

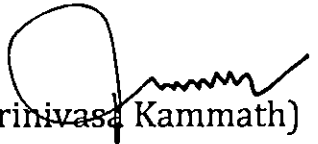
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(Law Division)

Climate change bring along with it vagaries of weather which comes as natural calamities and disaster, generally taking the people by surprise.

Of late, India is witnessing unusually heavy rain-falls/floods caused due to overflowing of rivers, opening of overfilled dams etc. For example, the State of Kerala has witnessed unprecedented torrential rains and floods in September last year resulting into death of about 230 people and rendering thousands homeless due to destruction of their houses, washing away of bridges and roads causing untold miseries to people and huge loss to the exchequer. Basic human rights such as Right to Food, Right to Health and Right to Shelter are the first casualties of such a calamity. State of Bihar is currently reeling under the fury of torrential rains and floods.

The situation arising out of such natural calamities, like floods or earthquakes leads to deprivation of basic necessities even to the affluent, wealthy and healthy people, who have starved till the rescue team and relief operation reach out to them. The disabled people suffer the most in such disasters, because of their dependence on wheel-chair, crutches and other aids, which are prone to be washed away in a flood-like situation. Moving to the places of safety is an impossible task for them and often they succumb to the calamity.

Recognizing the interests of disabled and their vulnerabilities the National Disaster Management Authority has included in their draft Guidelines on Disability and Disaster that a National Disaster Agency dedicated to managing and monitoring the integration and coordination of persons with disabilities in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Action Plan is required.


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