PwD ki FAIR BANI! Not MEHARBANI!!

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The Covid era locked us in for a fairly extended period of time. It made us think of the future in various ways. So, while the BANI framework (Brittle, Anxious, Non-linear, Incomprehensible) replaced the VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) world, it became important to know what kind of 'world' will evolve for People with Disability (PwD).

When a swan event like Covid19 struck, 'Team Sarthak'* went about assessing the impact and taking remedial measures for People with Disability (PwD).

Covid impact on PwDs	Remedial measures by Sarthak
Social distancing was declared as necessary. However, it was not an option for certain PwDs as caregivers were required to support their needs for bathing, feeding, physical movement, medicines etc.	Online sessions were conducted for PwDs and their families on how to protect themselves. Importance of masks, sanitisers and hand wash was explained as many PwDs had to be in direct physical contact with caregivers and support workers.
Physical and medical comorbidities put PwDs at a higher risk of developing complications.	Connect PwDs with available community resources like pharmacies, medical clinics and assistive equipment providers.
Covid prevention strategies focused on the needs of PwDs were not being disseminated through media or other sources.	Community mobilisers connected with PwDs through secondary databases and social media engines to address their concerns and inform them of online training program.
PwDs who operated small businesses / informal livelihood ventures were unable to work leading to a significant loss of income.	Government programs provided basic needs including rice and grains, but not protective material which was arranged by Sarthak.

Sarthak Educational Trust is headquartered in New Delhi and empowers PwDs through skill development and employment.

I read a 'Quote of the Day' recently on WhatsApp "When mind is weak, situation is Problem. When mind is balanced, situation is Challenge. But when mind is Strong, situation becomes Opportunity". In the anticipation of a chaotic world, we have to make our minds stronger and utilise opportunities to **turn BANI into FAIR (Friendly, Acceptance, Inclusive, Respectful)** world. So, how do we prepare a FAIR BANI world going forward. Who will decide the requirements? Will it be affordable?

The **FAIR** world will evolve with individual and collective action taken from all of us through self-introspection. When we all become old, what is the world we want around us. Our hearing will be impaired, our sight will not be sharp as before, our movements will be slow but our aspirations will still be high. At home we should still be able to make our way in and out of the bathroom, charge our own mobile phone and make Maggi once in way when we want – whether standing on our wobbly feet or sitting on a wheelchair. For that to happen, we would require the doors leading to the bathroom/toilet to be big enough to allow an assisted device, the charging point to be at a convenient height near our bed or table and the food making equipment accessible without compromising safety in the kitchen. Simple adaptations for an old age person, isn't it! No need to look up a manual or hire a consultant. On life outside the home, we would like to go to a movie all by ourselves, still have the best seat in the hall, hail a cab on our own and have a meal without anyone doing a favour to us. On the job front, corporates need to redesign job roles and assign them to PwDs because work-from-home is now an established concept. It is all about empowerment!

When the world evolves to include old people, our folks who may have a disability will become all inclusive with us! Let's work on putting this 'FAIR' world together. NOW!