

**DRPI Session**  
**Disability Rights Promotion**  
**International:**  
**A Holistic Approach to Monitoring the**  
**Human Rights of People with Disabilities**  
**in the Global World**

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# RAISING AWARENESS THAT DISABILITY IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP

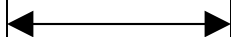
***“ In all societies of the world there are obstacles preventing persons with disabilities from exercising their rights and freedoms, and making it difficult for them to participate fully in the activities of their societies.”***

**Bengt Lindqvist, EU Conference on Disability, November, 2006.**



# Holistic Monitoring Builds in a way of Measuring the Gap

**Government policies, programs and constitutional guarantees and...**



**The realities for people with disabilities who continue to live without their human rights.**



# Disability Rights Promotion International



**DRPI: a collaborative project to establish a comprehensive, sustainable international system to monitor human rights of people with disabilities.**



# Human Rights Principles

- **Dignity**
- **Autonomy**
- **Non-discrimination and Equality**
- **Participation, Inclusion and Accessibility**
- **Respect for difference**



# Monitoring is an Empowering Activity

- Provides a **voice** to marginalized people;
- Enhances **public awareness** by documenting abuses and violations;
- Reinforces a **collective identity** among persons with disabilities;
- Supports efforts to achieve **social justice**



# Monitoring is .....

**measuring progress toward  
justice for people with  
disabilities.**



# DRPI Guiding Principles

- **Leading role of People with Disabilities & their Organizations**
- **Sustainability and Capacity Building**
- **Cross-Disability Involvement**
- **Holistic Monitoring: Integrating monitoring information from 3 areas**
- **Engagement with Multi-Sectoral Organizations**





# Guiding Principles of Monitoring

- **All reporting documents and practices must be user-friendly.**
- **Involvement of people with disabilities is necessary and essential.**



# Monitoring in Teams of People with Disabilities

- **Builds solidarity**
- **Builds capacity**
- **Fosters sustainability**



# Monitoring at the Systems Level

- Involves the investigation of the **laws, policies and programs** affecting people with disabilities in a particular jurisdiction;
- Places individual stories **in context**;
- Serves to determine whether legislative frameworks in place fail to respect and protect the human rights of disabled people, or even violate them by containing discriminatory dispositions.



*What is the constitutional position on disability in India? While the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination per se, it does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on grounds of disability. However, a seven judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court of India in Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India held that the “spirit of Articles 14 [right to equality] 15(1) [right against discrimination] and 16 [right against discrimination in public employment]” allowed for discrimination and affirmative actions for persons with disabilities (p.1).*

Kannabiran 2009  
Monitoring the Human Rights of people with Disabilities in India  
Systemic Report



# Individual Experiences Monitoring

**Fact-finding about actual  
situations in communities.**



# Monitoring at the Individual Level:

- **To document individual experiences** of exercise and denial of human rights;
- The **aggregate outcome** of individual monitoring can reveal broader **patterns of discrimination**;
- **Individual interviews**;
- **Monitors** are themselves **persons with disabilities**.



*They don't want to give me a job, they say I can't do the job with just one hand. I work in construction and I know how to do my job with just one hand. .... Nowhere people want to give me work and when they do they pay me less; others earn double, I get half pay.*

*(Male interviewee , Bolivia)*

*Sometimes, people think because you are blind you can't speak also. People want to help you but they fear our disability. For example, when I was hit by the stone somebody came took it and threw it away but he/she never talked to me.*

*(Female interviewee, Kenya)*

*Just the other week, I was denied access to a restaurant at a major mall in York ... because they considered me a fire hazard with all the half booths so I would sit on the end of the booth so I'm a fire hazard so they asked me and my fiancé to leave. Ah that just happened a couple of weeks ago..*

*(Male interviewee, Toronto)*



# Monitoring Public Attitudes (Media)

**Fact finding about the coverage and depiction of people with disabilities in the media.**





## Media:

- reflects & influences public opinion is a proxy for societal attitudes

## Media can:

- perpetuate negative myths & stereotypes

## But media can also:

- be a catalyst for positive social change

Media Monitoring



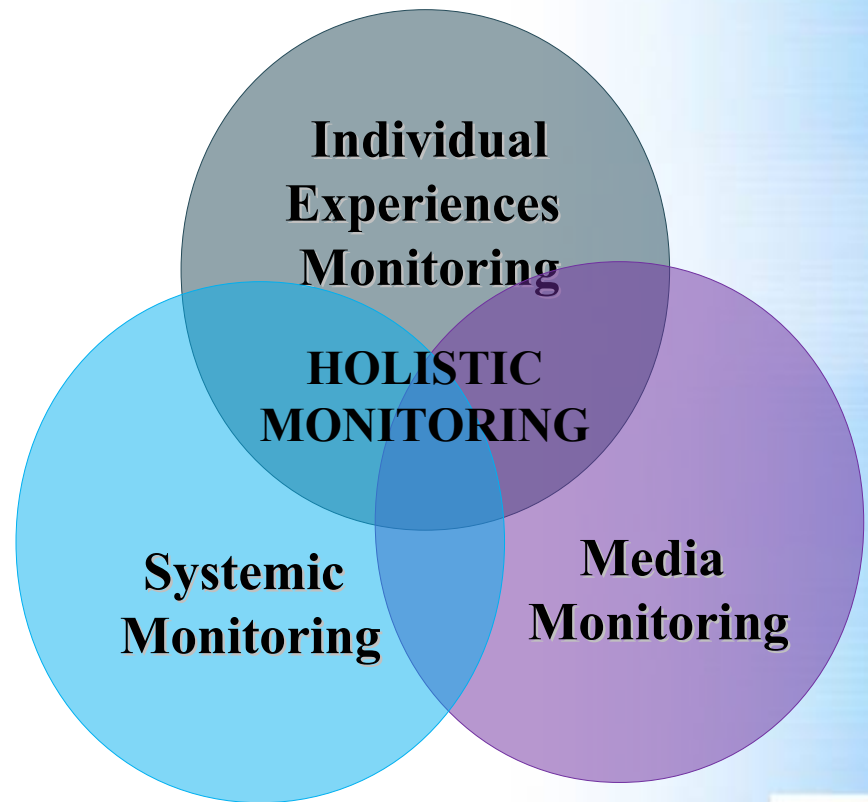
# Monitoring Public Attitudes (Media)

- Monitoring **media** coverage and depiction of **disability** quantitative analysis
- Qualitative analysis: critical discourse analysis and content analysis



# Holistic Approach to Disability Rights Monitoring

Holistic approach examines 3 monitoring areas providing a broad picture of human rights situation of people with disabilities.



# Results of Holistic Monitoring

- Individual Country Reports
- Identification of gaps among individual experiences, government promises and public dialogue
- Teams of people with disabilities ready to monitor rights on an on-going basis
- International comparative data



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