

Review of the Highly Successful Differently Abled Persons

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Abstract

This paper attempts to focus on the life history and the achievements of the famous personalities who are differently abled. It is aimed to convey to the readers that there are many differently abled persons who tried their utmost to challenge their condition and brought wonders for the world. Well known newspapers like Times of India, Business Standard, Hindu and Economic Times have been referred to present the case studies of the famous personalities. The paper highlights their struggles against all odds and their accomplishments.

1.Introduction

World Health Organization(WHO) defines disabilities as an all-inclusive term that includes impairments, activity restrictions and hesitation in participating in social gatherings. An impairment is a problem in the functioning of a body part or structure, an activity restriction is a difficulty confronted by an individual in implementing a task or action and hesitation in involving themselves at social gatherings are some of the difficulties faced by an individual in day-to-day life.

Disability involves many complicated phenomena which goes around in them. It reflects on the communication between characteristics of a one's body and characteristics of the society in which he or she inhabits. Overpowering the obstacles confronted by people with impediments requires involvements and motivational support of the people around them to remove hurdles posed by the environment and society.

The article on researchmatters.in states that ‘Persons with disabilities’ or PwDs include people those who have long lasting corporeal, psychological, logical or sensory damages which may hamper their complete and efficient contribution in the society.

S Chhabra(2016) asserts that disability must be viewed in a broader sense for development of human beings and to promote justice and inclusion of the disabled people in to the society. Those working in community disability programmes have to take into consideration the social factors of the locality which can affect disabled people. They have to connect with the government and devise policies for incorporating the disabled people into the society.

2.Objectives

- To review the literature related to differently abled persons
- To review the life history, struggles and accomplishments of eminent personalities like Stephen Hawking, Brittany Hawley, Arunima Sinha, Pataudi (Jr.),

3.Research Methodology

The study is based on secondary sources of data or information. Data has been taken from online new reports, leading newspapers like Times of India, India Today, Economic Times for in-depth analysis.

4.Literature Review

A report on India Today highlights the efforts of the differently abled children who have achieved high levels of academic success.

This article focusses on the life history of the people who have fought against the perceived notions of the society and have emerged as winners and role models to the society.

The article on researchmatters.in states that technology interventions need to brought into mainstream day to day activities for the social inclusion of the differently abled people. They have cited the example of Kannur, a district in Kerala, which has made provisions to make the life easier for the differently abled people.

Shanimon.s and M. Shahul Hameedu(2014) have talked about the emergence of differently abled entrepreneurs. They have mentioned about the government initiatives taken for the upliftment of differently abled people. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation plays an significant and crucial role for the progress and enablement of handicapped people in our country, The Corporation provides financial support to differently abled people for their commercial and economically feasible projects.

S. Ganesh Kumar, Gautam Roy, and Sitanshu Sekhar Kar(2012) have highlighted that the differently abled children should receive the same kind of education as the normal children. The needs of the differently abled children should be understood and addressed accordingly. For the people to understand disability, there should be a lot of social awareness campaigns that needs to be organized by the voluntary organizations.

5. Case History of the Famous Specially abled People

The first amazing personality to discuss is – **Stephen Hawking**. Why we have kept this personality as No. 1 is the fact that this great man departed from this world nearly a year back on March, 14, 2018 at the age of 76 (January, 8, 1942 to March, 14, 2018). Let us discuss about him vividly:

The birth of Professor Stephen William Hawking took place on the momentous day, 8th January 1942 (precisely 300 years after the demise of Galileo) in Oxford, England. He graduated from University College, Oxford. When he was doing his graduation, he found the work related to mathematics and physics to be way too stress free and cool, that he seldom referred a book or took notes. The only area which he found breath-taking was cosmology because it dealt with the origination of universe.

After graduating in the year 1962 from the Oxford University College, Hawking began his research work in his area of interest, ‘Cosmology’ at Cambridge University. During these research days, he had been suffering from sporadic spells of weakness and fainting for many years. Shortly after his 21st birthday, in 1963, doctors diagnosed him that he is suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neuromuscular wasting disease also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This dangerous disease would make a person slowly to a total paralysis condition and virtually leading to death. Doctors told him he would not be able to live for more than 3 years. This disease slowly and steadily reduced his control over his body movements to the bending of fingers and voluntary movements of the eyes. But fortunately for himself and for the benefit of the world at large, his dying muscles left his extraordinary brain and his mental faculties untouched. So, this disease gradually ate away his muscles, but not his mind. However his spirit continued to soar while his body was progressively deteriorating. It means he fought with the dreaded disease from the age of 21 and till his death, i.e., almost for 55 years, day in and day out, that itself requires a bigger courage.

His first response on hearing the bad news was acute sense of hopelessness and depressions. Then, against all odds, A miracle happened and the disease seemed to stabilise. Hawking accepted the disease bravely and sportingly and said, ‘My expectations were reduced to zero when I was 21. Everything since then has been a bonus’. He further added that when a person knows that his length of life is limited only for a few days, he realizes the value and life and the tasks which he needs to perform within that short span of time. Though he was gradually losing control of his muscles, he was still able to walk short distances and perform simple tasks, though painstakingly, like dressing and undressing. In spite of these setbacks, Hawking continued with his research and would say, ‘It matters that you don’t give up’.

In 1965, he married Jane Wilde, a student of linguistics. He had to search a job to attain his objective of obtaining his doctorate degree. His illness, however, continued to rob him of the ability to write down the long chains of equations that are the tools of the cosmology study. Characteristically, he converted this impairment by acting on it positively and changed it into his strength, gathering all his energies and came out with leaps of thoughts, which he felt that in the later years, the future generation could codify into a proper mathematical language.

Until 1974, Hawking was still able to feed himself and to get in and out of bed. At Jane's insistence, he would take lot of efforts and slowly climbed the stairs to the bedroom in his Cambridge home every night. He did this to make sure that his remaining muscles stayed active. After 1980, his care was accompanied by nurses. Hawking maintained some control over his speech up to 1985. But during his vacation to Switzerland, he was affected with pneumonia. Since his condition went very worst, the doctors asked his wife whether to turn off his life support system, but she said no. To save his life, doctors inserted a breathing tube and in the process he survived, but he permanently lost his voice. It appeared for a time that he would be able to convey his thoughts only by pointing at individual letters on an alphabet board. Walter Woltosz, a computer expert heard about Hawking's condition designed a program called Equalizer and put it forward to help Hawking. Hawking was able to communicate with the help of the software program and send it to speech synthesizer which gave a voice to his thoughts.

At last, when he was too powerless to even think about moving his fingers, he imparted through the PC by method for an infrared bar, which he initiated by jerking his correct cheek or squinting his eye. The framework was extended to enable him to open and close the entryways in his office and to utilize the phone and web without help. Despite the fact that he arrived at the midpoint of less than 15 words for each moment, Hawking discovered he could talk through the PC superior to anything he had before losing his voice. His solitary grumbling, he trusted, was that the discourse synthesizer, made in California, had given him an American tone, despite the fact that he is an Englishman by birth.

He wanted to write the book "A Brief History of Time" based on the findings that have been made about the universe. He wanted to make the thoughts to be available everywhere, so the books were sold in all common places. With this earnings he could live decently and also pay for his three children's' education. Later on. this book went on to make astonishing success and made him rich and he also became a prominent figure among the disabled people everywhere and he became even more well-known.

In 1990, Hawking and his wife divorced and ended their twenty five years of marital life. Jane Hawking wrote about their time they both spent together in two books, "Music to Move the Stars: A Life with Stephen Hawking" and "Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Hawking." Her work later on became the base for the 2014 movie "The Theory of Everything", which is a biopic on the life of Stephen Hawking. In 1995, he married Elaine Mason, a nurse who was concerned for him since his attack of pneumonia.

5.1 Stephen Hawking's great works:

Having discussed about his life history let us also bring out his great scientific work. As cited already his zeal is always in the study of cosmology. This made him to focus on black holes in the universe. **He gradually became his generation's ground breaker in investigating gravity and the characteristics of black holes**, the bottomless gravitational pits so deep and dense that not even light can escape them. This research work led to a turning point in modern physics in the year 1973 about the assumptions and opinions so far gathered on 'black holes'. In a long and daunting calculation, Hawking discovered to his surprise that black holes were not really black at all. In fact, he found, they would eventually vanish, leaking radiation and particles, and finally explode and disappear over the eons (an indefinite and very long period of time). In the year 1961, Hawking presented his boundless universe theory at a conference in the Vatican and stated that the universe is infinite. Prior to this, scientists believed that the universe, though expanding was finite.

Dennis W Sciama, a cosmologist and Stephen Hawking's thesis adviser at Cambridge, called Hawking's thesis of Nature as "the most beautiful paper in the history of physics." Hawking wrote a book on black holes in name and title "A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes," published it in 1988. This book was sold in the market more than 10 million copies and also inspired a documentary film by Errol Morris. In 2002, Hawking wanted his formula called 'Hawking Radiation' to be engraved on his tombstone after his death.

In the summer of 2012, he had a star role in the opening of the Paralympics Games in London. The biopic about Stephen Hawking "The Theory of Everything," was chosen for several Academy Awards and Eddie Redmayne, who played the role of Hawking, won the Oscar for best actor. Hawking will be best remembered for his discovery on black holes. In short, he was a man who taught us to go beyond the limits set by our minds. We always have to move out of our comfortable zone to achieve greater heights.

5.2 Ms. Brittany Hawley of U.S.

Graduate student Brittany Hawley graduated in December, 2018 — but she didn't cross the stage alone. Her dedicated service dog, Griffin, was right beside her to collect his very own honorary degree. First time in the history, a dog is reportedly awarded a degree certificate by a University. Hawley earned a degree in occupational therapy at New York's Clarkson University and Griffin the golden retriever was also with her. The duo attended same sessions, seminars and lectures which made Griffin a qualified student of the university.

Hawley was diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) at 16. The syndrome causes dystonia, which has led to Hawley's inability to walk. Ever since, the disease attacked her she has been in a wheelchair. To overcome her disability, the school permitted her dog to be with her always. "We moved to New York together, we started school together and we finished together," Hawley told to a new agency. Griffin has served as her mobility dog for two and a half years and assists Hawley daily. He retrieves items for her, opens doors, turns on lights and if she falls, he gets a person or a phone to help. Hawley said her beloved dog

has had a huge impact on her experience in school. He felt that he enjoyed the experience by being with him and wanted him to get graduated along with him.

Now that they both have graduated, Hawley will take the board exam and when she passes, will become a registered and licensed professional therapist in North Carolina, US, her home state. She has ambition to work with senior experts in her profession and also wants to undergo active military duty. "Whenever I get a job, he will be with me every single day," Hawley said. The very important message from her is, **"I don't like a disability to define the individual, I want the individual to define themselves. I want to show them that,"** said Hawley. And she said her devoted dog will be by her side in her next journey also.

5.3 Ms. **Arunima Sinha**, a girl from Uttar Pradesh.

She climbed the Mount Everest in May 2013. Sinha, is a former national volleyball and football player. She embarked the Padmavati Express train at Lucknow to reach the destination ,Delhi, on 11 April 2011. She was supposed to take an examination to join the CISF (Central Industrial Security Force). She was pushed out of a general coach of the train by burglars. They wanted to snatch valuable belongings. Recounting the incident, she said that as she fought back against them, they pushed her out of the train. Unfortunately, she was not able to move. She saw a train coming towards her and after that she does not remember anything.

Instantaneously after the accident, some Samaritans rushed her to the hospital with serious leg and pelvic injuries. The doctors conducted immediate surgery and in the process amputated her leg in order to save her life. She was help by Indian Sports Ministry and was offered an artificial leg by a Delhi based company. Even though she lost one of her legs below the knee, her enthusiasm never died. In the year 2012, she along with Susen Mahto, a Tata Steel Adventure Foundation instructor climbed Mount Chamser Kangri (6622 meters). This adventure gave her more courage. Again on 1st April 2013, the pair undertook courageously the ascent of Mount Everest under the guidance of Bachendri Pal, an Indian mountaineer, who in 1984 became the **first Indian woman** to reach the summit of Mount Everest. After putting in effort of around 17 hours, Sinha reached the summit of Mount Everest at 10:55 am on 21 May 2013, as part of the Tata Group-sponsored *Eco Everest Expedition*, **becoming the first female amputee to scale the Mount Everest**. Overall, it took around 52 days to reach the summit. She credits this achievement to Almighty. She was awarded Padma Shri by Government of India in the year 2015.

5.4 The fourth big personality in our list is **Pataudi (Jr.)**, the celebrated cricketer and he needs no big introduction.

He played his first match for Sussex at the age of 16. He also played for Oxford. Unfortunately, he met with a car accident. A piece of glass from the broken windscreen pierced and damaged his right eye permanently. Dr. David St Clair Roberts performed surgery on his eyes. Pataudi praised the surgeon for saving of his left eye which had also got injured, but the magnitude was less compared to the right eye. The impairment caused by the accident led Pataudi to see a doubled image. Everybody was apprehensive that

Pataudi might never play cricket, but Pataudi was soon back to practicing cricket and was picking up the art of playing with a single eye. In spite of his eye injury, he played his first test match against England in Delhi in December 1961. He made 103 runs in the Third Test which took place in Chennai. This event was a landmark in the cricket history of India as India registered its first win against England. Pataudi went on to score several centuries in his career. The Nawab of Pataudi (Jr.) was India's youngest ever Test captain and became captain at the age of 21 years and 77 days. He is an incredible batsman, played the bulk of his cricketering career with just one good eye.

Great people like Pataudi, would have lost their sight, but not their vision in their life.

6. Conclusion:

We have quoted all the above achievements of physically challenged celebrities only to say convincingly that what we require in life is **Positive Attitude and Will Power**, which can take us to any height of glory. When a physically challenged persons can do so much of wonders in the life, we all, having good physique and sound brain can do marvellous jobs if only we work more with redoubled enthusiasm. Most of us are all blessed with a healthy and good life but how many of us take such high efforts as taken by these 'divyangjans' (the new word coined by the present Government recently). But we prefer to live in comfort zones. Ms. Indira Nooyi, the Pepsico Chairperson, once said in a seminar, 'Disruption is now our friend, not our enemy. If you do not disrupt yourselves, the competition will'. So, living in comfort zone will not give us any growth and we have to come out of it to achieve progress in our lives.

Therefore, for these people, disability can turn into special ability because they aimed high in their lives. Hence, the life of the above personalities is a big eye opener for everybody. John F. Kenney, former US President once said, "Ask not what **your country can do for you** - ask what **you can do for your country**."

So, on witnessing the lives of the above great people and more particularly Hawking, everyone should make self introspection and rededicate themselves to the world at large and to the mankind to bring forth innovation, progress and development. We must act as game changers by contributing our mite to the society in all walks of our lives.

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