

# CONTRIBUTORS' BIONOTES

# Contributors

**Anjana Parmar** has done both – a Bachelor's as well a Master's in Social Work from the College of Social Work (Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan affiliated with the University of Mumbai. She secured first rank both in BSW as well as MSW final years. She has also submitted her Ph.D. thesis recently and is awaiting viva. Currently, she is working as an Assistant Professor at the College of Social Work (Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan. Her areas of interest and expertise are mental health, gender studies and human rights.

**Apoorva Panshikar** holds the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Special Education with SNDT Women's University, Mumbai. She possesses postgraduate degrees in Psychology and Special Education, Specializing in teaching children with Learning Disabilities, along with a Ph.D. in Special Education. Apoorva actively engages in both pre-service and in-service teacher education programs. She is a sought-after speaker, having been invited to share her expertise at national, state, and regional events, delivering over 70 informative talks. Furthermore, she serves as an expert committee member for key organizations like the Rehabilitation Council of India and various academic bodies of universities, providing valuable insights for curriculum development at different educational levels. Apoorva has also played a significant role in creating study materials pertaining to special and inclusive education for universities. Her scholarly contributions include the publication of approximately 20 research papers and articles in reputable journals, as well as contributing chapters to edited books.

**Aysha Baig** is an Assistant Professor in the University Department of Applied Psychology and Counselling Center, University of Mumbai. She has also been awarded Junior Research Fellowship-UGC NET for the

year 2022. Her research interest areas include bias and discrimination, social identities, and marginalization. She is also a former faculty at the Department of Psychology, Wilson College, University of Mumbai.

**Bijoy Thomas** is currently working as an Assistant Professor at St. Xavier's Institute of Education (Autonomous), Mumbai. He is an accomplished academician with a diverse academic background, holding a Ph.D. in Education, M.Sc., M.Ed., and M. Phil with rich experience in teaching at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. levels that spans over 15 years. Bijoy has consolidated his experiences in educational research, curriculum development, and digital education.

**Biraj Mehta Rathi** Independent Researcher (Philosophy). Completed Post doctoral research project under General Research Fellowship in year 2022, Topic "Martha Nussbaum's Cosmopolitanism: A Critique" from Indian Council of philosophical Research, Delhi and Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai. Submitted "The Disabled Subaltern of India: A Foucauldian Perspective", UGC approved minor research project. Former faculty at Department of Philosophy, Wilson College, Sophia College for Women and Visiting faculty at Department of Philosophy, Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai. 2018-2023, Masters program in Liberal Arts at HSNL University and Review Editor of Mumbai University Journal Sambhashan. Convenor of Andrews Vision Centre(AVC) from 2018-2023, AVC is Wilson College's enabling unit that aims towards making Wilson college campus inclusive and enriching lives of students with disabilities on campus. Currently pursuing Post Graduate Diploma in Management of Learning Disabilities, Department of Special Education, SNDT University for Women (Juhu Campus).

**Disha Kapadia-Chinchwadkar** has a Master's degree in Psychology and Management from the University of Mumbai and has corporate experience in Human Resources. Currently, she works with XRCVC, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai on its awareness and advocacy programs.

**Kalyani Talvelkar** has done her Master's in Social Work as well as a Doctorate in Social Work from the School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She is an Assistant Professor at the College of Social Work (Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan since 2013. She is on the editorial board of the journal 'Perspectives in Social Work'. She is also Faculty-in-Charge of the Research & Development Cell. Her areas of interest and expertise are research, disability studies, mental health and child rights.

**Malika Jain** is an Assistant Professor at the School of Law, MIT ADT University, Pune, holding an LLM from NLSIU, Bengaluru, with a gold medal. She has co-authored several articles with Dr. Sanjay Jain. She has also rendered research assistance to him in the book project of M.P. Jain's Indian Constitutional Law, 9th edition, LexisNexis. Apart from disability rights, she is passionate about engaging with Public Law and Human Rights.

**Neha Trivedi** is the Founder of Spandan - an inclusion and accessibility consultancy firm Spandan. Spandan works with organisations to make them inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities. One of Spandan's key focus areas is to work with higher education institutes to enable them to build holistic inclusive education systems that are customised to meet local needs. Ms Trivedi has a rich experience of 17+ years in the space of inclusion and accessibility. During her career she has been at the forefront of some of the key inclusive legislative changes in the country such as making STEM education accessible for the blind, the amendment to the Copyright Act of India (2012), and many more. She has authored publications and research papers on inclusive education and related ideas. Ms Trivedi has been the co-author of Guidelines for Making E-Content Accessible for Children with Disabilities, Ministry of Education (2021). She led and ran inclusive education services at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai for many years.

**P.J. Mathew Martin** is a post-doctoral research fellow, at CCD-HumES, Orebro University, Sweden. He is I/c information and Documentation centre, ESA (Mass Media)& Course Coordinator – PGDAVT course, Information and Documentation Center, AYJNISHD (D), (Under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India) Bandra, Mumbai. He is also an Adjunct Professor, Faculty and Ph.D. guide, in the Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Mumbai. He is a recipient of the National Award winner for Universal Design in Digital Media, NCPEDP MPHASIS Universal Design Awards – 2011 and International Award winner for e-inclusion – Manthan Award South Asia 2009.

**Pankaj Singh Kushwaha** completed his M. Phil. and Ph.D. from the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, and Jawaharlal Nehru University. His M.Phil dissertation was on "Disability

and Public Policy in the United Kingdom 1995–2010". He submitted his PhD thesis titled "Inclusive Education for Children with Blindness: Case studies of the United Kingdom and India 2006–2016". He has presented several research papers at various national and international conferences. Currently working as Assistant Manager at Canara Bank, New Delhi.

**Prajnee Samedhini Sahoo** Assistant Professor at Vivekananda Education Society College of Law, Mumbai. Currently pursuing her PhD from Christ University, Lavasa with a focus on tribal rights. She completed her LLM in Constitution and Administrative Law from the University of Mumbai. Her research interest areas are Constitutional law, human rights, and environmental laws.

**Roding Puii** is a research scholar at Mizoram University, Department of English and Culture Studies. She is working on the topic of Disability Studies within the Indian narratives. Her other areas of interest are Folklore Studies and Translation Studies. She completed her Bachelor in English from Women's College, Shillong and her Masters from Pondicherry University, Department of English. She has presented papers at national and international conferences and has published papers in numerous journals. She has translated two Mizo short stories into English and has published two English Poetry books.

**Sam Taraporevala** is the founder of XRCVC, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and currently is its Executive Director. Dr Sam is a Sociology academician and also a renowned name in the field of disability. He has been a part of several academic committees and National Disability bodies including Member, Board of Studies, Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Member, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), St. Xavier's College, Mumbai; Member, Braille Council of India; Member, General Council, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun and Vice President & Chair, Committee on Policy Intervention & Higher Education, DAISY Forum of India, to name a few. He retired in 2019 as Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

**Sanjay Jain** is a Professor at NLSIU, Bengaluru, and Professor in charge at NHRC Chair. He is a prominent disability rights activist and, amongst his major writings, his most recent book is Bloomsbury's

'Critical Essays on Disability Rights Jurisprudence 'Combating Exclusion, Embracing Inclusion' (2022) with contributions by jurists like Justice DY Chandrachud, Prof. Upendra Baxi, Prof. Amita Dhandu, Prof. Anna Lawson, etc. He is a public interest litigant and also takes a keen interest in Comparative Constitutional Law, Legal Theory and Human Rights.

**Shaikh Mohammad Kaish** an independent research scholar in the field of Disabilities Studies, completed his PhD at Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2023. His academic journey began at Wilson College, where he completed his Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He then embarked on his academic pursuits at Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he earned both his Master's and M.Phil degrees in Political Science. Besides, he has also qualified for both the National Eligibility Test (NET-UGC) and Junior Research Fellow (JRF) in December 2015. His research interests span a wide spectrum, encompassing International Politics, Disability Studies, Human Development and Capabilities Approach, Political Theories, Indian Political Philosophies, Indian Nationalism and Indian Politics. His commitment extends to issues related to Gender, Minority and Disability rights and Representation.

**Wilbur Gonsalves** is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Mumbai, where he has been working for the last 10 years. He has completed his M.A. in Psychology (with a specialization in Counselling Psychology) and PhD in Psychology from the University of Mumbai. His PhD has been in the area of Vocational Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Over the years he has engaged in psychological research recognized through his paper presentations at conferences, publications in journals, and edited books, specifically in the area of disability studies. He has also been engaged in teaching post-graduate psychology courses related to counselling psychology and rehabilitation psychology.