

# Press Clipping

Publication : The Financial Express  
Date : Sunday, July 11, 2004  
Edition : New Delhi (All Editions\*)  
Page : 4



## SHORT TAKES

### Autism Fails To Get Its Due

AROUND two million individuals in India suffer from autism spectrum disorder, a learning and social disability. However, not much has been done by successive governments to better their lot. Autism does not come under the purview of the Persons with Disability Act, 1995. This means that NGOs working for their welfare receive no government funding, as autism is not recognised as a disability. Moreover, individuals with autism get no benefits and rights that disabled people receive. "Autism is a disorder in which the way a person communicates is affected. The severity of symptoms ranges from mild learning and social disability to severe impairment," explains Merry Barua, founder and director of Action for Autism (AFA), an NGO working for persons with autism. ◆

\* New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad