



ABETTING THE SPECIALS

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Abstract

Living under the poverty line in the absence of education and awareness and when food has been the only aim of living, in such a merciful condition life became a challenge. Here this class needs support and for that they have look towards centre or the state govt. This substantial portion of our population needs equal opportunities for their overall development, which is also essential for the inclusive development. Recognizing the differently abled people as valuable human resource, the Ministry has been taking various initiatives to mainstream them in the society. Specific provisions have been made in various rural development programmes aiming at their upliftment.

Keywords: Differently abled, Schemes, health, treatment, Empowerment **Rehabilitation fund**



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INTRODUCTION

The chief cause of disability is Poverty and this is the poverty that is the root cause of the disability in most of the cases. A poor man who is struggling for the food from day to night, who is living only for the food cannot think of cure or treatment if unfortunately he somehow gets some kind of disability or impairment. His life becomes more difficult or he got any differently abled child then the difficulty level worsens. This not only affects his family life but also his work, leads to increased economic, social vulnerability and exclusion. This disability in a family degenerates the position of the woman in that family as she has to look after the disable child all the time and full burden is to bear by her. Living under the poverty line in the absence of education and awareness and when food has been the only aim of living, in such a merciful condition life became a challenge. Here they need support and for that they have look towards centre or the state govt. India was the first country to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Department of Disability Affairs has finalized the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014. Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2013-14) presented its Forty-fifth Report titled "Review of the functioning of National Institutes working in the field of disability" in 2014 and mentioned that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Disability Affairs) and National Institutes are working for the welfare of differently abled persons through - National Institute for the Mentally

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Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped (PDUIPH), New Delhi, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai, National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Kolkata Handicapped (AYJNIHH), Mumbai, Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training & Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack.

As per Census 2011, 2.22% of the population of the country, approximately 2.68 crore of the total population the country has been identified as disabled. Out of which the percentage of Persons with locomotive disability is 20.3% of the total disabled population, hearing impaired 18.9%, visually impaired 18.8%, speech impaired 7.5%, mentally retarded 5.6%, mentally ill 2.7% and multiple disabled 7.9%. 18.4% were those who had some disability but were not about the type of their disability. 69% of the persons with disability lived in rural areas and 31% in the urban areas. This substantial portion of our population needs equal opportunities for their overall development, which is also essential for the inclusive development. Recognizing the differently abled people as valuable human resource, the Ministry has been taking various initiatives to mainstream them in the society. Specific provisions have been made in various rural development programmes aiming at their upliftment.

Scheme of Equality

Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities Act-1995, this provision is given to the persons with disabilities that the person suffering from the similar ailment will get Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation in all the activities and functions of the central govt. and state govt. without any discrimination and three percent reservations for persons will be reserved with disability in identified posts in Government establishments.

Rehabilitation Schemes

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is a national level scheme of rehabilitating physically and mentally challenged people below poverty line. As per IAY directions, 3% of the fund allocated is to be utilized for the construction of houses for physically and mentally challenged persons. The chief objective of this scheme is to rehabilitate these types of people with the coordination of State governments. State governments are requested to identify these types of people and to ensure them the full

benefit of the scheme. Ministry of Rural Development is also represented in the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

Financial help and Educational scholarships

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional credit to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) for taking up income generating activities by self-employment. In these types of cases the skilled handicapped persons are provided with the financial help to start their own small scale unit or business up to a limited level.

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided through Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for various projects for providing education, vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Non Governmental Organizations took up these challenges through different projects and schemes and then the objectives are realized with the fruitful efforts of material and human resources.

National Scholarship Scheme which is funded from Trust Fund for Empowerment of persons with disabilities financial assistance in the form of scholarship is provided to students with disabilities to enable them to pursue professional or technical courses for employment. Under this Scheme every year 1000 scholarships are provided to the students with disabilities throughout the country out of which 30% scholarships are reserved for girls of Indian nationals. National Fund also has a scholarship scheme for students with disabilities like Orthopedic, Visual ,Hearing and Others. 40% of the scholarships in each category are reserved for girls.

Scheme of 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' by UGC provides scholarship to students with disability to pursue higher education as M.Phil and Phd. programs.

Employability schemes

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): it is a demand driven scheme, not exclusively provided for differently abled persons. 40% or more than this level of disabled persons of a particular area are identified and selected for work under this scheme where this scheme is operative. While assigning them some proposed work some precautions are taken care of i.e. as the work assigned to them should be of their level and ability eg. The works like duty of waterman for the other labor, to manage crèches etc are assigned to them, also while appointing them on this duty this thing is kept in mind

that their place of duty should not be far away from their living place. These persons are registered with their original name and sir name in the job cards and all other workers are instructed not to call them with any disability names, abusive language/ insulting/ hurting remarks.

(b) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) NRLM is based upon the psychological principle that a poor person always think of becoming free from the poverty and this instinct is the base of this mission in which self-employment is promoted and self help groups are created. This is project of funded by the world bank in order to enable such people to earn at their own through specialized training .this mission aims at the financial independence of the people of this category and for this efficient and effective institutional platforms are provided. NRLM believes in inculcating the hidden capabilities and empower them for the self help for financial improvement.

Provident fund and insurance schemes

Employees Provident Fund (EPF) This scheme is developed for the benefit of the persons with disability working in the private sector. In this Scheme of Incentives Physically Challenged Persons contribute a part of his salary which is equally contributed by the agency in which he is working ,this total amount is deposited in an account and after retirement or in between after a limited period can be given to the person.

Employees State Insurance (ESI) It is a self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers. This is another incentive scheme for employees with disabilities including visually impaired persons employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008. Through this scheme life/health insurance is given to the person. The employees registered under the scheme are entitled to medical treatment for themselves and their dependents. Funeral Benefit to dependents of Insured Persons/Insured Women. Super Specialty Treatment through private tie up network as well as through its own super specialty hospitals situated throughout India.

Pension schemes

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) The basic objective of the NSAP is to provide aid to the most vulnerable section of the society including differently abled people. In February 2009, the Government approved pension under Indira Gandhi National Disability

Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) under NSAP with severe or multiple disabilities between the age group of 18 to 79 years a pension of Rs. 300 p.m. is provided to every eligible person.

Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)

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The chief objective of this scheme is to reduce the influence of the disability over the disabled person. This scheme came into existence in April, 2005 and started providing Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) at minimum cost and, enhancing the economic potential of the disabled persons so that they not only become independent, but also multiply their family income and contribute to the development process. These devices are distributed through a network of extension sales counters, composite rehabilitation camps and through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan etc.

Schemes for preparing teachers for teaching disables

SCHEMES FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS BY UGC The Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 indicates that differently-abled persons should have access to education at all levels. In the higher education sector, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is supporting universities for starting such courses which could be helpful in producing teachers for the special children. The UGC had started the scheme of assistance to universities to facilitate Teacher Preparation in Special Education (TEPSE) and Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (Differently-abled Persons) (HEPSN) during the Ninth Five-Year Plan, which continued to the present. The schemes are:-

Teacher Preparation in Special Education (TEPSE) Scheme is meant producing programmes to teachers to teach children with disabilities. The scheme provides financial assistance to offer B.Ed. and M.Ed. degree courses with specialization in one of the disability areas.

Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN) Scheme The HEPSN scheme is meant for creating an environment at the higher education institutions including Universities to start higher education learning experiences of differently-abled persons. Through this scheme opportunities are given to the persons suffering from any disability to get higher education. Awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled persons, constructing facilities aimed at improving accessibility, purchase of equipment to enrich learning, etc., are the broad categories of assistance under this scheme.

Conclusion

From the 2011 census it was observed that 69% of the population of PwDs reside in the rural areas and due to lack of education and awareness they do not opt for the benefit of the Government policies and programmes for their welfare. A large proportion of disability is preventable if they have easy access to education and awareness of basic health and nutrition. Therefore, there is a great need of sensitization of this group to be aware these schemes so that they can get advantage. For this the local bodies and NGOs can play a role of catalyst. An integral approach is required to link, identify and rehabilitate this entire class.

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