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**Topic of the Research:** A study of status and challenges faced by women with disability in vocational education

This exploratory research was designed to study the status and challenges faced by women with disability at vocational education. The goals of this investigation were to investigate the status of vocational education, along with what kind of challenges women with disability are facing while pursuing vocational education. Also, this study was aim to zero down the challenges which were faced by vocational trainers and managers while imparting vocational education to women with disability. The research was done in vocational centers / institutes located Delhi.

The study adopted the descriptive and exploratory in nature and mixed qualitative and quantitative methods were used. Purposive sampling was used to choose NGOs / institutes. Observation checklist, structure interview schedule and questionnaire were used to collect data.

The study discovered that for improved administration and operation, NGOs and vocational institutes create their own rules. They have a very well-organized management where all the programmers are formulated with the involvement of board members, directors, project managers, and most importantly, parents / guardians of women with disabilities, according to the responses obtained from the managers and teachers of various organizations. They said that the organization's operation is contingent upon the requirements and needs of the moment. In current scenario, it is posting COVID- 19, everybody understood importance of technology, and they are trying to improvise their on-going courses technology friendly. They have also distributed electronic devices for free, so that, students can attend online classes.

The investigator also found that, most of the students belongs to financially weak background, which has become a barrier for them to attain regular education. In few cases (as informed by teachers and women with disabilities) they are not allowed to go to school. Even for vocational education, family members/relatives/friends give constant encouragement and share its benefits.

Women with disabilities clearly exhibit significant improvements in their confidence and ability to express their likes and dislikes after finishing the course and additional activities offered by NGOs and vocational institutes. Each of their personalities has undergone a favorable attitude shift.

Most of the NGOs/vocational centers who are working the severe disabilities are working on personal hygiene issues, stress, mental health and independently community mobilization of disabled persons regardless of their gender. It is also reflected very strongly in the study that women with disability are facing sexual abuse which include both physical and verbal. These women spend their life in coping with stress and anxiety, which could occur due to any reason. NGOs/institutes are aware of this problem and are addressing this through conducting various meditation programs and counseling programs for women with disability.

Additionally, it is observed by the investigator that there is privatization of vocational education as well. There are some centers who are imparting vocational education which is up to date and as per to the demand of today's time. For example, there is an NGOs which is giving ample opportunities in the field of modeling, ad- making, computer training etc. Here many facilities were provided, hence they are charging good amount from parents. Also, parents have no problem because they can afford it and it also satisfied their ego. There are many incidences where parents were not satisfying with the ongoing vocational course. As a result, there is a constant tussle between teachers, management, and parents. Parents do compare their child with others.