-the-ipcc-report-is-a-code-redforhumanity/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20alarm%20bells%20are%20deafening,General%20says%20in%20a%20statement.&text=Greenhouse%20gas%20concentrations%20are%20at%20record%20levels.> accessed on 14 February 2022.*

[25] *Abhishek Kumar, Status of Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management: Indian Perspective, The Sangyan, available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/status-of-disability-inclusion-in-disaster-risk-management-indian-perspective-aa307007146d> accessed on 26 June 2022*

5. Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management (2015)
6. The Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (2016)
7. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016)
8. Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (2016)
9. Incheon Strategy to *Make the Right Real* for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific - Goal 7: Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management.

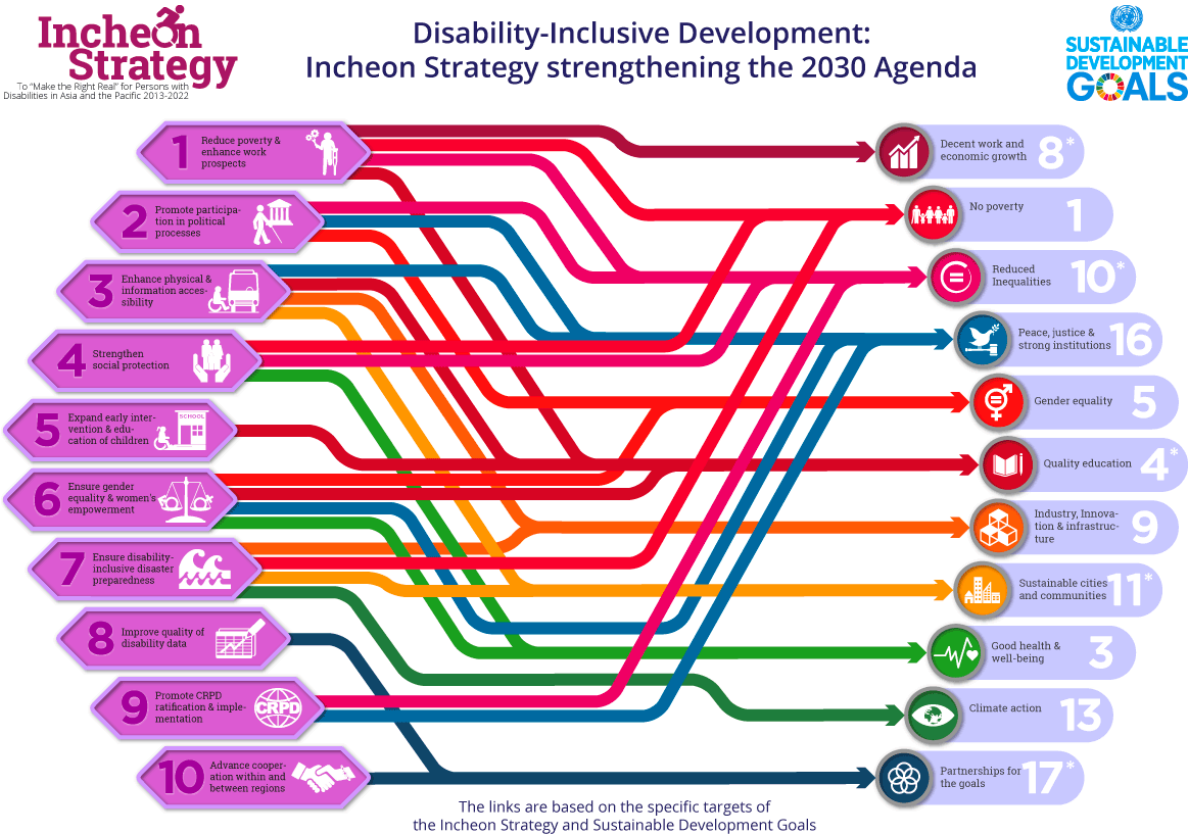

Image Description [Alt Text]: The graphic demonstrates the synergies between the targets of the Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The links are based on the specific targets of the Incheon Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals including Climate Action.

The international legal framework, though, does address the challenges of disability-inclusive disaster-risk reduction; however, there is not much attention and inclusion of disability-inclusive climate action though that reality is changing but not at the pace we may be requiring.[26]

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[26] *Adv. Abhishek Kumar, Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment № 26 (2023) on Children's Rights and the Environment, with a Special Focus on Climate Change [22 August 2023], Available at <https://www.thesangyan.in/impact> Accessed on 03rd December 2023.*

List of State Parties to the UNFCC that Refer to Persons with Disabilities in their NDC or INDC		
Antigua and Barbuda	Fiji	Saint Lucia
Argentina	Georgia	Seychelles
Barbados	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Belize	Kiribati	Sri Lanka
Cabo Verde	Maldives	State of Palestine
Cambodia	Marshall Islands	Tanzania
Canada	Mauritius	Togo
Chad	Mexico	Tunisia
Republic of the Congo	Moldova	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Myanmar	Vietnam
Dominican Republic	Panama	Zimbabwe
Eswatini	Papua New Guinea	

Image Description [Alt Text]: List of State Parties to the UNFCC that Refer to Persons with Disabilities in their NDC or INDC - 1. Antigua and Barbuda 2. Fiji 3. Saint Lucia 4. Argentina 5. Georgia 6. Seychelles 7. Barbados 8. Jordan 9. Sierra Leone 10. Belize 11. Kiribati 12. Sri Lanka 13. Cabo Verde 14. Maldives 15. State of Palestine 16. Cambodia 17. Marshall Islands 18. Tanzania 19. Canada 20. Mauritius 21. Togo 22. Chad 23. Mexico 24. Tunisia 25. Republic of the Congo 26. Moldova 27. Uzbekistan 28. Costa Rica 29. Myanmar 30. Vietnam 31. Dominican Republic 32. Panama 33. Zimbabwe 34. Eswatini 35. Papua New Guinea.

Only 35 out of 192 state parties to the Paris Agreement (legally binding international treaty on climate change) currently refer to persons with disabilities in their Nationally Determined Contributions (or Intended NDCs, if no updated NDC has been provided).[27]

[27] *Status Report on Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies [June 2022] by Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program at McGill University and the International Disability Alliance, Available at <https://www.internationaldisability alliance.org/sites/default/files/drcc_status_report_english_0.pdf> Accessed on 26 November 2023.*

List of State Parties that Refer to People with Disabilities, People with Health Conditions, or Those with Chronic Illnesses in their Climate Adaptation Policies	
Austria	Moldova
Central African Republic	Namibia
Chile	Nauru
Cook Islands	Panama
Czechia	Poland
Ecuador	Saint Lucia
Egypt	Slovakia
Estonia	Slovenia
Finland	Solomon Islands
Germany	South Africa
Ghana	South Korea
Greece	Spain

Image Description [Alt Text]: List of State Parties that Refer to People with Disabilities, People with Health Conditions, or Those with Chronic Illnesses in their Climate Adaptation Policies:- 1. Austria 2. Moldova 3. Central African Republic 4. Namibia 5. Chile 6. Nauru 7. Cook Islands 8. Panama 9. Czechia 10. Poland 11. Ecuador 12.
Saint Lucia 13. Egypt 14. Slovakia 15. Estonia 16. Slovenia 17. Finland 18. Solomon Islands 19. Germany 20. South Africa 21. Ghana 22. South Korea 23. Greece 24. Spain. 25. Guatemala 26. Sudan 27. Hungary 28. Tajikistan 29. Ireland 30. Thailand 31. Kenya 32. Togo 33. Kiribati 34. Tonga 35. Latvia 36. Turkey 37. Liechtenstein 38. Uganda 39. Luxembourg 40. Uruguay 41. Malawi 42. Zambia 43. Marshall Islands 44. Zimbabwe 45. Mexico.

Guatemala	Sudan
Hungary	Tajikistan
Ireland	Thailand
Kenya	Togo
Kiribati	Tonga
Latvia	Turkey
Liechtenstein	Uganda
Luxembourg	Uruguay
Malawi	Zambia
Marshall Islands	Zimbabwe
Mexico	

Image Description [Alt Text]: List of State Parties that Refer to People with Disabilities, People with Health Conditions, or Those with Chronic Illnesses in their Climate Adaptation Policies:- 1. Austria 2. Moldova 3. Central African Republic 4. Namibia 5. Chile 6. Nauru 7. Cook Islands 8. Panama 9. Czechia 10. Poland 11. Ecuador 12.
Saint Lucia 13. Egypt 14. Slovakia 15. Estonia 16. Slovenia 17. Finland 18. Solomon Islands 19. Germany 20. South Africa 21. Ghana 22. South Korea 23. Greece 24. Spain. 25. Guatemala 26. Sudan 27. Hungary 28. Tajikistan 29. Ireland 30. Thailand 31. Kenya 32. Togo 33. Kiribati 34. Tonga 35. Latvia 36. Turkey 37. Liechtenstein 38. Uganda 39. Luxembourg 40. Uruguay 41. Malawi 42. Zambia 43. Marshall Islands 44. Zimbabwe 45. Mexico.

Only 45 State Parties to the Paris Agreement currently refer to people with disabilities, people with health conditions, or those with chronic illnesses in their climate adaptation policies.[28]

On 29 March 2023, the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a historic resolution by consensus (A/77/L.58) requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of States concerning climate change.

The request for an advisory opinion acknowledges that *"climate change is an unprecedented challenge of civilisational proportions and that the well-being of present and future generations of humankind depends on our immediate and urgent response to it."* The advisory opinion represents an opportunity to clarify the legal obligations of States concerning climate change under the international legal regime.

The ICJ request adds to the two existing requests for advisory opinions on climate change pending with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR).

The General Assembly requested the ICJ render an opinion on the following questions:

(a) What are the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) for States and for present and future generations?

(b) What are the legal consequences under these obligations for States where they, by their acts and omissions, have caused significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment, concerning (i) States, including, in particular, small island developing States, which due to their geographical circumstances and level of development, are injured or specially affected by or are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?; (ii) Peoples and individuals of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change?

Though the resolution promises much hope for climate justice, it is disappointing that though it takes note of most international human rights conventions, it misses out on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD, an international human rights convention which sets out the fundamental human rights of people with disability), given that climate change acts as a 'threat multiplier' having disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities including children, women, old adults and people with disabilities.[29]

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[28] *Status Report on Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies [June 2022] by Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program at McGill University and the International Disability Alliance, Available at <https://www.internationaldisability alliance.org/sites/default/files/drcc_status_report_english_0.pdf> Accessed on 26 November 2023.*

[29] *Abhishek Kumar, Historical, But Is It Inclusive?, Drishtikon, The Sangyan, Available at <https:// sangyan.medium.com/drishtikon-historical-but-is-it-inclusive-31f8c4e1918e> Accessed on 23 November 2023.*

E. Indian Context

In the domestic legal framework, the legal troika deals with and provides for DiDRR management in India (not much with respect to disability-inclusive climate action laws and policies). The first one is the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016, read with the Disaster Management Act of 2005. The RPwD Act mandates special attention for disability-sensitive disaster risk reduction. The legislation requires the District Disaster Management Authority to maintain the record of persons with disabilities for planning, coordination and implementation during extreme weather events and climate change-induced disasters. It further provides for social security, healthcare facilities and services, and equal protection to people with disabilities in times of disaster. Secondly, the National Disaster Management Plan of 2019 mainstreams disability in disaster management plans and highlights the status quo, major loopholes, best practices and the way forward. Ultimately, the DiDRR Guidelines of 2019 was the watershed moment in inclusive disaster management as it was the first comprehensive set of guidelines issued by any country globally on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. The Guidelines are also important as they mark the responsibilities of governmental agencies from the national to local level for carrying out work related to each dimension of the guidelines, such as data and resource mapping, policies, planning and strategies, adoption of universal design principles, facilitation of accessibility and access to assistive technology.[30]

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[30] *Abhishek Kumar, Status of Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management: Indian Perspective, The Sangyan, Available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/status-of-disability-inclusion-in-disaster-risk-management-indian-perspective-aa307007146d> Accessed on 28th March 2023.*

5. Literature Review

In respect to this research endeavour to study and understand the impact of climate change in the lives of persons with disabilities and explore the intersectionality between disability, capability and climate change. Understanding this interaction is not a very easy challenge to deal with or even to identify it as this takes on different forms and can be experienced and interpreted in numerous ways. And because the impact of climate change on Person with Disability varies depending upon the capability of the person concerned so distinctively, they are quick to take issue with the policies, rules, and literature surrounding the issue.

For this reason, recommending sound resources to combat the negative externalities of climate change on person with disabilities depending upon their capability, can be a true challenge. Accepting this fact, it was great to come across Amartya Sen's book 'Development as Freedom' which illustrates the moral framework of 'Capability Approach' which entails two normative claims; firstly, the claim that the freedom to achieve well-being is of primary moral importance and, second, that well-being should be understood in terms of people's capabilities and functionings.

Disability is a state that already gropes the concerned person, which, when added with lack of capability owning to various political, socio-economic, technological, and other reasons, results in person with disability becoming further vulnerable to the world's common threat of climate change, consequently, meaning hindrance in pursuit of purusārthas and life with freedom and dignity.

6. METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATION OF STUDY

In this endeavour, the research design had both theoretical and empirical aspects. The researcher undertook the journey to understand the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities as the endeavour aims to understand and document the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities in living a life with dignity and freedom.

The researcher undertook primary as well as secondary research activities (surveys, case studies, interviews, field visits, etc.) and in the meanwhile, created a repository of data-driven and evidence-based work on the intersectionality and impact of climate change and disability in India. The researcher carried out both quantitative and qualitative studies.

Although the issues of climate change and disability have been dealt with theoretically to some extent, the subject needs better attention from the Indian perspective, which this research endeavours to explore. The researcher explored the issues that have been summarised not just from the prism of theories and data but also through anecdotes, stories, and lived experiences that illuminate the real human dilemma that lies behind fancy academic phrases and jargon. The author documented the personal stories of persons with disabilities regarding the impact of climate change on their lives to provide a personal perspective to the theoretical studies.

The region for field visits was primarily Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand - a state with relatively high vulnerability to climate change [31] and home to one of the most socio-economically backward disability communities[32]. The endeavour, although, will focus on the national and international level for law and policy research, advocacy, and campaign.

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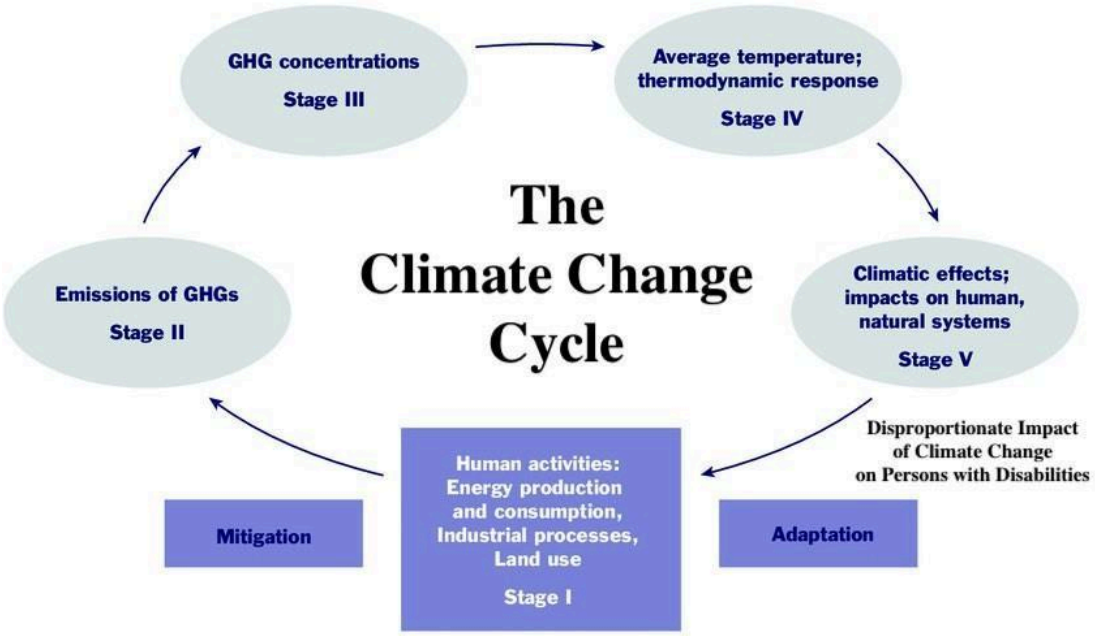
[31] *Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India using a Common Framework, available at: <https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/Full%20Report%20%281%29.pdf>*

[32] *Status of Disabled Persons in States/UTS, available at <https://ceobihar.nic.in/PDF/Disabled_persons_in_ India_2016.pdf> accessed on 1 February 2022; National Resource Kit: The Jharkhand Chapter, available at <https://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-jharkhand-call-for comments#:~:text=Executive %20Summary,impaired%2C%20constituting%20about% 2041.53%25.> accessed on 1 February2022.*



Note: This figure depicts the key stages of the climate change cycle, from human activities that generate GHGs to impacts on human and natural systems. This simplified representation emphasizes the primary causal links leading from activities to impacts. A fuller representation of the cycle would show additional physical and socio-economic feedbacks among the stages. Also, the causal links are represented at the global level. At the national level, some stages are more relevant than others. A nation may have high emissions but face low risk of climate impacts, or vice-versa.

Image Description [Alt Text]: An image depicting 'The Climate Change Cycle' with Stage I [Human Activities: Energy Production and Consumption, Industrial Processes, Land Use] → Mitigation → Stage II [Emission of GHGs] → Stage III [GHGs Concentration] → Stage IV [Average Temperature, Thermodynamics Response] → Stage V [Climate Effects; Impacts on humans, Natural Systems] → Adaptation [Disproportionate impact of climate change on persons with disabilities] → Back to Stage I. Below the flowchart is the following note: This figure depicts the key stages of Climate Change Cycle, from human activities that generates GHGs to impacts on human and natural systems. This simplified representation emphasiszes the primary causal links leading from activities to the impacts. A fuller representation of the cycle would show additional physical and socio-economic feedbacks among the stages. Also, the casual links are represented at the global level. At the national level, some stages are more relevant than others. A nation may have high emissions but face low risks of climate impacts, or vice versa. This graph depicts the area of intervention by the author.

In this research, advocacy, and campaign endeavour, the author worked explicitly on the disproportionate impact of climate change on persons with disabilities. To further that, the author carried out data-driven and evidence-based research to reach a logical conclusion concerning policy and law-making aroud the intersectionality of climate change and disability. Further, the author carried out primary and secondary studies documenting the lived experiences of persons with disabilities concerning climate change and corroborating secondary studies to back up the personal stories/lived experiences.

Moreover, the aforementioned has been disseminated for awareness, sensitisation and capacity-building purposes by way of cross-disability sessions, engagement with ally groups, press releases, social media campaigns, blogs, postcards, and beyond (documents such as

policy briefs, explainers, factsheets, booklets, training modules, etc. to have a systematic way to approach this research-based advocacy endeavour and create/establish a ground to achieve further strategic interventions).

The endeavour comprised activities including mainstreaming disability in the climate change discourse and vice-versa, studies on the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities, legal protection to people with disabilities from the impact of climate change, social and legislative impact assessment of the environment and other relevant laws and policies, etc. in respect to disability, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in environmental legislation and climate action policies, and comments and suggestions towards a proposed comprehensive umbrella green law.[33]

Additionally, during this endeavour, the author carried out research to create the scholarship/literature for promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities in the context of climate change and documenting the stories revolving around the lives of persons with disabilities from the perspective of climate change. There are 21 disabilities recognised by the law of the land[34], and given the many climate-change-induced disasters and other impacts that affect persons with disabilities differently, in the beginning, it is better to approach creating evidence as the very basis of this subject lacks primary and secondary research to back our lived experiences towards a journey of nudging, triggering, and catalysting change that is disability-led and inclusive.

At the present factual matrix, the major discussion around the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities is largely limited to the disaster response concerning climate change and not the overall threat of climate change crisis. The author dealt with environmental laws and tried to locate persons with disabilities within the climate action laws, plans, programmes, policies, and strategies with an approach of *Build Forward Better*.

The primary limitation of the study was the lack of rural context. As the research panned out nationally to cover lived experiences of persons with different disabilities living in different geographies and climatic conditions - it was deemed fit to have reasonable objectives that are achievable, and that's why during the course of this study, rural contexts were not researched upon in detail, howsoever, multi engagement in order to gauge secondary information about the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities in rural setup was in place.

[33] *Centre revisits 2014 panel's proposal on new umbrella green law; what you need to know, First Post, 20 October 2022, available at <https://www.firstpost.com/india/centre-revisits-2014-panels-proposal-on-new-umbrella-green-law-what-you-need-to-know-10071791.html> accessed on 20 February 2022.*

[34] *The Schedule [clause (zc) of section 2], The Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016.*

7. Objectives of the Study

There is a dearth of sound literature and scholarship regarding the 'Impact of Climate Change on People with Disabilities' both in Jharkhand and India. One prime purpose of this advocacy endeavour would be to document the stories of people with disabilities as to how climate change is impacting their daily lives by having a cascading effect that goes beyond other intersectional socio-economic aspects. The expected outcome from this advocacy endeavour is to mainstream the disability narrative within the climate action discourse and vice-versa.

1. To understand the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities.
2. To advocate for inclusive climate action plans, laws, policies, and other legal mandates.
3. To sensitise, create awareness and disseminate information to mainstream the disability narrative within the climate change discourse and vice versa.
4. To explore and document the lived experiences of persons with disabilities from diverse geographies, demographics, and climatic conditions.
5. To explore inclusive and sustainable solutions.

The outcome of this baseline study will be valuable to climate action and environmental law practitioners as well as disability rights activists in incorporating an intersectional approach and developing better climate action policies, plans and programmes, and strategies for adapting and mitigating adverse effects of the climate change crisis, both in general and specific to persons with disabilities.

8. Survey Results and Analysis

This survey is part of an endeavour under the NCPEDP - Javed Abidi Fellowship on Disability to gather primary data to gauge awareness about the impact of climate change on the lives of persons with disabilities.

This survey did not require and did not record any personal information except email addresses, which are not shared with anyone without the prior informed consent of the participants. The right to privacy has been respected in letter and spirit.

The questionnaire was shared with a diverse set of people from across the country. The online survey was shared through emails, WhatsApp messages, WhatsApp groups, Facebook, Twitter (X), LinkedIn, and some other modes of communication. Most of the respondents were people with disabilities.

The online survey was first circulated on 15 December 2021, and the last recorded response for this analysis was received on 15 April 2022. This survey received fifty-two responses from a group of around two thousand people with whom the survey questionnaire was shared (which itself shows the lack within the disability sector about the concerns of climate change). This chapter gives a gist of those 52 responses to understand and make sense of the responses received.

The analysis of this survey contains three parts, beginning with the introduction that builds the context of the whole survey. Thereafter, the questions are produced verbatim, along with comments explaining the purpose of asking that question and the desired outcome. Tables, charts and graphs highlighting the responses in numbers and statistics follow, along with comments providing the meanings of the answers. And lastly, the concluding remarks decipher the overall picture that can be drawn based on these responses. The whole survey result and analysis have been published as a separate article.

To begin with, the lack of response was the most significant issue while carrying out this survey, despite being conducted online and being short.

In the preliminary primary research, the finding and observation were that awareness of climate change is evident but not about the *Era of Consequences* - that it has begun, and the way climate change is unfolding as a threat multiplier, a huge humanitarian crisis as well as a threat to flora and fauna impacting all aspects of our lives. Further, there seems to be a lack of awareness of relevant laws and policies, such as the Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Guidelines (2019), even among persons with disabilities despite it concerning them.

Do you think Climate Change has any impact on life of persons with disabilities?

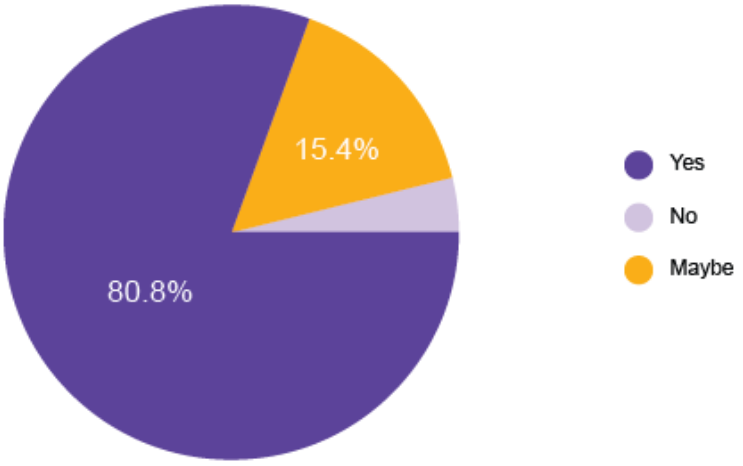


Image Description [Alt Text]: A pie chart of 52 responses with Yes [42 - 80.8% Depicted in Blue Colour], No [2 - 3.8% Depicted in Red Colour], and Maybe [8 - 15.4% Depicted in Yellow Colour] for the following question: "Do you think Climate Change have any impact on life of Person with Disabilities? क्या आपको लगता है कि जलवायु प॰रवर्तन का विकलांग व्यिक्तय॰ के जीवन पर कोई प्रभाव पड़ता है*?".*

The intersectionality between climate change and disability has been recognised as an issue of great concern in the past decade and so. However, the conversation is still limited to the theoretical framework or to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction, and the issue finds itself short on dealing with other impacts of climate change on people with disabilities. Even therein,

not much research work has been carried out from the Indian perspective. Through this fellowship, the researcher would like to explore this unfathomed territory. Understanding that climate change is the issue confronting the whole human species and the compounding and cascading effect it has on over a billion people (people with disabilities) across the world, this research and advocacy endeavour would be worth making an honest attempt.

Do you think the 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act? 2016' is adequate to counter the impact of Climate change on the lives of Person with Disabilities?

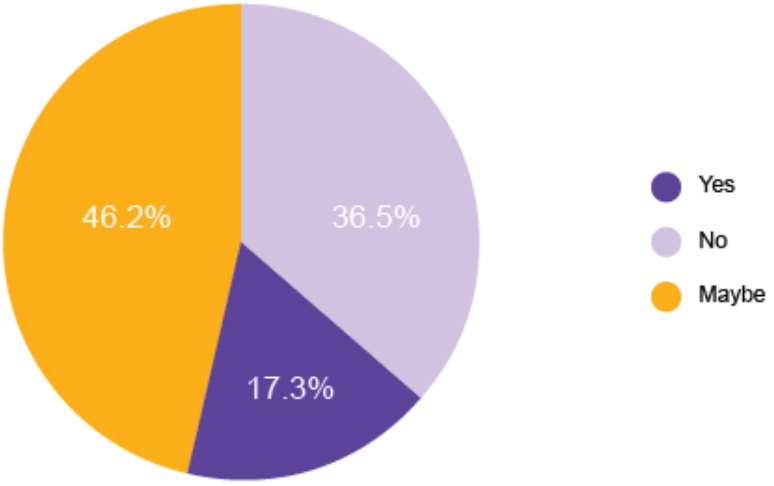


Image Description [Alt Text]: A pie chart of 52 responses with Yes [9 - 17.3% Depicted in Blue Colour], No [19 - 36.5% Depicted in Red Colour], and Maybe [24 - 46.2% Depicted in Yellow Colour] for the following question: "Do you think the 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016' is adequate to counter the impact of Climate Change on the lives of Person with Disabilities? क्या आपको लगता है कि विकलांग व्यिक्तय◆ के जीवन पर जलवायु प◆रवतर्न के प्रभाव का मुकाबला करने के
लिए *'*विकलांग व्यिक्तय◆ के अधिकार अधिनियम*, 2016'* पयार्प्त है*?".*

Are you aware about the 'National Disaster Management Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, 2019?

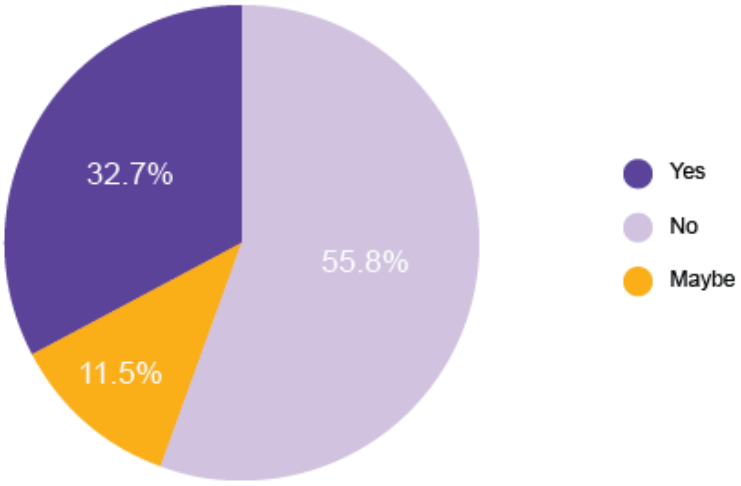


Image Description [Alt Text]: A pie chart of 52 responses with Yes [17 - 32.7% Depicted in Blue Colour], No 29 - 55.8% Depicted in Red Colour], and Maybe [6 - 11.5% Depicted in Yellow Colour] for the following question: "Are you aware about the 'National Disaster Management Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, 2019'? क्या आप 'विकलांगता समावेशी आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण पर राष्ट्रkय आपदा प्रबंधन दिशानिद˜श, 2019' के बारे म& जानते ह&?".

The lack of real-time data on persons with disabilities despite the RPwD Act, 2016, which requires the District Disaster Management Authority to maintain the record of persons with disabilities for planning, coordination and implementation during disasters [35] is a major concern that needs to be addressed and advocated. The same applies to adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change on people with disabilities.

In summary, there is a need for a better understanding of the intersectionality between climate change and disability to ensure disability-inclusive climate action policies, plans, programmes, and strategies.

[35] *Abhishek Kumar, The Sangyan, available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/status-of-disability-inclusion-in-disaster-risk-management-indian-perspective-aa307007146d> accessed on 26 June 2022.*

9. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD

Chanakya, a great Indian philosopher wrote this over two thousand years ago: जल बिन्दु निपातेन क्रमशः पूयर्ते घटः| स हेतुः सवर् विद्यानां धमर्स्य च धनस्य च || Small drops of water, when they come together, fill up a pot. Similarly, knowledge, good deeds or wealth, add up gradually. This has a message for us. By itself, each drop of water may not seem much. But when it comes together with many other such drops, it makes an impact.
~ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's at the World Bank Event on Tackling Climate Change

The outcome of this research and advocacy endeavour will be valuable to the practitioners of climate action and environmental law, as well as disability rights advocates and the broader human rights sector, in incorporating an intersectional approach and developing better climate action policies, plans, programmes, and strategies for adapting and mitigating adverse effects of the climate change and their induced disaster impacts, both in general and specific to persons with disabilities, to *Leave No One Behind* and *Build Forward Better*.

To strive to achieve the stated objective of the research carried out and its consequent and subsequent advocacy and campaign endeavour, including a comprehensive campaign, *Build Forward Better*, that has been initiated with the three primary objectives:

1. Mainstreaming the disability justice narrative within the climate change discourse and vice versa qua awareness, sensitisation, capacity building, etc.

2. Formation of the National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008, as an umbrella mission to protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change across intersectionalities/sectors/themes/areas of concerns.

3. Disability-inclusive climate laws, policies, plans, approaches and strategies, and climate-inclusive disability laws, policies, plans, approaches and strategies at local, regional, national and international level action plans, including the UNCRPD and RPwD Act.

Specific Suggestions and Recommendations:

This baseline report is merely the beginning of the journey towards disability-led and inclusive climate action and justice and forms the basis for the 'Build Forward Better' campaign and is not a concluding document as the research, advocacy, and campaign endeavours continue. Understanding that the research-based advocacy and campaign shall adhere to changes that are in synchronisation with practical reality in terms of politically

acceptable, socially desirable, technology feasible, financially viable, administratively doable, judicially tenable, legally permissible, culturally rooted and relevant, environmentally sustainable, and universally accessible.

1. Formation of the National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008, as an umbrella mission dealing with the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities, given the disproportionate impact of heightened vulnerability.

2. Legislative Impact Assessment of laws and policies concerning climate change and disability and inclusion of disability-inclusive and sensitive provisions. Some laws and guidelines create overlaps and thus need harmonisation and synchronisation for better strategic planning and tactical implementation. [For instance, the RPwD Act, 2016 mentions disasters under Section 8 but not climate change, biodiversity loss and air pollution (agents of triple planetary crisis which requires legislative amendment to the act)].

3. Disability-led Development and Climate Action – Inclusion of Disability-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including rare diseases, invisible disabilities, neurological disorders, chronic illnesses and other disabling conditions that are unrecognised and neglected in the District-, State- and National-level Climate Action, Disaster Management, Heat Action, Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), National Programme on Climate Change & Human Health (NPCCHH), and other relevant guidelines, including DIDRR guidelines and the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health.

4. Addition to Parameters for National Multidimensional Poverty Index: Apart from the existing parameters, the following shall be included: 1. Climate and Disaster Resilience/ Preparedness, 2. Disability-adjusted Life Years, 3. Universal Accessibility, and 4. Universal Health Coverage affects the cost of living and quality of life and triggers hunger and poverty.

5. Climate Litigation represents a frontier solution to change the dynamics of the fight against climate change. Children and youth, women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples, among others, are taking a prominent role in bringing environmental cases and driving climate change governance reform globally. Following the suit, persons with disabilities must employ legal advocacy to achieve disability-inclusive climate justice.
   To provide access to justice to fight climate change for persons with disabilities, our courts and tribunals must adhere to the principles of universal accessibility in all aspects, including the built environment, court websites and transportation.

6. Disability-dedicated Climate Finance as financial inclusion ensures disability-inclusive climate action. Expansion and integration of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) towards Disability-inclusive Climate Action. Additionally, proportional budgetary allocation for persons with disabilities to tackle historical marginalisation and backwardness.

7. Universal Accessibility and Climate Resilient Vernacular Architecture in our built environment to ensure we leave no one behind in letter and spirit.

8. Universal health coverage and insurance with provisions covering protection from the impacts of climate change and its induced losses and damages of life and property including assistive devices and technologies.

9. Data-driven decision-making (DDDM): Maintenance of Real-time disaggregated data at the National, State, Regional and District levels and Open Source Databases, Toolkits, Lexicons, Manuals, SOPs, Handbooks, Resource Mapping, etc., using state-of-the-art technologies and best practices, including Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Data Science, and geographic information system (GIS), etc. Maintenance of a dashboard collating all datasects for actionable decision-making.

10. Periodic climate risk assessment and dynamic identification of vulnerabilities and maintenance of vulnerability and other index/indices based on intersectional factors including disability-adjusted life years, etc.

11. Ensuring universal accessibility in Early Warning Systems and Climate-induced Disaster Risk Reduction viz. initiatives like Sachet National Disaster Alert Portal & Mobile App, ISLRTC's online interpreting services / video relay services (VRS) to meet the requirement of deaf community in an emergency situation through WhatsApp video call, etc.

12. Initiating Academic Journals, Certificate Courses, Capacity Building Programmes, Ideathons, etc. on theme of Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities. Additionally, inclusion in academic curriculum and research concerning the intersectionality of climate change and disability.

13. Research concerning the inclusion of risk assessment of vulnerable communities and its sustainable solutions under the mandate of The National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC) that seeks to build a dynamic and vibrant

knowledge system that informs and supports national policy and action for responding effectively to climate change challenges.

14. Establishment of a National, State, and District Task Force to monitor and implement SDG 13 (Climate Action) Targets and mandates of the proposed National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities. Live tracker and dashboard for monitoring and citizen participation like SDG Tracker and CoWin.

15. Formation of the National Commission for Vulnerable Communities under Article 340 of the Consitution of India to investigate the conditions of vulnerable communities, including children, women, old adults, and persons with disabilities, because of adverse affects of climate change, its induced disasters, and other such planetary crisis and threats on various dimensions including, cost of living, quality of life, and disability-adjusted life years.

10. Representation Petition for Formation of National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities

In pursuance of data-driven and evidence-based research and advocacy endeavours carried out by Adv. Abhishek Kumar, NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellow on Disability, this representation petition calls for initiating and establishing the National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008, for the reasons mentioned hereinafter.

Acknowledging that climate change acts as a "threat multiplier", undermining all Sustainable Development Goals and having a disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities, including children, women, old adults, and persons with disabilities, given their heightened vulnerability, viz. greater exposure, higher sensitivity and lower ability to adapt and mitigate with respect to physical and mental health; capability deprivation; hunger, malnutrition, security, and poverty; livelihood and decent employment; environmental migration and displacement; cost of living and quality of life; adequate, affordable and accessible housing and habitat rights; water, sanitation, and menstrual hygiene; Abuse, Discrimination, Exploitation, and Violence (including sexual violence); Disability-adjusted Life Years; Eco-ableism; disasters induced losses and damages, and beyond.

Reaffirming that the best way to protect people from climate change is by tackling *"inequities such as those based on gender, ethnicity, disability, age, location and income"*.

Understanding that *"assessing vulnerability is the first step towards assessing climate risk."*

Realising that vulnerable communities, including - children, women, old adults and persons with disabilities, despite contributing least to climate change (historically responsible), are at the forefront of climate change impacts and yet are subject to exclusionary and eco-ableist responses to it.

Taking into account, the Supreme Court of India's 2024 judgment of MK Ranjitsinh & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors., wherein it linked the right against adverse effects of climate change to Articles 14 and 21, and held that the right to life and equality cannot be fully realised without a clean and healthy environment and that "Right Against Adverse Effects of Climate Change" is a distinct Fundamental Human Right recognised by Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Recalling that the government has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008 ("NAPCC"), which highlights 8 National Missions that outline priorities for mitigation and adaptation to combat climate change. These include – the National Solar Mission, the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, the National Water Mission, the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, the National Mission for a Green India, the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, and the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change. These National Missions are supplemented by actions of the State governments and Union Territories, which have put in place their respective State Action Plans on Climate Change with the goal of mainstreaming climate change concerns in their respective planning process.

Appreciating the fact that in order to expand its activities in different sectors to achieve the country's updated climate action targets, the government has decided to add three new 'missions' - on coastal ecosystem, human health and sustainable transport - to better implement its existing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Noting that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched the National Program for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) in 2019 to create awareness among the general population (vulnerable community), healthcare providers and policymakers regarding the impacts of climate change on human health, among other objective actions. [multidimensional impact, so not just a dedicated mission that covers all aspects of intersectionality rather than a program dealing with only elements.] The programmes work to strengthen India's health sector response to climate impacts. But as the programme covers only the health aspects while the climate change impacts are multi-dimensional, there is a need for a national-level umbrella mission that factors in all the spheres in which climate change acts as a threat multiplier from the vantage point of vulnerable communities, including children, women, old adults, persons with disabilities (recognized and unrecognized disabilities, rare conditions, invisible disabilities, etc.) transgenders, migrants, minorities, small and landless farmers, forest dwellers, street vendors, etc. (given the disproportionate impact on them because of greater exposure, higher sensitivity and lower ability to adapt and mitigate) and establish a National Mission on Climate Change

and Vulnerable Communities.

Reiterating Bharat's civilisational value of सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः (may all sentient beings be at peace) and Acharya Chanakya's niti that Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi quoted at the United Nations, "कालाति क्रमात्काल एव फलम पि बति " (when the right action is not taken at the right time, then time itself defeats the purpose of such action), and thus, we need to act

now as with every passing year where vulnerable communities are left behind in the climate action - historically backward communities are losing out on their optimal productivity and are subject to climate change induced disability-adjusted life years.

Requesting the Government of India and its concerned ministries to take cognisance of the overwhelming evidence that establishes that climate change has cascading and compounding impact on vulnerable communities in all aspects of their lives and not just physical and mental health and initiate and establish a 'National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities' in order to assess the vulnerability of respective vulnerable communities including persons with disabilities, frame inclusive climate action plans and just and time-bound implementation of inclusive laws, plans and policies that leaves no one behind in accordance with Prime Minister Modi's mantra of *"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas"* with the objective to ensure inclusive climate justice for all in letter and spirit.

We call for us to 'Build Forward Better' and not 'Build Back Better' because building back would only restore the pre-existing *status quo*, which was neither climate-resilient nor universally accessible. Ergo, we need to build forward – all-inclusive, climate-resilient, and universally accessible infrastructure – together based on the principle of 'leave no one behind' in order to strive to achieve Inclusive Development and Climate Justice.

Dhanyawaad!

Adv. Abhishek Kumar

11. Case Studies

A. Climate Anxiety

Ar. Kavya Poornima Balajepalli, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (India)

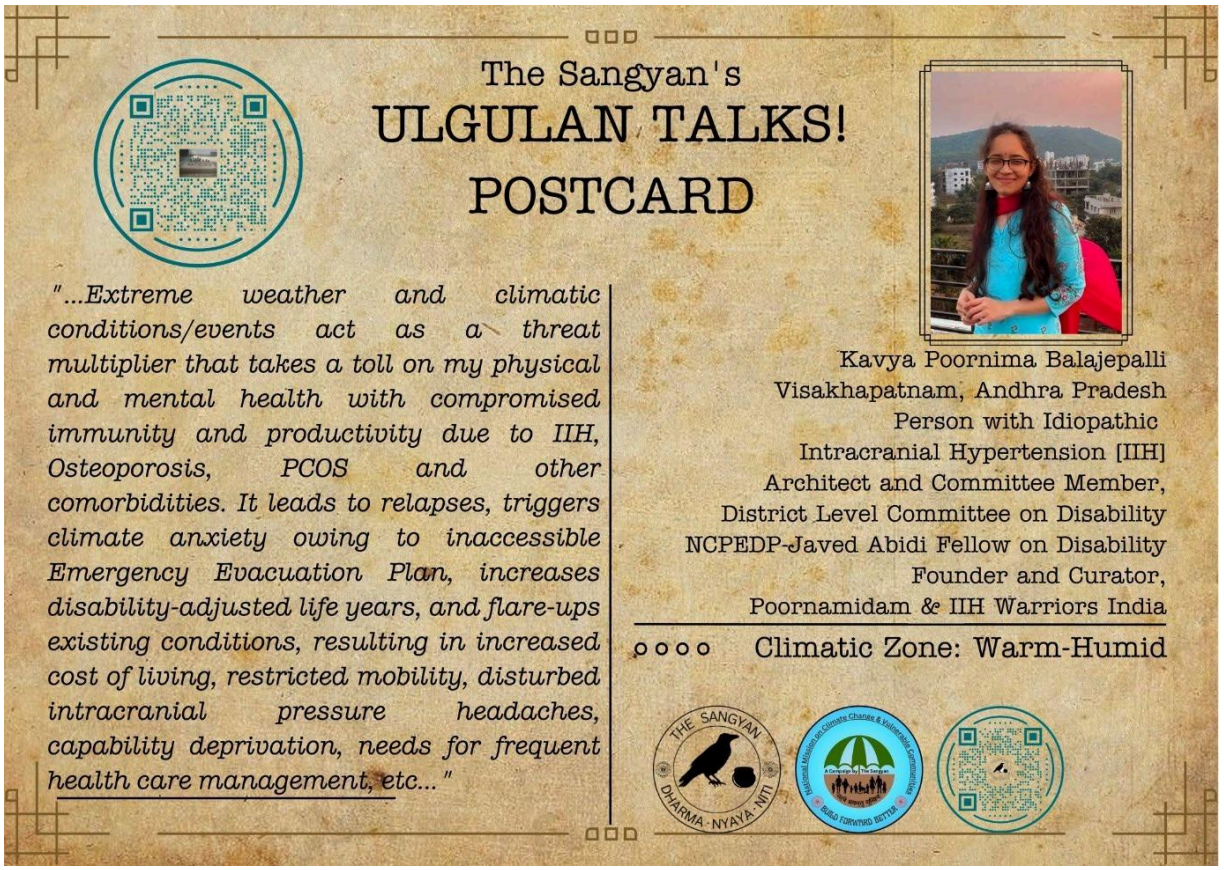


Image Description [Alt Text]: A beige colour postcard with the title: "The Sangyan's Ulgulan Talks! Postcard"; the following quote: "...Extreme weather and climatic conditions/events act as a threat multiplier that takes a toll on my physical and mental health with compromised immunity and productivity due to IIH, Osteoporosis, PCOS and other comorbidities. It leads to relapses, triggers climate anxiety owing to inaccessible Emergency Evacuation Plan, increases disability-adjusted life years, and flare-ups existing conditions, resulting in increased cost of living, restricted mobility, disturbed intracranial pressure headaches, capability deprivation, needs for frequent health care management, etc..."; and the biosketch: "Kavya Poornima Balajepalli from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, Person with Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension [IIH], Architect and Committee Member, District Level Committee on Disability, NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellow on Disability, Founder and Curator, Poornamidam & IIH Warriors India". Additionally, there is the picture of Kavya Poornima, logos of The Sangyan and Build Forward Better Campaign, and QR Codes of The Sangyan and Ulgulan Talks! Interview Series.

A woman with disability lives with late visual impairment due to Optic Nerve Atrophy which is caused by Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH), a rare Neurological disorder. She's having 2% keyhole vision in her right eye and 0% in her left eye. She survives with a VP Shunt as a part of management for her incurable condition while she also develops osteoporosis, both of which limit her mobility. She has learned that living at high altitudes and altitude changes aggravates and deteriorates her condition. So do cold and major barometric changes like grey skies, high humidity, rising temperatures, and storms can also

bring on headaches and low pressure. Pressure changes that cause weather changes are thought to trigger chemical and electrical changes in the brain. This irritates her nerves, leading to headaches and worsening her physical and mental health condition and triggering climate anxiety (also called eco-anxiety is a state of 'heightened emotional, mental or somatic distress in response to dangerous changes in the climate system' because of increased frequency and intensity of cyclones and rain in her case).

The cyclones have a major effect on intracranial pressures (ICP), which often elevates the headaches and hampers her productivity. This affects her efficiency at work resulting in her inability to travel, sit for long hours, miss out on doing committed tasks, and attend some important events, among other opportunities and capability deprivation. Monsoons and cyclones cause relapse in her condition, making it difficult to manage. Apart from the extreme conditions, altitudes also adversely affect the ICP. All these factors act as barriers and affect the place where she can live, travel, and work. So whenever there is heavy rain or an approaching cyclone, it creates anxiety for her as she becomes uncertain about her health and work going ahead.

The existing coping measures (including traditional) to deal with the economic and non-economic loss and damage (NELD) and climate impacts include avoiding travelling, taking medicines, practising meditation/yoga, and cancelling plans in advance to avoid working in bad physical and mental condition.

B. Disability-adjusted Life Years (DALYs)
Anjali Vyas, Bhandara, Maharashtra

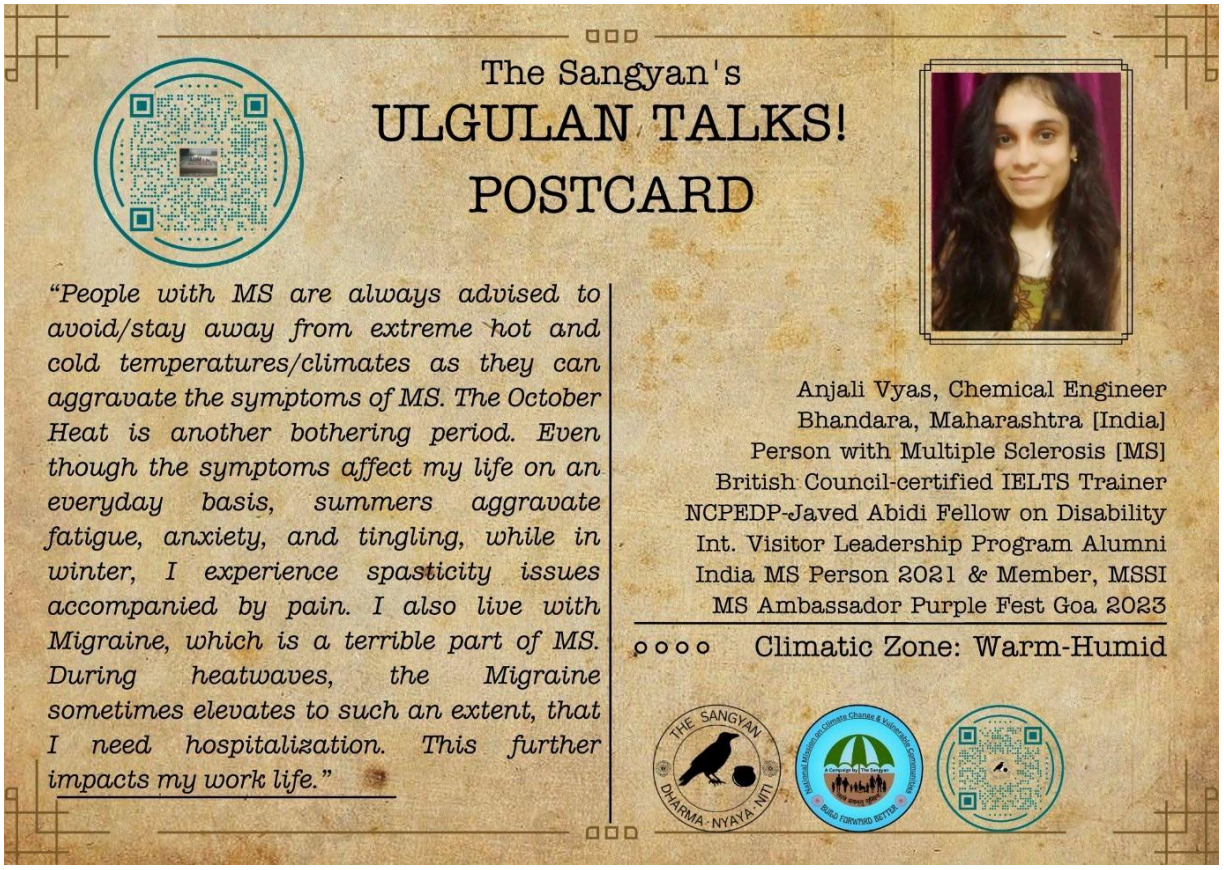


Image Description [Alt Text]: A beige colour postcard with the title: "The Sangyan's Ulgulan Talks! Postcard"; the following quote: "People with MS are always advised to avoid/stay away from extreme hot and cold temperatures/climates as they can aggravate the symptoms of MS. The October Heat is another bothering period. Even though the symptoms affect my life on an everyday basis, summers aggravate fatigue, anxiety, and tingling, while in winter, I experience spasticity issues accompanied by pain. I also live with Migraine, which is a terrible part of MS. During heatwaves, the Migraine sometimes elevates to such an extent, that I need hospitalization. This further impacts my work life."; and the biosketch: "Anjali Vyas, Chemical Engineer Bhandara, Maharashtra [India]; Person with Multiple Sclerosis [MS]; British Council-certified IELTS Trainer; NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellow on Disability; Int. Visitor Leadership Program Alumni; India MS Person 2021 & Member, MSSI; MS Ambassador Purple Fest Goa 2023; & Climatic Zone: Warm-Humid". Additionally, there is the picture of Anjali Vyas, logos of The Sangyan and Build Forward Better Campaign, and QR Codes of The Sangyan and Ulgulan Talks! Interview Series.

A person living with Multiple Sclerosis [MS] from the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, (India) needs to take regular injections [Interferon beta-1a (IFNbeta-1a), recommended for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS), which must be injected intramuscularly every week.]. In October 2022, she couldn't take her injections because of the waterlogging caused by unseasonal rainfall [climate change affect the intensity and frequency of precipitation].

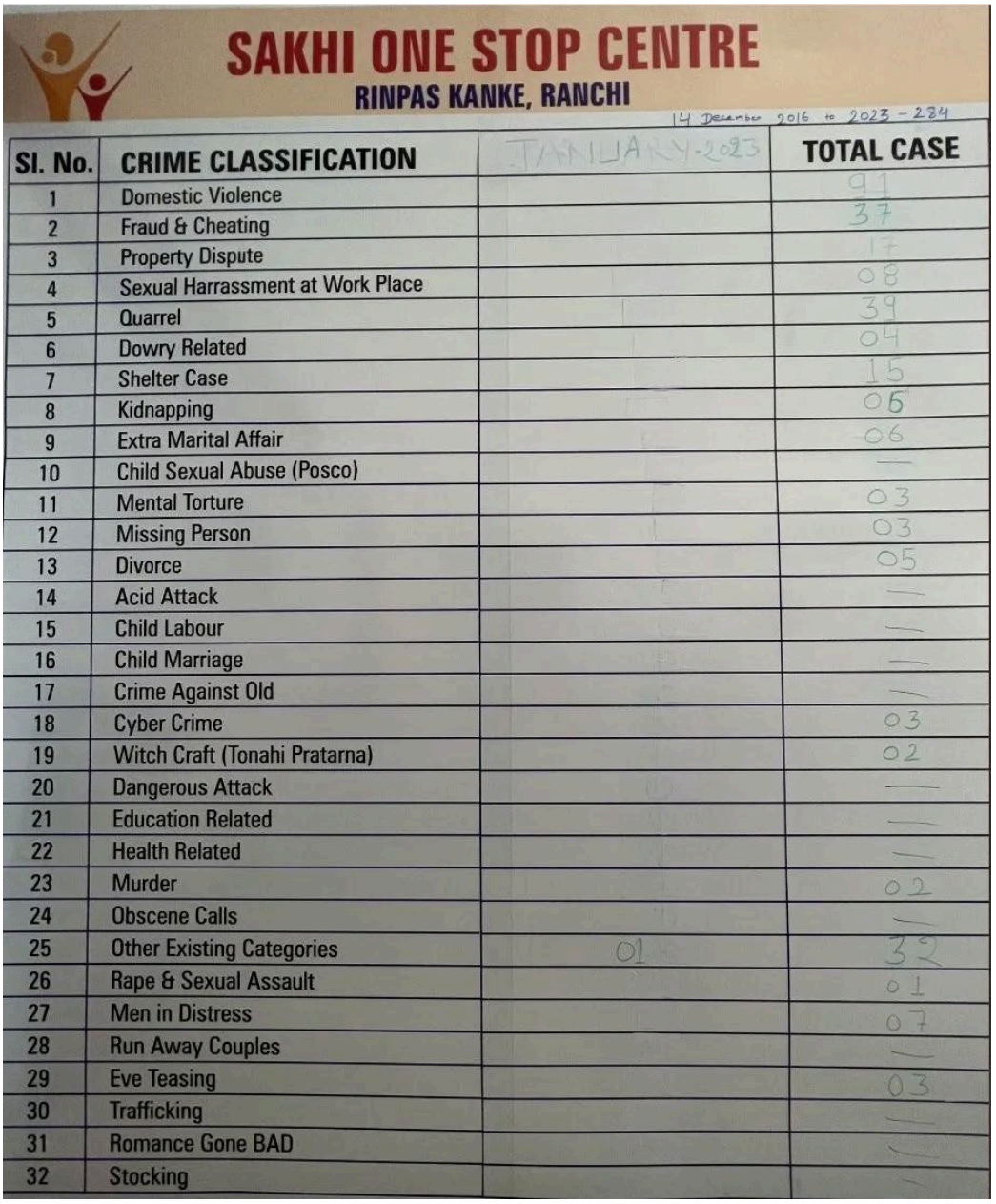
The impact of climate change (for instance, extreme weather events like heat waves and unseasonal rainfall) not only has direct impacts on the health of persons with disabilities by

worsening their conditions (flaring up the symptoms) but also has indirect impacts like those that disabled people get affected disproportionately which must be addressed by building climate resilient and universally accessible infrastructure along with other efforts to fight inequalities. [“The best way to give effective and lasting protection from climate chaos is through action that addresses inequities such as those based on gender, ethnicity, disability, age, location, and income”].

The injections that the Person with Multiple Sclerosis takes need to be refrigerated. With the rise in temperature levels and further resulting power cuts, make it even more difficult to store/keep these injections at the required temperature, resulting in deteriorating physical health conditions, which further triggers mental anxiety by contemplating extreme situations and conditions that may have a further negative impact on the life of persons living with Multiple Sclerosis.

A. Climate change induced Violence

Climate change triggers abuse, discrimination, exploitation, and violence, further marginalising women with disabilities.[36] These are some news headlines that highlight the grave threat climate change and its induced disaster poses for women and girls with disabilities — "Increase in disasters leads to spike in intentional homicides of women: UN Report", "Lured by free ration, Hindu minor girl gang raped amid floods in Pak's Sindh", "Heatwave and the risk of intimate partner violence", and "The Shadow Pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19".



SAKHI ONE STOP CENTRE
RINPAS KANKE, RANCHI

14 December 2016 to 2023 - 234

Sl. No.	CRIME CLASSIFICATION	JANUARY-2023	TOTAL CASE
1	Domestic Violence		91
2	Fraud & Cheating		37
3	Property Dispute		15
4	Sexual Harrassment at Work Place		08
5	Quarrel		39
6	Dowry Related		04
7	Shelter Case		15
8	Kidnapping		05
9	Extra Marital Affair		06
10	Child Sexual Abuse (Posco)		—
11	Mental Torture		03
12	Missing Person		03
13	Divorce		05
14	Acid Attack		—
15	Child Labour		—
16	Child Marriage		—
17	Crime Against Old		—
18	Cyber Crime		03
19	Witch Craft (Tonahi Pratarna)		02
20	Dangerous Attack		—
21	Education Related		—
22	Health Related		—
23	Murder		02
24	Obscene Calls		—
25	Other Existing Categories	01	32
26	Rape & Sexual Assault		01
27	Men in Distress		07
28	Run Away Couples		—
29	Eve Teasing		03
30	Trafficking		—
31	Romance Gone BAD		—
32	Stocking		—

[36] *Abhishek Kumar, Climate Change, Disability, Gender and Abuse: Making A Case for Disaggregated Data, The Sangyan, Available at <https://sangyan.medium.com/disability-gender-and-abuse-making-a-case-for-disaggregated-data-e9caa39c58f4> Accessed on 29th January 2024.*

Image Description [Alt Text]: A whiteboard table providing the following tables: SAKHI ONE STOP CENTRE — RINPAS KANKE, RANCHI dated 14th December 2016 to 2023 (284 cases) — Picture dated 28th February 2023. CRIME CLASSIFICATION (Total Cases): 1. Domestic Violence (91) 2. Fraud & Cheating (37) 3. Property Dispute
(17) 4. Sexual Harassment at Work Place (08) 5. Quarrel (39) 6. Dowry Related (04) 7. Shelter Case (15) 8. Kidnapping (06) 9. Extra Marital Affair (06) 10. Child Sexual Abuse (Posco) (-) 11. Mental Torture (03) 12. Missing Person (03) 13. Divorce (05) 14. Acid Attack (-) 15. Child Labour (-) 16. Child Marriage (-) 17. Crime Against Old (-) 18. Cyber Crime (03) 19. Witch Craft (Tonahi Pratarna) (2) 20. Dangerous Attack (-) 21. Education Related (-) 22. Health Related (-) 23. Murder (2) 24. Obscene Calls (-) 25. Other Existing Categories (32) 26. Rape & Sexual Assault (01) 27. Men in Distress (07) 28. Run Away Couples (-) 29. Eve Teasing (03) 30. Trafficking (-) 31. Romance Gone BAD (-) and 32. Stalking (-).

In order to understand this dimension, a field visit was carried out in February 2023 in Ranchi and Lohardaga districts (ones with the highest and lowest crime against women records) of Jharkhand (India/Bharat), the researcher (author) explored 'Sakhi One Stop Centre' and Mahila Thana. During the conversations with the concerned officials, important perspectives that came across were that there are lived experiences based on anecdotal evidence about climate change-induced disasters and other emergency situations disproportionately impacting women and girls with disabilities with respect to abuse, discrimination, exploitation, and violence.

As no such record is maintained, such narratives and following policy measures are not there in the imagination to be formulated in order to deal with such evolving situations. No action is being taken because of the lack of data despite understanding the fact that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Ergo, there is a serious need to maintain disaggregated data as directed by the Supreme Court of India in Patan Jamal Vali vs State of Andhra Pradesh.[37]

[37] *Patan Jamal Vali vs State of Andhra Pradesh, Cr. App №452 of 2021, Available on <https://www.livelaw.in/pdf_upload/patan-jamal-vali-vs-state-of-andhra-pradesh-ll-2021-sc-231-392524.pdf> Accessed on 29th January 2024.*

12. Annexure and References

1. Representation Petition on initiating and establishing a National Mission on Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities.
2. Interviews of Persons with Disabilities documenting their lived experiences with climate change-induced impacts from the vantage point of vulnerable communities (persons with disabilities, including invisible disabilities, rare conditions, chronic illnesses and other unrecognised and neglected disabilities) residing in different geographies and climatic zones of India.
2. Blogging (Research papers and factsheets) on the intersectionality of climate change and disability.
3. Know Your Concept - A Lexicon Series - A series documenting relevant concepts and jargon relevant to the intersectionality of climate change and disability.
4. Webinar on Climate Justice and Disability: Why We Need to Build Forward Better? co- organised by The Sangyan, in collaboration with the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People [NCPEDP].
5. Radio Udaan Podcast: Badalta Daur in conversation with Abhishek, NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellow on Climate Change & Disability
6. Online Survey on Impact of Climate Change on Person with Disabilities (विकलांग व्यक्तियों पर जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभाव पर ऑनलाइन सर्वेक्षण) [Questionnaire]
7. Survey on Impact of Climate Change on Persons with Disabilities: Results and Analysis
8. Online Survey on Ban of Single-Use Plastic and Eco-Ableism [Questionnaire]
9. Online Survey on Ban of Single-Use Plastic and Eco-Ableism: Results and Analysis
10. Frequently Asked Questions - Creating awareness and the first point of reference addressing common questions for learners to explore further.
11. Press Releases on the intersectionality of climate change and disability

13. About the Author

As a lawyer, environmental researcher and disability rights advocate, Abhishek have ideated, founded and curates 'The Sangyan' that works on the intersectionality of Law, Environment (Sustainability) and Inclusion (Disability). He's a person with a disability (visual impairment — low vision) and a member of the National Disability Network (India). He's empanelled as a research expert on climate change and disability on 'The Global South Climate Database' by Carbon Brief and Reuters Institute's Oxford Climate Journalism Network.

As the NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellow on Disability (2021-2024), he pursued data-driven and evidence-based research, advocacy and campaign endeavours to address climate change's multi-order and disproportionate impacts on persons with disability and collaborated with UN India, UNICEF NYHQ, UN Women India, G20 India and Brazil, IIED, UN CSW, UNESCO MGIEP, COSP, University of Exeter, Jindal Global University, International Purple Fest Goa 2024 , and other national, regional, and international forums and organizations to advocate for inclusive climate action and disaster risk reduction. He represented India at the 18th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation in Tanzania and the G20 Brazil Youth Pre-Summit 2024 — Talking Across Generations on Education (TAGe) in Brazil.

His contributions to disability inclusion include inputs to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 26 and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' General Comment on Persons with Disabilities in Risky Situations which were duly acknowledged and included in the documents. He co-drafted the 'Charter of Demands: Call to Action for Disability Justice' and co-curates the "Ink For Inclusion" Initiative and 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' Campaign towards achieving an all-inclusive, climate-resilient, equitable, sustainable, and universally accessible — election in India. He co-authored an article on 'Climate-Resilient and Accessible Architecture' for the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and penned "We Need a Disability-led Climate Action" for UNICEF's Voices of Youth. He's the recipient of the 15th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award, 2024, Diversability's 5th Annual 2024 D-30 Disability Impact List Honoree and 'Best Professional: Advocating for Inclusive Development for PwDs'. He's also curating the 'Build Forward Better' Campaign addressing the 'Common Concerns of Humankind' by 'Building Forward Better' (climate-resilient and sustainable) where 'We All Belong' (inclusive, equitable, and universally accessible).

Moreover, he has contributed to the 'Finding Sizes For All: A Report on the Status of the Right to Accessibility in India' by the Centre for Disability Studies, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad by conducting accessibility audits of sports facilities as well as pre-legislative stakeholders consultation process pertaining to the Supreme Court of India's directives in the Rajiv Raturi vs Union of India case regarding accessibility standards and compliance rules. My other major interventions include contributions to the UN India's Disability Inclusion Strategy and the Supreme Court of India's comprehensive 'Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities'. I additionally authored "Baseline Report on Impact of Climate Change on Persons with Disabilities" and co-authored UNESCO-MGIEP's Report "Pointers of Action: Climate Change Anxiety Among the Youth and How it Can Be Tackled through Social Emotional Learning".

I have been curating the 'Ulgulan Talks!' documenting stories and lived experiences concerning multi-order disproportionate impacts of 'triple planetary crises' (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss) of vulnerable communities (children, women, old adults and persons with disabilities, among others). I'm also curating Prakalp Drishtant exploring and promoting the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge for Civilizational Evolution and Continuum and to address the 'Common Concerns of Humankind'!

The author can be reached at abhishek.ncpedp@gmail.com and linktr.ee/sangyan

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