## **Chronic Neurological Conditions**

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 defines Chronic Neurological Conditions as a condition that has its origin in some part of a person's central and peripheral nervous systems, which include brain, spinal cord, cranial nerves, peripheral nerves, nerve roots, autonomic nervous system, neuromuscular junction and muscles, lasting for a long period or marked by frequent recurrence.

There are more than 600 recognized neurological conditions which vary in type of symptoms experienced, and the acute, chronic, remissive, or degenerative nature of the condition.

Some of the common diagnoses are

- Alzheimer's
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy
- · Migraine and
- Multiple Sclerosis

## India has around 30 million people living with Chronic Neurological Conditions.

- Chronic neurological conditions can be debilitating and unpredictable, causing pain and discomfort for those affected.
- Medication can help manage symptoms of chronic neurological conditions, but often comes with side effects.
- Mobility can also be impacted by chronic neurological conditions, making it difficult for those affected to perform daily activities.

The specific causes of neurological problems vary. They may include

- Genetic disorders
- Congenital abnormalities
- Infections
- Lifestyle or environmental health problems like malnutrition or accidents
- · Brain injury
- · Spinal cord injury
- · Nerve injury, and
- Gluten sensitivity

Treatment for chronic neurological conditions may involve a team of healthcare professionals, including doctors, therapists, and nurses. Physical therapy and other forms of rehabilitation can help those with chronic neurological conditions regain or maintain their mobility.

There are several celebrities across the world living with varied neurological conditions. Bruce Willis has Aphasia which affects the ability to speak. Brad Pitt has Prosopagnosia which causes the actor social discomfort.

Former US President Ronald Reagan had Alzheimer's. Back home, Ludo movie actor Fatima Sana Shaikh struggles with epilepsy.

Support from others who understand their struggles can also be invaluable for those with chronic neurological conditions. Living with a chronic neurological condition can be challenging, but with the right support and treatment, individuals can continue to lead fulfilling lives.

For more information you can connect with the varied organizations working in this sector, one of them being the <a href="Neurology Foundation">Neurology Foundation</a>.

There is also the <u>Epilepsy Foundation of India</u> and <u>Indian Epilepsy Association</u>

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