

# Exploring ICT enabled education initiatives for persons with disabilities in the Asia Pacific region

Centre for Internet and Society

# Background

- Art 24 of the UNCRPD recognises the right of persons with disabilities to education and life long learning without discrimination and promotes inclusive education .
- Universal primary education is an MDG.
- Internet and ICT tools and technologies have opened up new avenues of inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the global knowledge society.

# The present survey

- There is very little documented information on how and to what extent ICT is being used around the world to enhance the learning experience for persons with disabilities.
- This project aims to gather good practices in the policy and implementation spaces for primary and secondary education, higher education, non formal education, vocational training, capacity building of educators, collaborative knowledge creation and sharing platforms etc with a special focus on technologies, platforms and content which are open.

# Methodology

- This study is carried out in three parts:
  - (i) Template for policy makers, educators and disability organisations to gather information on policy and implementation best practices
  - (ii) documenting around 30 case studies on best practices on ICT use in the Asia Pacific region, and
  - (iii) survey and analysis of policy frameworks of a few countries in the Asia Pacific region.

# Template

- Two templates have been designed, one for governments and policy makers and the other for disability organisations and educators.
- Objectives of the templates:
  1. Assess current state of access to ICT based educational resources for persons with disabilities;
  2. Document prevalent practices relating to creation and dissemination of open educational resources
  3. Identify different models of intervention in the policy and implementation spaces, especially those which are innovative, low cost and have a far reaching impact;
  4. Identify gaps in the systems which may result in the lack of access to education for persons with disabilities.

# Template

- The templates cover questions relating to conversion, percentage of books which are available in accessible formats, organisations undertaking conversion, technologies, tools and platforms used for disseminating information, popular technology platforms used in different countries, accessibility of public information, mass media, web sites, existing policies on accessibility, ICT and education, availability and accessibility of open access resources, use of alternate licensing models, resources in libraries and academic institutions, school and education systems, government run schemes and programmes, internet penetration, availability and affordability of assistive technology in local languages, availability of open source assistive technology, failures and successes in this space, common barriers and solutions etc.

# Template

- Template for Assessing the Use of ICT for Enabling Access to Education for Persons with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific Region

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGFNRfV6OWp4YVRZTnFMskJMcUdnNGc6MQ#gid=0>

- Template for assessing policy frameworks for enabling access to Education through ICT for persons with
- disabilities in the Asia Pacific region

<https://spreadsheets0.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dHJwNjJOZVU1WExQM1VoZUIFWUVIZHc6MQ#gid=0>

# Documentation of ICT case studies

## - countries covered

- India
- China
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- South Korea
- Philippines
- Japan



# Types of case studies identified

- Learning Aids/Accessible Content
- Inclusive knowledge communities
- Computer/ICT training (Means towards ends)
- ICT Policy towards inclusive education-UN/State
- Learning aids for trainers/educators
- Inclusive/alternative learning models & paradigms

# Types of funding

- State sponsored/subsidized
- Corporate initiatives
- Public-private partnership
- UNESCO backed initiatives
- Multi-funded social sector initiatives

# Classification of case studies

- Primary- ICT interventions in physical and learning disabilities among children, inclusive schooling, accommodations & policy
- Secondary- ICT interventions in advanced school learning, assistive technologies, computer literacy, competitive education for PWDs
- Tertiary- Accessible formal/informal adult learning, learning material, vocational training.

# Primary/ Secondary

- Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS). (Policy-India)
- Cisco's Integrated model school for Sichuan victims. (Inclusive learning models/knowledge communities-China)
- Mobile phones in classrooms for students. (Learning aids -Japan)

# Tertiary

- Open University of Sri Lanka. (Knowledge communities-Sri Lanka)
- Thailand Cyber University Project.
  - (Open source/ knowledge communities-Thailand)
- Inclusive Planet. (Knowledge communities/accessible content -India)

# Primary observations

- High focus on learning aids and creating accessible content such as talking books, speech converters etc.
- Training in basic ICT (ex-computers) is considered as important as using ICTs for “traditional learning.”
- Majority of ICT interventions are aimed towards Visually challenged/print impaired PWDs.
- Exclusive learning environments are still more in number than integrated ones.
- Lack of easily available learning aids/material for teachers/care-givers and parents.

# Survey and analysis of policy frameworks- countries covered

- China
- Japan
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Sri Lanka
- India
- Pakistan
- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- South Korea

# China

- Disability legislation address issues of anti-discrimination, rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural life, welfare, access, legal liability etc;  
Duty of the State under Constitution to provide material assistance to disabled persons.  
Specific laws for education of PWD's establish a duty on the State to provide free and compulsory education.  
State has the duty to provide Braille books, sign language, subtitles and narrations for TV programmes.  
Five year plans undertake responsibility of production of information resources for disabled persons.  
Copyright Act, 1990 does not provide any special provisions for persons with disabilities (PWDs).



# Japan

- 
- Disability legislations provide for necessary services for participation in society and casts a duty on State to protect the rights of disabled persons .
- General education law exists which also provides for equal opportunities in the field of education for disabled people with special classes, non-residential classes, special schools and itinerant teaching.
- The Japanese Industrial Standards provide for accessibility of websites.
- Laws promote services to make media like telecommunications and broadcast accessible
- Copyright laws allow free reproduction for visually and aurally handicapped
-

# Philippines

- National Laws ensure the Economic Independence of Disabled Persons providing for social, economic and human rights for PWD's.
- State, as per the Constitution would create special agencies and policies for PWD's.
- Duty of State to provide equal education to all children and grant benefits to PWD's.
- Web Accessibility Guide for Filipinos contains definition of web accessibility, types of assistive devices available.
- Copyright Act does not contain any exceptions and limitations for PWDs.

# Malaysia

- Disability legislations aims at providing equal opportunities and participation of PWD's in all sectors.
- Importance of education and access to information and communication for PWD's is taken note off and State is obliged to try to provide for the same.
- Persons with disabilities have the right to access to information, communication and technology on equal basis .
- Laws also provide for implementing network facilities, network services, and applications services in the underserved areas.
- Copyright Act of Malaysia, 1987 does not contain any fair use clause for conversion without permission for PWDs.

# Sri Lanka

- Specific disability legislations exist, which aim for promotion, improvement and protection of rights of PWDs.
- Constitution empowers the legislature to make special laws for PWD's
- Education policies provide for inclusive education and education to all children between the ages of 5 – 14 years.
- ICT laws provide for the establishment of ICT to benefit PWDs.
- Copyright Act does not contain any fair use provision.

# India

- 
- Specific legislations to promote equality and participation of persons with disabilities.
- Constitution provides for Education as fundamental right,
- free and compulsory education , prohibits discrimination in any form.
- The Right to Education Act makes it the Duty of the State to ensure that children with disabilities have access to free education , till attainment of eighteen years of age.
- Draft National policy on Electronic Accessibility recognizes the need to provide equal access to internet based communications and services.
- Copyright Act as yet has no fair use provision- however the proposed amendment has some provision for PWDs.

# Pakistan

- Disability laws aim to provide employment, rehabilitation and welfare for PWD's.
- Duty of the State under the Constitution to provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief
- Institutions to promote education among Persons with Disabilities and provide vocational training and rehabilitation services
- No special ICT provisions for PWD's.
- Copyright Ordinance – no fair use provision.

# Nepal

- Disability legislations aim for protection and welfare of PWD's in all sectors.
- The Constitution guarantees the education, health, and welfare of people with disabilities.
- Duty of State to pursue policies to ensure their protection and welfare
- Special and free education to be provided for blind, deaf, disabled and the children with intellectual disabilities
- Draft policies aiming to create ICT environment for disabled.
- Copyright Act contains no fair use provision in this regard.

# Bangladesh

- Disability laws to protect and safeguard the rights and dignity of PWD's .
- State has the duty to provide basic necessities to all people.
- Policy of non discrimination against any persons on any grounds.
- Free and compulsory education for all.
- Legislations also provide for free or low-cost books and equipment for PWD's.
- ICT policies equalise participation aiming at general welfare.
- The Copyright Act has no fair use provision.
-



# South Korea

- 
- National and Local governments work in harmony to ensure welfare of the disabled.
- State, as per Constitution, to protect any person with disability.
- Education laws to provide equal opportunity for disabled persons.
- ICT specific legislations aim at providing ICT access, usage and education.
- Copyright Law of 1957 does not contain any fair use provision.

# Preliminary observations

- Disability Specific Legislations exist in all the ten countries (China, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, South Korea)
- Constitutional Provisions recognising education as a fundamental right exist in China, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and South Korea.
- **Specific** Education Policies for PWD's exist in:- China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and South Korea.
- Internet and ICT accessibility Policies/ Plans/Guidelines exist in:- China, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh and South Korea.
- (Japan and Philippines have guidelines though not binding but highly persuasive. Policies in India and Nepal are still at draft stage.)
- Copyright Acts in none of the ten countries have fair use provisions, with the exception of Japan, which allows free reproduction for visually and aurally handicapped.

NAME OF THE COUNTRY	EDUCATION LAWS/ POLICIES FOR PWD'S	ICT LAWS/ POLICIES FOR PWD'S	OTHER LAWS/ POLICIES FOR PWD'S
CHINA	Law on Protection of Disabled Persons, 1991; Law of People's Republic of China on Education, 1995; Regulations on Education of Disabled Persons, 1994; Law of the People's Republic of China on Vocational Education, 1996	Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons, 1998; 11th five Year Plan	The China Persons with Disabilities Security Law, 1991; Rehabilitative Medical Education Plan, 1992; Provisional Regulations of the Qualification System for Prosthetists and Orthotists, 1997; Regulations Related to the Control of Rehabilitation Services in General Hospitals, 1997;
JAPAN	Fundamental Law of Education, 1947; Law for Encouragement of School Attendance at Special Schools for Blind Persons, Deaf Persons, Physically Disabled Persons and Mentally Retarded Persons;	(JIS) X 8341 or "Guidelines for older persons and persons with disabilities—Information and communications equipment, software and services; Law for Promoting Businesses that Facilitate the Use of Communications and Broadcast Services by the Physically Disabled Persons, 1993; Telecommunication Business Law, 1984; u-Japan Policy	Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons, 1949; Disabled Person's Fundamental Law , 1970
PHILIPPINES	The Education Act, 1982; Child and Youth Welfare Code; National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons	Manila Declaration on Accessible ICT and Manila Accessible Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)Design Recommendations, Web Accessibility Guide for Filipinos, DAISY Network(Digital Accessible Information System), Philippine Web Accessibility Group	National Law (Batas Pambansa No. 344), the Economic Independence of Disabled Persons Act, Republic Act 7277 (Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities)

MALAYSIA	Persons with Disability Act, 2008	Persons with Disability Act, 2008; Communications and Multimedia Act, 1998	The Malaysian Persons with Disability Act, 2008; National Social Welfare Policy , 2003; National Policy for Persons With Disability, 2007.
SRI LANKA	General Educational Reforms,1997; Compulsory Education Ordinance, 1997,	ICT Act No. 27, 2003; The “e-Sri Lanka” project; Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority of Sri Lanka (NARESA); National Computer Policy Report (COMPOL).	Act for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 1996
INDIA	Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; Action Plan for Inclusive Education of Children and Youth With Disabilities , 2005; Integrated Education for Disabled Children Scheme, 1974; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA).	The National Policy on Electronic Accessibility(Draft), 2010	Disabled Persons (Employment & Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981; Islamabad Declaration on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2009; Pakistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2008(Draft Bill); The Persons with Disabilities (equal opportunities, protection and participation) Act, 2008 (Draft Bill); National Health Policy, 1990.
PAKISTAN	The Directorate General of Special Education and The National Institute for Special Education	No special provisions	Disabled Persons Protection and Welfare Act, 1982; Disabled Person Protection and Welfare Rule 1994; The Child Act, 1992; Local Self Government Act 1999 ;

NEPAL	Education Act, 1964; Child Act 1991; Education Bylaws 2002; Special Education Policies 1996 ; Basic and Primary Education Plan (1991-2001)	Policies on Information Technology 2000 ; ICT for Development Project.	Bangladesh Persons with Disability Welfare Act, 2001; National Policy concerning Disabled Persons, 1995 ; Women Development Policy, 2008.
BANGLADESH	Bangladesh Persons with Disability Welfare Act, 2001,	Ministry of Science and ICT, DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System); National ICT Policy 2008	Welfare Law For Persons With Disabilities , 1989; Relating To Employment Promotion, Of The Handicapped; The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2001; Act on Mobility Convenience of Mobility Vulnerable, 2005; Act on Facilities Improvement for Persons with Disabilities, 1997; Disability Discrimination and Remedies Act, 2007
SOUTH KOREA	Special Education Promotion law, 1994; Presidential Decree Of Special Education Promotion Law, 1994; Enforcement Decree of The Minister of Education, 1995	Digital Divide Act, 2001; National Informatization Act, 2009 and Korea Disability Discrimination Act,2007; Recommendable Guidelines to improve accessibility for the disabled and the elderly to the IT services and IT product, 2002.	Welfare Law For Persons With Disabilities , 1989; Relating To Employment Promotion, Of The Handicapped; The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2001; Act on Mobility Convenience of Mobility Vulnerable, 2005; Act on Facilities Improvement for Persons with Disabilities, 1997; Disability Discrimination and Remedies Act, 2007

**THANK  
YOU!!!**