



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Empowering Teachers with Disabilities in Indian schools

Our research project, Empowering Teachers with Disabilities (TWD), focuses on amplifying the voices and experiences of teachers with disabilities working in schools across India. We recognize the invisibility of teachers with disabilities in existing research and aim to highlight their professional journeys, challenges, and identity intersections, including gender, caste, and location.

Research Objectives:

1. Gain insights and highlight professional lives, experiences, and perspectives of teachers with disabilities.
2. Create a national and international network of teachers with disabilities to support effective pedagogy and engage in advocacy efforts.

Research Method:

We aim to reach out to approximately 50 participants using snowball sampling and seek their opinions through a) an online interview; b) a photovoice activity, and c) followed by a short discussion on the selected photos. This will cover their professional journeys as teachers and explore how their identity as a person with disability intersects with other identities such as gender, caste, location, and more.

Research Team:

The research team includes Prof Nidhi Singal (Professor at University of Cambridge), Dr. Jwalin Patel (President of TIDE Foundation), and a team of research associates who would support data collection and analysis. The team will ensure ethical practices, including informed consent, confidentiality, and secure data handling.

Impact and Dissemination:

This project promises significant social, cultural, economic, and academic impacts, particularly in the Global South. This project intends to improve the lives of teachers with disabilities by raising public awareness, building a supportive community, and combating negative stereotypes. By gathering and sharing stories and successful teaching methods, the project aims to influence policies and advocate for equal rights for these educators. The project will also contribute to academic research by studying the experiences of these teachers and sharing findings with the broader community. Ultimately, this initiative seeks to challenge misconceptions, and promote inclusion.

Future Implications:

The research aims to inform policies and programs that ensure a more equitable status for teachers with disabilities in India and abroad.