

## INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY

### What is Special education?

The practice of educating students in a way that accommodates their individual differences, disabilities, and special needs.

### International Classification of Impairment, Disability and Handicap as given by World Health Organisation (WHO)

#### Definitions of Impairment, Disability, Handicap

**Impairment:** According to the ICIDH, impairment is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or functions, generally taken to be at organ level. Impairment is damage to tissue due to disease or trauma.

A person who has poor or no vision due to damage to retina or optic nerve may be said to have a visual impairment.

**Disability:** Disability has been defined as any restriction or lack of ability (resulting from an impairment) to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being, generally taken to be at the level of the individual.

Disability denotes the consequences of impairment in terms of functional performance and activity by the individual. A person who has an optic nerve or retinal damage would have limitations in performing those tasks that requires the use of eyesight.

**Handicap:** The ICIDH defines Handicap as a disadvantage for an individual, resulting from an impairment or disability, which limits or prevents fulfilment of a role, that is normal (depending on age, sex and social cultural factors) for that individual.

Condition	Concerned with	Represents
Impairment	Abnormalities of body structure, organs, appearance and system functioning	Disturbances at organ /tissue level
Disability	Limitations/loss of functional performance and activities	Disturbance at personal level
Handicap	Disadvantages resulting from impairment and disabilities	Situation specific limitations

**Impairment:** Impairment refers to the presence of a specific condition that results in an abnormality of Psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function that affects a specific part of the body.

Examples of impairments include blindness, deafness, loss of sight in an eye, paralysis of a limb, amputation of a limb, mental retardation, partial sight, and loss of speech.

**Handicap:** The term handicap refers to impairment or disability that is a disadvantage for that individual and that limits or restricts the individual from doing something.

**Disability:** The term disability refers to a reduction or loss of ability due to impairment.

### **Definition of Disability:**

According to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

**“Person with disability”** means a person with long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society equally with others.”

To be considered a person with disability under the RPWD Act, an individual must have a disability that:

- Is long-term (lasting for more than 6 months)
- Causes significant difficulties in one or more areas of life (eg: mobility, communication, learning)
- When interacts with barriers (environmental, social, and attitudinal) that hinder full participation in society.

### **REFERENCES:**

-Understanding Disability <https://specialeducationnotes.co.in/IDDPAPER/UNIT1.htm>

Link

<https://megscpwd.gov.in/disabilitydef.html#:~:text=According%20to%20The%20Rights%20of,in%20society%20equally%20with%20others.>

Link <https://med.emory.edu/departments/pediatrics/divisions/neonatology/dpc/impairment-mx.html>