

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer  
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

**CSSI, JMI, conducts a National Seminar on 'Disability and Social Inclusion in India';  
Experts call for Transforming Mindsets, Curriculum, and Attitudes**

New Delhi, February 19, 2026

The Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI) Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), in collaboration with the Office of the Dean, Academic Affairs, yesterday conducted a day-long seminar cum workshop on 'Disability and Social Inclusion in India' under the chief patronship of Honorable Vice Chancellor JMI, Prof. Mazhar Asif, and the patronage of the Registrar JMI, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi. The event held at the FTK-CIT Hall of JMI saw enthusiastic participation from academics, policymakers, practitioners, and students.

The seminar titled 'Disability and Social Inclusion in India: A Roadmap for Change' opened with a recitation from the Holy Quran and the singing of the Jamia Tarana, followed by the felicitation of distinguished guests. In her welcome address, Prof. Tanuja, Officiating Director of CSSI and Dean of Academic Affairs, framed inclusion as a matter of fundamental justice and pluralism in alignment with SDG Goal 10, while Dr. Arvind Kumar, convenor of the seminar, highlighted the Centre's success by recognizing the achievements of Mr. Faisal, an alumnus of the Centre who is a Hellen Keller awardee now.

Dr. Ashima Mangla, Joint Secretary of the University Grants Commission and Guest of Honour, advocated for a mindset shift treating the differently-abled as equal, creative citizens, which Prof. Nilofer Afzal, Dean of Student Welfare, JMI, added to the discussion by calling for deep-seated sensitization across the physical, academic, and social spheres of university life.

The Chief Guest on the occasion, Prof. Sohrab Ahmad Khan, Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences and Research, Jamia Hamdard, urged strict adherence to UGC accessibility guidelines to support the high prevalence of disability among the elderly and working population, while Adv. Dr. K. C. George, Secretary, Chief Executive, Deepalaya & Former Joint Director, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India, opined to "include everyone, exclude none," emphasizing sign language literacy and decision-making power.

In her keynote, Prof. Nilika Mehrotra of JNU addressed the intersectionality of disability with gender and caste, calling for a shift in curriculum and attitude, a sentiment echoed by Dr. Rasheed, Assistant Prof., Faculty of Law, JMI, who discussed 'Blind Ethnography' as a sensory method to overcome traditional research biases.

The Patron of the Seminar, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, JMI, concluded by reaffirming the transformative power of education and calling for a total rejection of discriminatory attitudes that treat the differently-abled as inferior. The session was concluded by a vote of thanks from co-convenor Dr. Sabah Hussain, CSSI, JMI.

The first technical session, "Discourses on Disability in the Indian Context," chaired by Prof. Rakesh Kumar Sharma from the University of Delhi (DU), examined the structural and legal barriers facing the community. Prof. Mahesh S. Panicker, who teaches at LSR, DU, discussed disability as a political identity that transcends specific impairments but requires intersectional, impairment-specific solutions; Prof. Smitha Nizar, from Galgotias University, critiqued the legal paradox of the PNDT and MTP Acts regarding selective abortion, calling for a UNCRPD-aligned paradigm; and Prof. Jagdish Chander, Hindu College, DU, highlighted the 'social model,' arguing that individuals are disabled by restrictive environments.

The second technical session, "Narratives of Disability: Agency, Representation, and Frameworks," was chaired by Prof. Sarika Sharma, Professor, Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia. The distinguished speakers shared critical insights on reimagining disability discourse through rights-based, inclusive, and agency-centered perspectives. Dr. Talim Akhtar, Hindu College, University of Delhi, stressed the importance of re-examining political frameworks to center persons with disabilities as active democratic agents. Dr. Rubul Kalita, Central University of Haryana, advocated for inclusive education systems that shift from charity-based models to rights-based empowerment. Dr. Md. Tanweer, Jamia Millia Islamia, emphasized integrating lived experiences into educational and theoretical frameworks on disability. Mr. Faisal Ashraf Nomani, alumnus of JMI, highlighted self-advocacy and visibility as key to reshaping disability narratives. Ms. Anwasha Baruah, associated with JMI, underscored the role of policy advocacy and leadership platforms in advancing disability rights.

Dr. Jyotirupa, co-convenor of CSSI, concluded with an interactive discussion and vote of thanks. The seminar marked a significant milestone in strengthening academic engagement and policy discourse on disability and social inclusion in India.

Prof. Saima Saeed  
Chief Public Relations Officer



# DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY A ROADMAP FOR CHANGE

Inaugural Session

Chief Patron

Chief Guest

Guest of Honour

Patron



Prof. Mazhar Asif  
Vice-Chancellor, JMI



Prof. Sohrab Ahmad Khan  
Dean School of Allied Health Sciences, JMI



Dr. Ashima Mangla  
Joint Secretary, UGC



Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi  
Registrar, JMI

Seminar Convener



Dr. Arvind Kumar  
Faculty, Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, JMI



Prof. Sohrab Ahmad Khan

(Chief Guest)  
Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences and Research,  
Jamia Millia Islamia

Prof. Mazhar Asif

(Vice Chancellor)  
Jamia Millia Islamia

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Prof. Md Mahabubul Haque  
Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia



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Prof. Mazhar Asif  
(Vice Chancellor)

Jamia Millia Islamia





National Seminar  
**DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN INDIA**  
A ROADMAP FOR CHANGE

Inaugural Session

Chief Guest

Chief Guest

Guest of Honour

Guest

Chief Guest

New Delhi, Delhi, India

Jamia Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India

Lat 28.559585, Long 77.282849

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**Jamia Millia Islamia**



**Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion**  
**In collaboration with**  
**Office of the Dean, Academic Affairs**

*National Seminar*

# DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN INDIA A ROADMAP FOR CHANGE

## Inaugural Session

### Chief Patron



**Prof. Mazhar Asif**  
Vice Chancellor,  
Jamia Millia Islamia

### Chief Guest



**Prof. Sohrab Ahmad Khan**  
Dean School of Allied Health Sciences and Research,  
Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

### Guest of Honour



**Dr. Ashima Mangla**  
Joint Secretary,  
University Grants Commission

### Patron



**Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi**  
Registrar,  
Jamia Millia Islamia

### Keynote Speaker



**Prof. Nilika Mehrotra**  
Centre for the Study of Social Systems,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University

### Seminar Chair



**Prof. Tanuja**  
Offg. Director, Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion  
& Dean Academic Affairs, Jamia Millia Islamia

### Seminar Convenor



**Dr. Arvind Kumar**  
Faculty, Centre for Study of Social Inclusion,  
Jamia Millia Islamia

For Queries Related to the Seminar :

Dr Sabah Hussain, Co-Convenor: +917042827462 | Dr Jyotirupa Rout, Co-Convenor: +9193151 39839

[REGISTER NOW](#)

- Free Registration is open for all
- Participants will get E-certificates



SCAN HERE



18 Feb  
2026



10:00  
AM



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