

REPORT ON SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

In pursuance of provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare notified the West Bengal Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1999 vide No. 2101-SW/1A-14/97 dated 8th July, 1999. The said rules have been amended time to time. The latest amendment has been notified to simplify the Certification Procedure of the Persons with Disabilities vide No. 9835-SW/1A-14/97Part-I.-27th December, 2011

The Medical Authority has been Notified.

Issuance of Disability Certificate:-

YEAR	OH	VH	HH	MR	MI	TOTAL
From 1981 -31.03.12	3,62,764	1,26,594	1,47,563	1,33,095	71	7,70,087
2012 - 2013	28645	7488	11342	9558	18	57,051
Total Disability Certificate issued as on 31.03.2013	3,91,409	1,34,082	1,58,905	1,42,653	89	8,27,138

In addition to this, since inception, 3,29,895 persons whose **degree of disability is below 40%** were examined in the regular Medical Boards and Special Medical Camps. They are not issued the identity cards. Therefore out of 18,47,174 (Census 2001) persons 11,57,033 persons have been examined by the Medical Boards (62.64%).

Education :

- (i) Free education is provided to children with Special Needs (G.O. No. 657-SE(Pry)/IEDC-15/08 dated 16.06.2008)
- (ii) 3% seats are reserved in all educational Institutions for persons with disabilities. (Notification No. 598-Edn(A) dated 04.12.1998 & No. 846-SF(Pry) dated 12.08.1999)
- (iii) Physically Challenged persons are provided with a grant of 20 minutes extra time per hour in examinations/entrance test/recruitment test. Visually Challenged person is also provided with scribe.
- (iv) Physically Challenged persons are provided with a relaxation of 5% marks for admission and/or selection in employment.(Notification No. 746-SW dated 28.02.2011)
- (v) Department of School Education has issued order for implementation of option of single Language for Students with Hearing Impairment, alternate question for Visually Impaired in exams, printing of books in large characters etc. (G.O. No. 204(4)/IED/1/IEDSS/PBSSM dated 31.12.2012)
- (vii) Students with disabilities are provided with book grant, uniform and other assistance under IEDC scheme of Sarba Siksha Abhijan.
- (viii) Felicitation of Students who scored above 80% marks in West Bengal Madyamik/HS Examination.

**Scheme of scholarship for Students with Disabilities Studying below class ix, 2010
(Notification No. 6060-SW/ ID-39/07, 9th August, 2010) :**

WD & SW Deptt. Provides 5000 Scholarship to Students with disability reading below class IX as follows:

Item	Rate
Scholarship	Rs. 300/- pm
Reader allowance to VH	Rs. 100/- pm
Transport Allowance to LH & MR/Autism	Rs. 150/- pm
Learning Teaching Material	Rs. 500/- pa

Department of Mass Education Extension provides Scholarship to 2500 students with disabilities from class IX onwards (G.O. No. 609(18)/ME/PH dated 12.2.1999) :

ITEM	Day Scholar	Hosteller
Scholarship IX – XII Readers Allowance (VH)	Rs. 1020/- pa Rs. 600/- pa	Rs. 1680/- pa Rs. 600/- pa
Scholarship Undergraduate Readers Allowance (VH)	Rs. 1500/- pa Rs. 900/- pa	Rs. 2160/- pa Rs. 900/- pa
Professional Course/PG Readers Allowance (VH)	Rs. 2040/- pa Rs. 1200/- pa	Rs. 2880/- pa Rs. 1200/- pa

Sarva Siksha Mission provides Scholarship to CWSNs as follows :

Item	Rate
Scholarship under IEDSS	Rs. 600/- pm
Readers Allowance (VH)	Rs. 600/- pa
Transport Allowance	Rs. 600/- pa
Escort Allowance	Rs. 600/- pa

Employment :

- 3% seats are reserved for Persons with Disabilities in 100 point roster :
 - i) Blindness & Low Vision : 1% (12th Vacancy)
 - ii) Hearing Impairment : 1% (42nd Vacancy)
 - iii) Locomotor disability or CP : 1% (72nd Vacancy)
- 12th, 42nd & 72nd posts in 100 point Roster have been kept reserved by the State Govt. for facilitating employment to PwDs.
- Age relaxation of 5 years to Physically Challenged persons for recruitment in State Govt.
- Relaxation of 5% marks in admission & recruitment
- Physically Challenged persons are exempted from payment of exam and application fees @ 40% to total fees, prescribed in respect of competitive exams.
(Notification No. 746-SW dated 28.02.2011)

- State Govt. employees with disability are entitled to Conveyance Allowance @ 5% of basic pay subject to maximum of Rs. 400/- pm & are exempted from payment of Professional Tax
- Physically handicapped persons in Govt. employment (Group C & D) are entitled to get preference in posting near their native places.
- Life long family pension is available to disabled dependent ward of Govt. employee and School teaching & non-teaching employees who cannot earn his/her livelihood (Memorandum No. 201-F (pen) dated 26.02.2007 of Finance Deptt. Govt. of WB)

Employment Bank :

Govt. of West Bengal has launched Employment Bank portal which is an interactive platform among three parties namely the "**job-seekers**", the "**employers**" and the "**placement agencies**". It enables online enrolment of job-seekers, employers and educational institutions. It will help the job-seekers to search for suitable employment as per their qualification. (www.employmentbankwb.gov.in)

Economic Rehabilitation Grant Scheme :

(Notification No. No. 799-SW / (D) I G-03/11, dated 22.02. 2012)

WD & SW Deptt. provide Economic Assistance up to Rs. 10000/- to adult with disability belonging to families in low income bracket for pursuing self-employment.

Prosthetic Aids & Appliances

Persons with Disabilities are provided with Aids and appliances free of cost such as wheel chair, tri-cycle, hearing aid, sewing machine, musical instruments, DVD player, iPod, Multimedia Print Reader etc. as assistive devices centrally through the office of the Commissioner (Disabilities) in Kolkata Municipal Corporation Area and in Districts on the basis on requisition received from the districts. Special Grant-in Aid is also given to PwDs on specific proposal.

Scheme of preferential Allotment of land at Concessional rate to PwDs

(Notification No. 1710-IR/56/07-LR/1C dated 21.03.2007) :

Department of Land & Land Reforms provide preferential allotment of land at concessional rate to Persons with Disabilities for :

- House
- Setting up Business
- Setting up Special Recreation Centres
- Establishment of Special Schools
- Establishment of Research Centres
- Establishment of Factories

Recognition of institutions for persons with disabilities :

- Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is the competent authority to issues the certificate of registration and Re-news the same after three years on receipt of report of satisfactory functions.
- The District Magistrates of all the Districts have been declared as Additional Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in their respective Districts, in addition to their present duties, for better coordination between the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, West Bengal at Kolkata and Districts, on implementation of the PWD, Act, 1995. (Notification No. 1002-SW dated 25.03.2003)

Social Security :

Disability Pension : (Notification No. 1682 – SW/O/2M-16/09 dated, 01.06.2011)

- Department of Women Development & Social Welfare provides Disability Pension to PwDs. who are unable to earn livelihood and below poverty line @ Rs. 750/- pm.

- National Indira Gandhi Disability Pension Scheme implemented through the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development for Persons with severe Disability @ Rs. 400/- pm (Rs. 200/- Central share and Rs. 200/- State share).

Poverty Alleviation Schemes :

- Govt. of West Bengal provide 3% reservation in all Poverty Alleviation Schemes for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities. (Order NO. 218(5)-SW dated 28.01.1998 of Social Welfare Deptt.)
- Persons with Disabilities are allotted houses under Indira Awaas Yojana
- Persons with Disabilities are provided employment under MNREGA

Travel Facilities :

- Persons with Disabilities are allowed free travel facilities in Buses run by State Transport Corporation (except Deluxe/Rocket and inter state) and Buses & Trams run by Kolkata Tramways Company. (Notification No.- 2203-WT/7B-22/2001 dated 16.05.2003)

Grievance Redressal :

Commissioner to look into complaints with respect to matters relating to :-

- (a) deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities;
- (c) non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions made or issued by the appropriate Governments and the local authorities for the welfare and protection of rights of persons with disabilities, and take up the matter with the appropriate authorities.

Nature of cases dealt at the Court of the Commissioner

- a) Non-implementation of 3% reservation in appointment and admission in the school.
- b) Non implementation of 3% reservation in other appointments
- c) Transfer of Parents of child with special need and employees with disabilities.
- d) Denial of free travel in transports.
- e) Denial of other facilities to persons with disabilities
- f) Denial of facilities to government employees and their wards with disabilities.

Appointment of Legal Guardian under National Trust Act, 1999

Legal guardians are appointed for the Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. Local Level Committees under National Trust Act have been constituted in all the districts to receive and approve the applications for legal guardians.

Badte Kadam :

Awareness Generation under National Trust in collaboration with SNAC and NGOs covering various Districts are organized every year.

Scheme of state awards for empowerment of persons with disabilities. State Awards are provided in the following categories :

- Best Employee with disability
- Best Self-Employed PWD
- Best Institution working for PWDs
- Role Model
- Best Parents Organisation
- Best Self-help Group
- Best Worker for welfare of PWDs
- Best Placement Officer
- Best Educational Institution
- Best Local Level Committee

Observance of International Days

- 4th January, International Louis Braille Day
- 2nd April, World Autism Awareness Day
- 27th June, Helen Keller Day
- 3rd December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- Felicitation of eminent Sports Personalities for their achievement in National & Inter National events.

Recreation of Persons with disabilities and elderly persons :

A program for taking Persons with Disabilities and elderly persons for Pandals hopping during Durga Puja Festival is organized every year.

Creation of Barrier Free Environment

- Barrier free environment has been created at important public buildings like-Writers' Buildings, Nandan (Govt. Auditorium), Purta Bhawan, Commissioner (Disabilities) Office, Administrative Training Institute, Bikash Bhawan, University of Calcutta, Kolkata Medical College & Hospital, Jadavpur University, Rabindra Bharati Main Campus, South 24 Parganas Collectorate, VRC, Kolkata Station, Kolkata Corporation and Heritage buildings of Kolkata are in the process of being made Barrier Free. Kolkata Book Fair-2013 was made accessible for Persons with Disabilities. Two proposals have already been submitted to the Ministry of social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India for making office of District Magistrate (Collectorate) of Howrah and Birbhum districts accessible to PWDs.
- School education department & Sarva Siksha Mission have created barrier free environment in more than 52,000 schools by constructing Ramps with Handrail through out the State.
- 8071 schools have been provided with Barrier Free Toilets under Inclusive Education of Disabled of SSA, PBSSM.

Disability Mapping :

A project for preparing Disability Mapping was undertaken in collaboration with Department of Applied Psychology, University of Calcutta. Four districts viz Bankura, South 24 Parganas, Nadia and Kolkata had been taken up for collection of primary & secondary data.

Publication :

A Compendium named "SPHURAN" is published every year on various aspects of disability, concessions & benefits for PWDs and Govt. Orders & circulars issued by different state & central Govt. departments time to time relating to empowerment of Persons With Disabilities, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.