



DHWANI on the Theme of Lives and Aspirations of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the New World

In the dynamic landscape of the modern world, the lives and aspirations of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are increasingly coming into focus. With advancements in technology, progressive policy reforms, and a growing commitment to inclusivity, PWDs are breaking barriers and reaching new heights.

When we talk about persons with disabilities or try to tell their stories through films, usually we show them as a sad and struggling lot finding it hard to manage their daily lives, thus evoking sympathy from general public. While this kind of portrayal may be partially correct, it doesn't fully encapsulate the lives of persons with disabilities which is not only replete with grit, determination but also with their eye-ful of dreams.

The aspirations of PWDs in the new world are diverse and multifaceted. Through education, employment, social & political inclusion, advocacy, technology, and creative expression, PWDs are paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable society. By recognizing, supporting and promoting their aspirations, we can create a world where PWDs can thrive and achieve their fullest potential.

This year on the **10th edition 'DHWANI'- A Special Film Fest**, we plan to invite and exhibit films created on stories or featuring PWDs, focusing not just on their inclusion and empowerment but also on the unique challenges and triumphs of their lives.

In stead of focusing on the trial and tribulations of persons with disabilities, **DHWANI Film Fest** this time aims to provide a powerful platform to showcase their aspirations and celebrate their success stories

Various dimensions that shape the lives and aspirations of PWDs today -

Education and Empowerment

Education is a cornerstone for the empowerment of PWDs. Inclusive education systems that accommodate diverse learning needs are essential for ensuring that PWDs can access quality education. Tailored support services and adaptive technologies enable PWDs to thrive academically and pursue their dreams.

Aspirations:

- Equal access to quality education and lifelong learning.

- Opportunities for higher education and skill development.
- Empowerment through knowledge and self-advocacy.

Employment and Economic Independence

Economic independence is a fundamental aspiration for PWDs. Ensuring equal employment opportunities, promoting inclusive workplace policies, and supporting entrepreneurship are critical steps towards achieving this goal. By embracing diversity, businesses can harness the unique talents and perspectives of PWDs.

Aspirations:

- Equal employment opportunities and inclusive workplaces.
- Access to adaptive technologies and reasonable accommodations.
- Support for entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Social & Political Inclusion and Accessibility

Social & political inclusion and accessibility are vital for the full participation of PWDs in society. Accessible infrastructure, public spaces, and transportation systems enable PWDs to navigate their communities with ease. Inclusive policies and social support networks foster a sense of belonging and community engagement.

Aspirations:

- Full participation in social, cultural, and political activities.
- Accessible public spaces, transportation, and digital platforms.
- Strong social support networks and community involvement.

Advocacy and Rights

Advocacy is crucial for protecting the rights of PWDs and promoting equality. International conventions, national laws, and grassroots movements work together to ensure that PWDs are treated with dignity and respect. Continuous advocacy efforts drive policy changes and societal shifts towards greater inclusivity.

Aspirations:

- Protection and promotion of rights through advocacy and legislation.
- Active participation in decision-making processes.
- Increased awareness and understanding of disability issues.

Technological Advancements and Innovation

Technological advancements have revolutionized the lives of PWDs, providing new avenues for independence and empowerment. Assistive technologies, such as prosthetics, communication devices, and mobility aids, have significantly improved the quality of life for PWDs. Digital inclusion initiatives ensure that PWDs can access information and services online.

Aspirations:

- Access to the latest assistive technologies and innovations.
- Digital inclusion and accessibility in the online world.
- Continuous improvement and customization of adaptive technologies.

Creative Expression and Representation

Creative expression allows PWDs to share their stories, challenge societal perceptions, and showcase their talents. Positive representation in media, arts, and culture helps to break down stereotypes and promote a more inclusive society. Platforms that highlight the achievements and narratives of PWDs foster greater understanding and appreciation.

Aspirations:

- Opportunities for creative expression in arts, literature, and media.
- Positive and accurate representation of PWDs in popular culture.
- Platforms to share personal narratives and showcase talents.