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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 January 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Transforming Lives: Education, Livelihood, and Social Empowerment for the Differently - Abled

People with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (i) Disabled persons have the inherent right to respect for their human dignity. Disabled persons, whatever the origin, nature and seriousness of their handicaps and disabilities, have the same fundamental rights as their fellow-citizens of the same age, which implies first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life, as normal and full as possible. (ii) Health equity for persons with disabilities is a global health priority – 1 in 6 people worldwide has significant disability, and this number is expected to increase. Health equity for persons with disabilities is a human right priority – persons with disabilities have the right to enjoy their highest attainable standard of health. Yet, persons with disabilities often experience violence, prejudice, and face barriers to access healthcare. Health equity for persons with disabilities is a development priority – more persons with disabilities live in low- and middle-income countries. Disability and poverty mutually reinforce each other, and contribute to health inequities. (iii)

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan (RSKS) is dedicated to creating a society where differently-abled individuals are empowered to lead fulfilling and dignified lives. Through holistic programs encompassing education, livelihood, health, social inclusion, and empowerment, RSKS ensures that individuals with disabilities receive the support and opportunities they need to thrive. With a focus on rural areas, the organization champions the rights of the differently-abled and works across the following key sectors:

Educational Empowerment: Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan firmly believes in the transformative power of education and has implemented numerous initiatives to ensure that differently-abled individuals have equal access to educational opportunities. Our organization works to break down barriers by providing accessible education materials, assistive technologies, and scholarships etc for the diverse needs of differently-abled learners.

Livelihood Opportunities: Recognizing the importance of economic independence, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has instituted livelihood programs designed to empower differently-abled individuals by providing skills training and facilitating employment opportunities or supporting them in opening shops. We collaborate with local businesses and organizations to create inclusive workplaces that accommodate the diverse abilities of our beneficiaries. Our vocational training initiatives span various industries, ensuring that differently-abled individuals acquire skills relevant to their interests and the demands of the job market. This approach not only enhances their employability but also contributes to breaking down societal stigmas surrounding disability.

Health and Well-being: Health is a fundamental aspect of human rights, and Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is committed to ensuring that differently-abled individuals have access to quality healthcare services. We work to remove physical and attitudinal barriers that often hinder their access to medical facilities. Our organization collaborates with healthcare professionals to provide specialized care, rehabilitation, and assistive devices tailored to the unique needs of each individual. Additionally, we promote awareness about preventive healthcare measures within differently-abled communities, aiming to enhance their overall well-being.

Social Inclusion Initiatives: Social inclusion is paramount in creating a society where differently-abled individuals are recognized, respected, and actively participate. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has implemented various initiatives to break down social barriers and challenge stereotypes associated with disability. Community awareness campaigns are conducted to educate the public about the capabilities and potential of differently-abled individuals. Through cultural events, workshops, and sensitization programs, we aim to create an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and promotes a sense of unity within communities.

Empowerment through Disabled People Organizations (DPOs): Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has taken a significant step in amplifying the voices of differently-abled individuals by forming Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) in various rural areas.

These organizations serve as platforms for advocacy, where differently-abled individuals actively participate in decision-making processes, contribute to policy discussions, and advocate for their rights. DPOs play a crucial role in ensuring that the concerns and needs of differently-abled individuals are addressed at the grassroots level. They work towards creating an inclusive society by challenging discriminatory practices and creating collaboration with local authorities and community members.

Through these impactful programs, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is making significant strides in empowering differently-abled individuals. By fostering education, promoting economic independence, ensuring access to healthcare, and advocating for social inclusion, RSKS is creating a brighter and more equitable future for individuals with disabilities.

India has made commendable progress in recognizing and addressing the rights and well-being of differently-abled individuals through the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act.^(iv) Enacted in 2016, the RPWD Act is a comprehensive legislation that focuses on creating an enabling environment for differently-abled individuals, addressing barriers in various spheres of life, and promoting their full participation in society. The RPWD Act recognizes various categories of disabilities and mandates equal opportunities in education, employment, and public life. It emphasizes the importance of accessibility in public spaces and services, ensuring that differently-abled individuals can navigate their surroundings with dignity and independence. The Act also establishes mechanisms for the empowerment and protection of differently-abled individuals, including the formation of Special Courts to address grievances related to the violation of their rights. Through this legislation, India reaffirms its commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible society for all.

While acknowledging the progress made, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan appeals to the United Nations to continue supporting initiatives that promote the rights and well-being of differently-abled individuals globally. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan remains committed to the empowerment and inclusion of differently-abled individuals, recognizing their inherent rights and potential contributions to society. Through our multifaceted initiatives in education, livelihood, health, social inclusion, and empowerment, we strive to create a more inclusive and equitable society. We extend our gratitude to the United Nations for its continued efforts in promoting human rights globally and express our hope for a future where differently-abled individuals worldwide can fully enjoy their rights and participate in all aspects of life with dignity and respect.

(i) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities>

(ii) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-rights-disabled-persons#:~:text=Disabled%20persons%2C%20whatever%20the%20origin,normal%20and%20full%20as%20possible>

(iii) <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/disabilities#:~:text=It%20is%20a%20state%20obligation,for%20all%20persons%20with%20disabilities>

(iv) <https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/DisabilityRights.pdf>