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Name: **Md. Mousuf Raza**

Supervisor's Name: **Prof. Sara Begum**

Name of the Department: Dept. of Teacher Training & Non-Formal Education (IASE)

Thesis title: **Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes for Persons with Disabilities: An Exploratory Study**

Keywords: Community Based Rehabilitation, Persons with Disabilities, Non-governmental Organization

Findings

The study examines various aspects of Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programs implemented by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Delhi-NCR across different components such as health, education, livelihood, social empowerment, and overall infrastructure. It reveals a varied landscape where NGOs focus differently on these components, with a notable emphasis on empowering disabled individuals, conducting health-related awareness and screening camps, and providing assistive devices. However, there's a significant gap in addressing livelihood components, with only a few NGOs actively working on vocational training and job empowerment.

NGOs primarily operate at two levels: main centers where therapeutic services and skill-based training occur, and community levels where awareness and health camps are conducted. Despite generally good physical infrastructure with accessible entrances and adequate facilities for PwDs, there's a scarcity of assistive devices, particularly for reading, writing, and math. Additionally, while NGOs collaborate with government and non-governmental agencies for aid and legal guardianship, they often face challenges due to irregular funding and lack of support from governmental disability rehabilitation centers.

The study also highlights societal attitudes towards disability, with some families concealing disability or relying on traditional beliefs rather than rehabilitation. However, a significant portion of parents actively participate in their child's rehabilitation, demonstrating a commitment to their independence. Yet, there's a prevalent issue of low self-esteem among PwDs and acceptance of disability, compounded by socio-economic challenges.

Overall, the findings underscore the complex landscape of CBR programs in India, characterized by varying NGO focuses, infrastructure adequacy, funding challenges, societal attitudes, and participation levels of PwDs. Despite the efforts of NGOs and some governmental support, significant gaps remain in addressing the diverse needs of disabled individuals and promoting their full inclusion and empowerment within society.