ASSIGNMENT FOR TEE December 2026 and June 2027

Course Code: BMDG 171

Assignment Code: BMDG 171/ASST/TMA /2026-27/

Marks: 100

BMDG-171 'Disability, Society and Culture'

Interdisciplinary Course (IDC)

Note: Answer all the questions in each section.

1. The questions in Section A carry 20 marks each.

2. The questions in Section B carry 10 marks each.

3. The questions in Section C carry 6 marks each.

SECTION A

Answer the following in about 500 words each. (20x2=40)

1. Define disability. Discuss social attitudes and stereotypes regarding disability.
2. Discuss the issues and challenges experienced by persons with disabilities with regard to education.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. (10x3=30)

3. What is Universal Design? How can it help persons with disabilities?

4. What are the major issues experienced by women and girls with disability?

5. What are the major issues faced by elderly persons with disability?

SECTION C

Write a note on each of the following in about 150 words each. (6x5=30)

6. Religious model of disability.

7. Assistive Technology.

8. The impact of poverty on the lives of persons with disabilities.

9. Barriers in health access for persons with disabilities.

10. Political participation of persons with disabilities.

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1. Define disability. Discuss social attitudes and stereotypes regarding disability.

Answer

Disability is not simply a defect or illness located in an individual. It is a complex experience shaped by a person's physical, sensory, intellectual or psychosocial condition and by the social and physical environment in which the person lives. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) explains that disability is an evolving concept arising from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal or environmental barriers that restrict their full participation in society on an equal basis with others. This approach recognises both the reality of impairment and the responsibility of society to remove disabling barriers.

Understanding disability

An impairment may involve mobility, hearing, vision, cognition, communication, mental health or more than one area. Its effect on everyday life varies considerably. For example, a wheelchair user may find a classroom fully accessible when ramps, lifts, suitable toilets and flexible seating are provided, but may be excluded from an otherwise identical classroom located up a flight of stairs.

Similarly, a deaf student may participate effectively with captioned videos and a sign-language interpreter but face difficulties when all information is conveyed only through speech. Disability must therefore be understood in relation to opportunities, social arrangements and individual needs, rather than treated as a fixed measure of personal incapacity.

Historically, the medical model has approached disability mainly as a condition to be diagnosed, treated or rehabilitated. Medical support can be valuable, but the model becomes restrictive when it defines a person's entire identity through diagnosis. The social model shifts attention towards inaccessible buildings, discriminatory rules and negative attitudes. A rights-based understanding combines respect for individual support needs with equality, dignity, accessibility, participation and self-determination. In India, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 reflects this rights-oriented direction and recognises multiple specified disability categories.