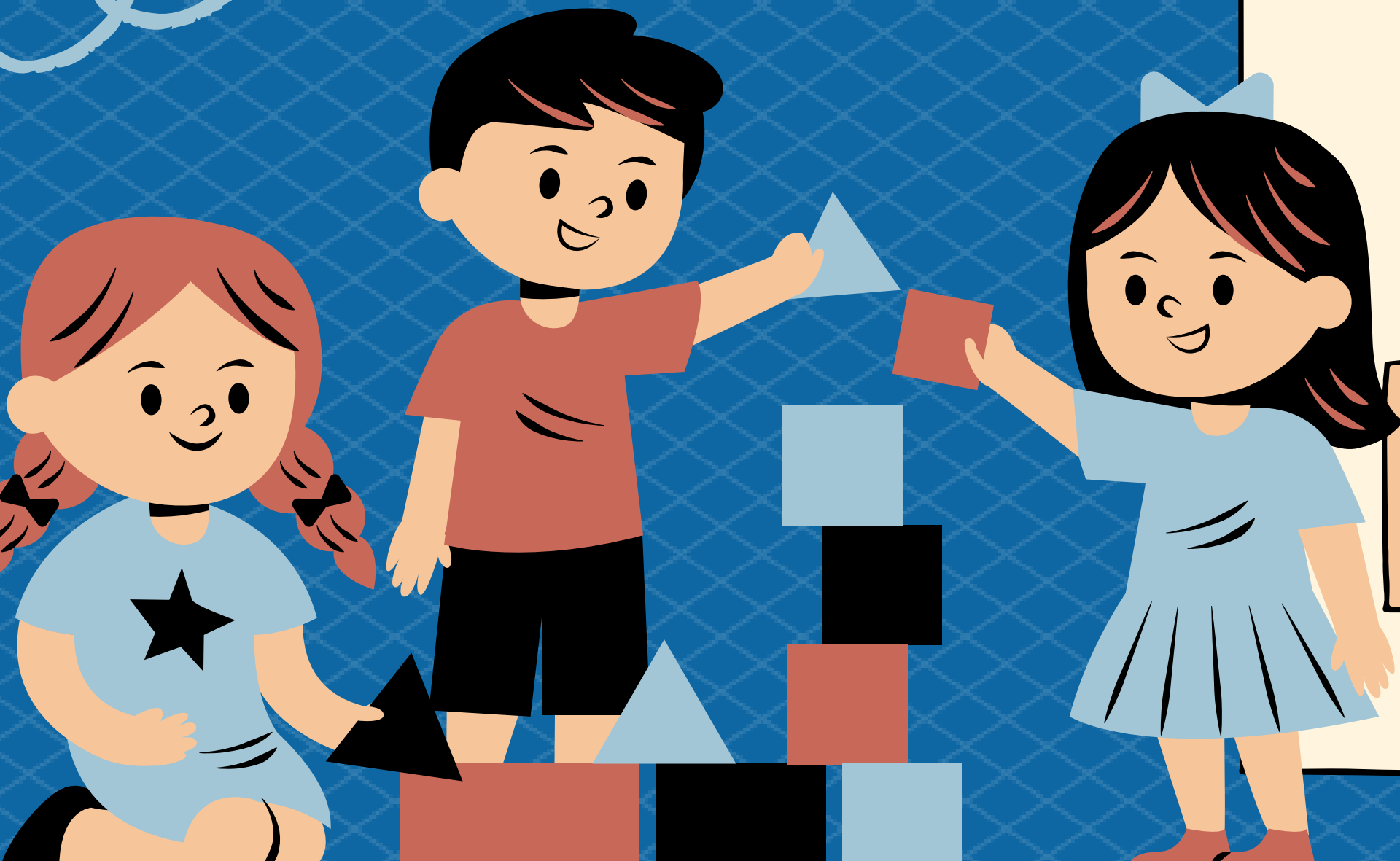



ELINA

Equity in education

School accommodations and
modifications





Introduction

In my last blog, I attempted to cover the importance of accommodations and modifications.

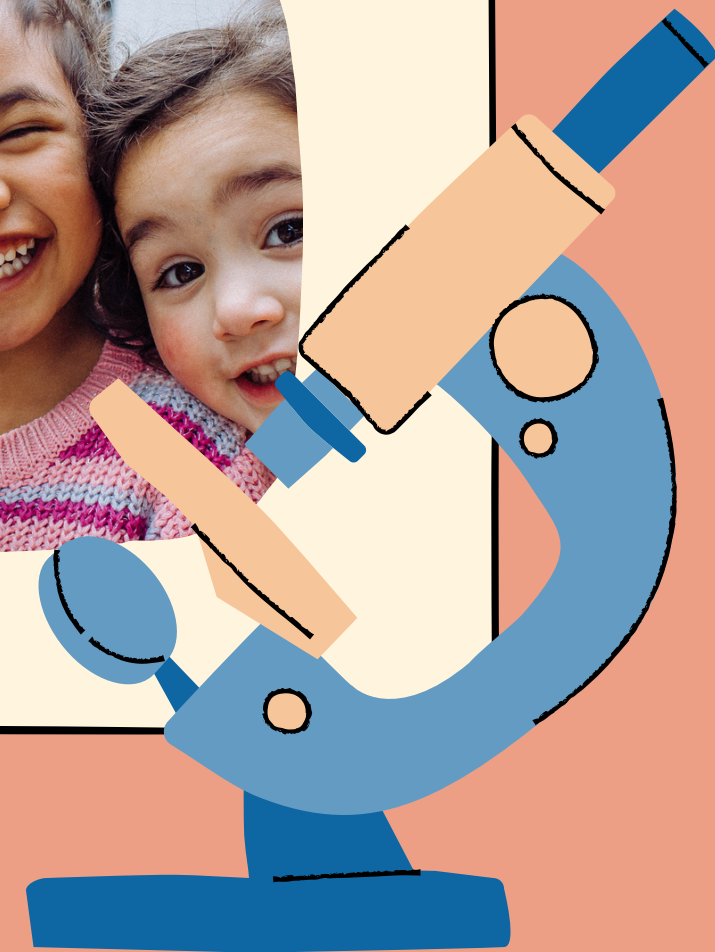
The objectives of this blog are as follows:

- To enumerate the different aids that schools in India provide
- To explore the legal requirements and rights of disabled students
- To determine the advantages and pros of implementing said aids

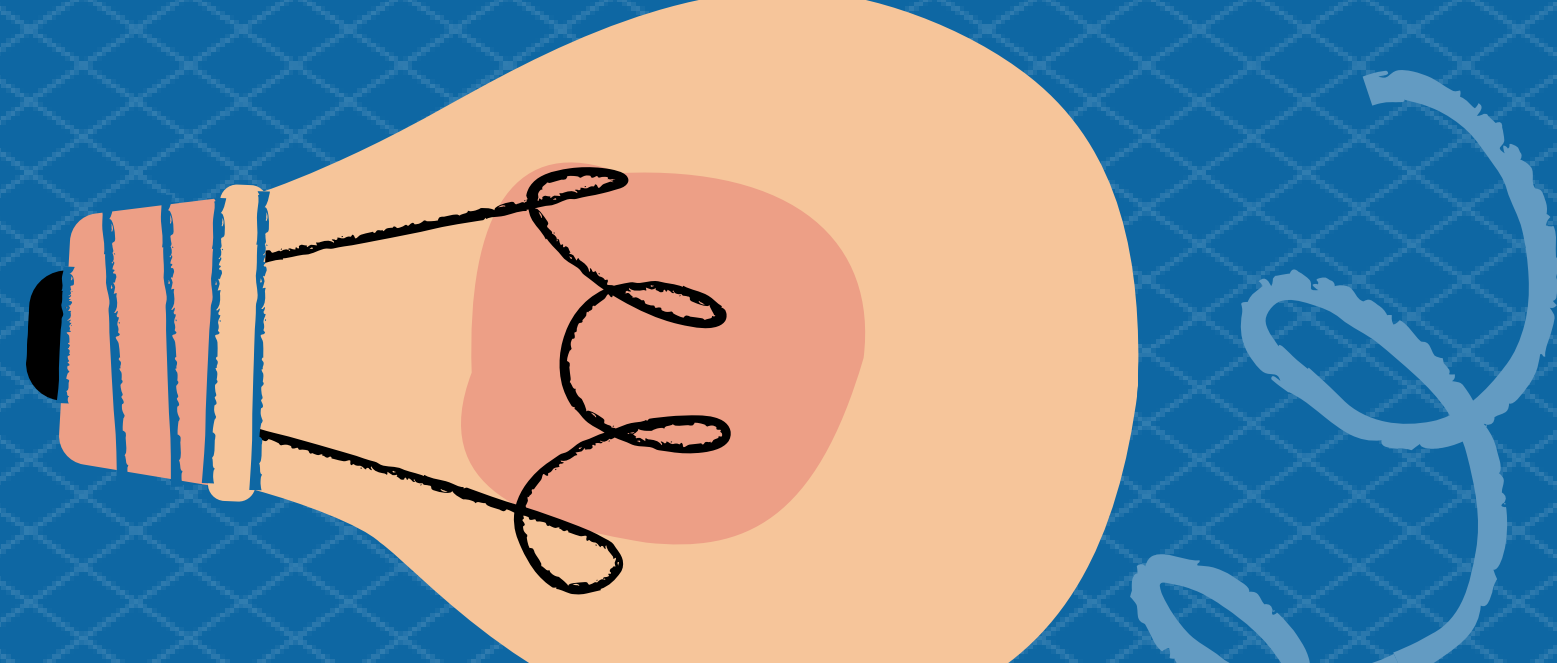
How do accommodations and modifications work?

If you have read our previous blog you will know by now

accommodations are changes in the way a curriculum is taught while **modifications** are changes to the curriculum itself.



Here are some helpful graphics



Is it a...
MODIFICATION

or an
ACCOMMODATION

A **modification** is a change in **WHAT** the student is taught or expected to learn and **alters the curriculum**.

- Fewer questions
- Lower level text
- Alternate projects
- Adjusted curriculum
- Shortened assignments
- Adjusted grading scale

An **accommodation** is a change in **HOW** the student will learn the same material as their peers and **alters the environment**.

- Breaks
- Large print
- Additional time
- Small group setting
- Use of assistive tech
- Preferential seating

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ACCOMMODATION AND A MODIFICATION?

Frank Avella



MODIFICATIONS



DIRECTLY ALTERS THE MATERIAL/CURRICULUM

MODIFICATION EXAMPLES:

REMOVING A DIFFICULT QUESTION ON TEST
(ALTERED THE TEST MATERIAL)



TOO DIFFICULT
FOR THE
STUDENT

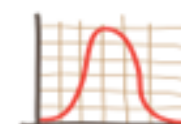


MODIFICATIONS ALLOW
FOR REMOVAL OF THE
QUESTION FROM EXAM

OPEN NOTES TESTING
(MORE MATERIAL PROVIDED)



MODIFYING GRADES
AS PER THE I.E.P.
(CRITERION ALTERED)



VS.



ACCOMMODATIONS



AFFECT THE WAY A STUDENT ACCESSES
THE CURRICULUM

ACCOMMODATION EXAMPLES:

EXTENDED TIME
(LONGER ACCESS)



UNDERLINED NOTES
(FOCUSED ACCESS)



PREFERENTIAL SEATING
(CLOSER ACCESS)

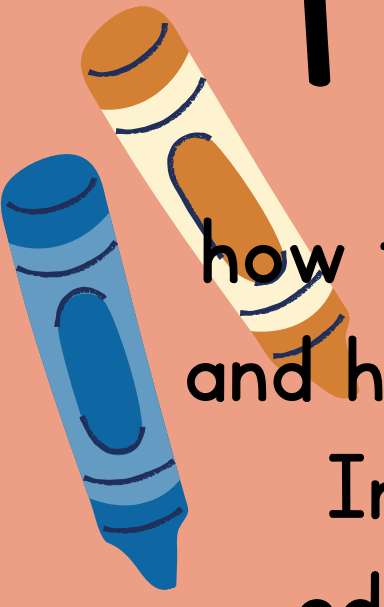


BOOK READ ALOUD
(VERBAL ACCESS)

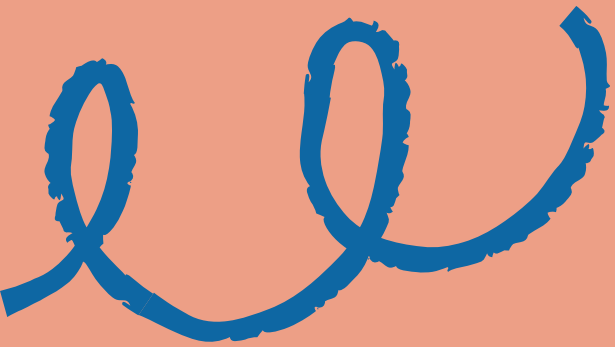




However, we did not explore



how these modifications and accommodations are implemented into school and education and how parents and students need to be aware of what they deserve as the citizens of India. The right to persons with disability act was specifically introduced to make education a more inclusive space and provide certain provisions and aids in order to facilitate education for students with disabilities. In addition, being more inclusive can have benefits for non-disabled students as well because of the **Curb Cut Effect**. The effect refers to the phenomenon of disabled friendly provisions positively affecting everyone. For example, allowing children to take a break and walk around open spaces might be beneficial for all students and provide them with a calm and useful way to take a break from the rigors of school life.



As parents and guardians, it is

up to you to educate yourselves on what schools can and SHOULD provide for your children! According to learning disabilities- “The rights to Persons with Disabilities act, 2016 recommends provisions toward inclusive education,” These modifications maybe in the curriculum or examination system such as extra time for completion or the provision of a scribe or amanuensis. These provisions are provided by different education boards ranging from CBSE to ICSE and IGCSE and IB.

The CBSE or Central Board of Secondary Education

for example, provide accommodation that include (but are not limited to) extra time on exams, provision of a scribe, teacher or prompter exemption from third language, alternate or separate questions etc. Given the upcoming board exams for 10th and 12th Grade students, you might be wondering if these provisions are available for these exams. They are! Here is an extract from the curriculum for the CBSCE boards-

2.	Facility of Scribe and compensatory time	<p>i) Candidates with disabilities as defined in The Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act 2016 are permitted to use a Scribe or allowed Compensatory time as given below or both:</p> <table><tr><td>For paper of 3 hours duration</td><td>60 minutes</td></tr><tr><td>For paper of 2½ hours duration</td><td>50 minutes</td></tr><tr><td>For paper of 2 hours duration</td><td>40 minutes</td></tr><tr><td>For paper of 1½ hours duration</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr></table> <p>ii) For Categories of disabilities for which scribe/reader/writer/adult prompter is permissible please refer to the Annexure-C</p>	For paper of 3 hours duration	60 minutes	For paper of 2½ hours duration	50 minutes	For paper of 2 hours duration	40 minutes	For paper of 1½ hours duration	30 minutes
For paper of 3 hours duration	60 minutes									
For paper of 2½ hours duration	50 minutes									
For paper of 2 hours duration	40 minutes									
For paper of 1½ hours duration	30 minutes									

ATTACHED HERE IS A LINK TO THE REST OF THE PDF

<https://www.ldexplained.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CWSN-April-2019.pdf>

These provisions

can be asked for and provided by following certain regulations and rules. These vary according to boards and schools but one of those ways is by producing a medical certificate. According to my CBSC guide-

“The medical certificate issued by the following agencies/organizations will be considered for granting concessions to Differently abled candidates:

- Disability Certificate(s) issued by Government hospitals controlled by either the Central or State Governments;
- Disability Certificate(s) issued by Recognized institutes of national level viz National Association for the Blind, Spastic Society of India etc; and
- Disability Certificate(s) issued by Non-governmental Organizations/practitioners registered with Rehabilitation Council of India/Central Government/State Government of the Respective State.”

As mentioned before students

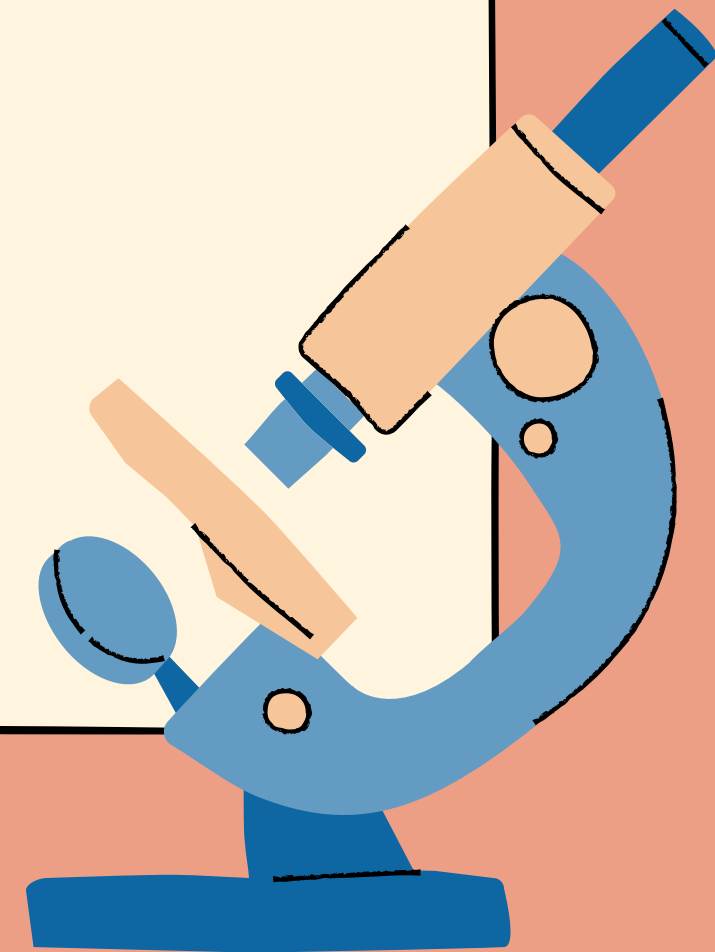
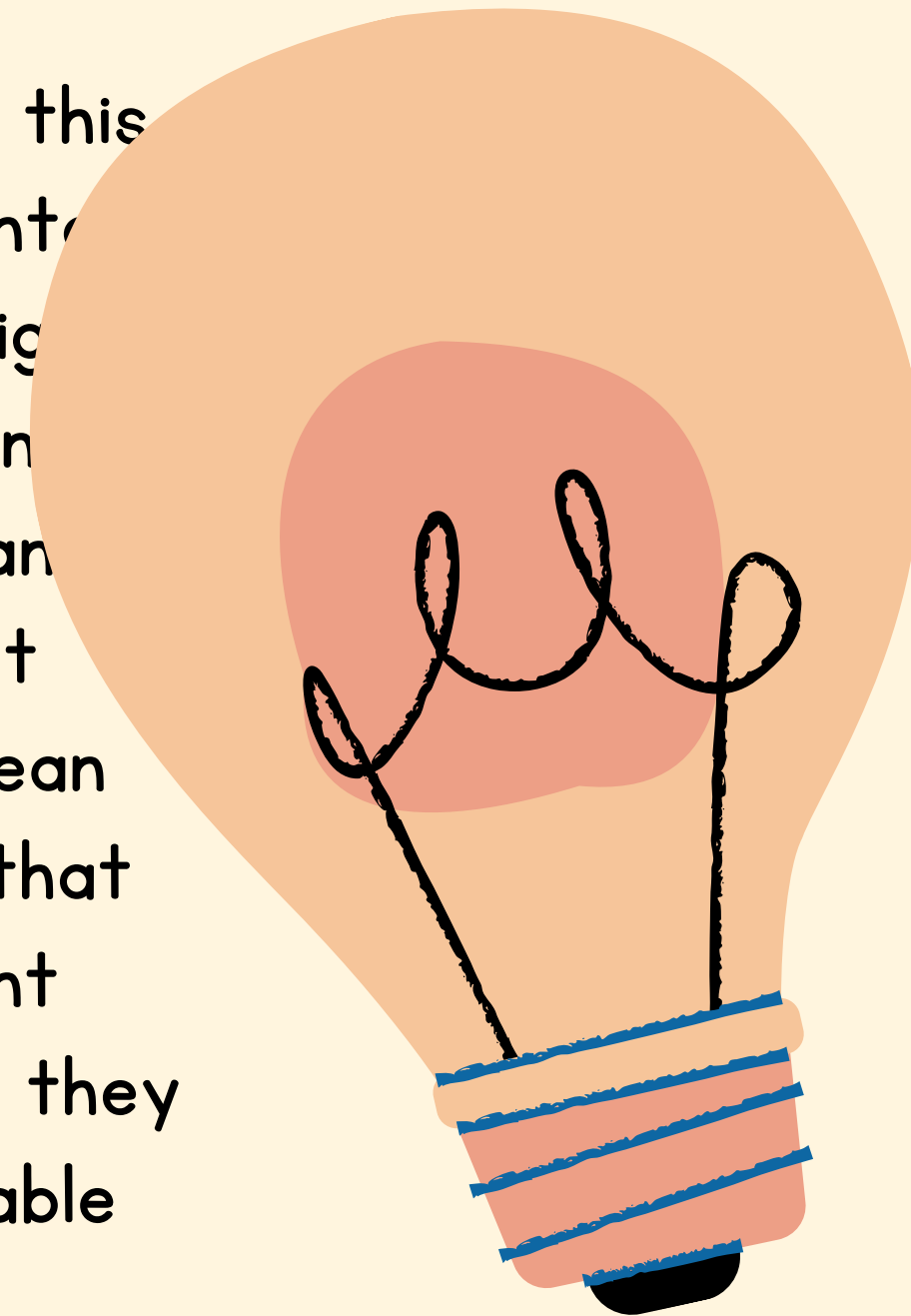
who are visually impaired, physically Handicapped, Dyslexic, Autistic and candidates with disabilities as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 can be provided with scribed, extra time or adult supervision. This blog is providing its readers with certain examples to showcase the range of the choices disabled students need and deserved to be provided with. However, I will urge the readers to click on the websites and resources at the end of the blog to read and find out more about the specifics of these provisions and how they may differ from student to student.

furthermore, in ICSE IGCSE and IB

schools there are certain accommodations and modifications implemented to help students. According to the Cambridge, “We recognise that some learners may require extra accommodations when taking an assessment due to special educational needs. Therefore, centres can request access arrangements such as extra time, scribes and supervised rest breaks.” ICSE schools also provide additional resources like extra time and calculators. This link will help enumerate the different aids provided by cambridge or the IGCSE board-[271195-special-educational-needs.pdf](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/271195-special-educational-needs.pdf) ([cambridgeinternational.org](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org)).

Why Equity is important.

If there is one thing I learnt while preparing for this blog and one thing I want our readers to take into account, it is the importance of Equity. That's right Equity not Equality. Equity in education is important as it acknowledges not everyone has the same needs and requirements. Everyone isn't equal because not everyone is the same. However, this does not mean anyone is better or worse than the other. Just that everyone is unique and to foster good, efficient meaningful education students no matter whether they are disabled or not must be provided with equitable support!



REFERENCES

- IEP, scribe, accommodations, modifications-ADHD & Learning Disabilities (Idexplained.org)
- CBSE Rules and Exemptions for Disabled Students | myCBSEguide
- Board Concessions (mdachennai.com)
- Help Paraprofessionals Understand Accommodations & Modifications (spedprepacademy.com)

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