

## **Two-Day International Conference**

### **Concept Note and Call for Papers**

#### ***Disability Justice: Looking Beyond Ableist Frames***

**Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK)**

**12 & 13 November, 2024**

**Conference Location:** IDSK, DD 27/D Salt Lake Kolkata 700064.

It is a routine observation that people with disability/ies are accorded inferior and peripheral status in most societies. Efforts to redress disability inequities in terms of lawmaking and policy changes have had a positive impact to some extent but have ultimately proved inadequate in eradicating various forms of cultural stigma associated with disability. People with disability/ies are still struggling to make their presence felt in public spheres and attain a sense of belonging in societies that have historically designed to keep them out. Even today, people with disability/ies often experience the onslaught of the medical model that encourages their institutionalization and the ‘fixing’ of their ‘individual’ problems through medical solutions. People with disability/ies themselves have responded by advocating the social model wherein they have asserted that the problem of disability lies not in their bodies but in social environments which must be made accessible to persons with disability/ies.

The disability justice model builds upon the social model by perceiving disability in line with other identity categories such as gender, ethnicity, caste, etc. The ‘solution’ to disability is therefore not its erasure but rather the acknowledgment of its existence as a crucial consideration in community blueprints. This necessitates a movement out of ableist frameworks which tend to fixate on ability expectations and their consequences, and towards exploring the potential of disability communities, the creative possibilities they offer, and their contributions to the flourishing of societies. It calls for dismantling common stereotypes of disabled people as tragic victims, villains, innocent angels, and/or supercrips, and instead garnering greater respect for people with disability/ies and their perspectives in the framing of societies.

This conference aims to brainstorm and imagine collectively what a truly just society for persons with disability/ies will look like. It seeks to dismantle ableist frameworks which, view persons with disability/ies as exceptions to the rule. How and in what ways can diverse body/minds thrive in societies? What can we do to move beyond discourses of rehabilitation when talking about disability? How can an accommodation of a difference outlook help reframe ability expectations? The conference seeks to deliberate on and debate some of these questions with reference to South Asia in General and India in particular.

Abstracts of 200-250 words are invited from scholars with experience in disability research, practitioners, and activists on the following broad themes:

- Challenging Ableism and Shifting Paradigms
- Intersectionality and Disability Justice
- Redefining Accessible Education, Employment, and Technology
- Disability Advocacy, Activism, and Inclusivity
- Disability and Kinship Systems
- Reimagining Health, Caregiving, and Wellness through Disability Frameworks
- Legal Frameworks and Policy Development for Disability Rights
- Arts, Culture, and Representation: Redefining Disability Narratives

Please send your abstracts with a 150-word bio-note to [disabilityidsk@gmail.com](mailto:disabilityidsk@gmail.com).

### **Timelines**

Date of submission of abstracts: **15.05.2024**

Date for confirming acceptance of abstracts: **30.06.2024**

Date for submission of full paper: **15.09.2024**

We look forward to your valuable contributions to the conference. For queries, please feel free to write to the conference coordinators at [disabilityidsk@gmail.com](mailto:disabilityidsk@gmail.com).

Best Regards,  
Conference Coordinators  
Nandini Ghosh & Rimjhim Bhattacharjee