

### **Initiatives taken for the welfare of the Persons with Disabilities in the State of Tripura.**

1. The State Govt. has adopted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and framed Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1997 based on the above Act.
2. In accordance with the provision of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 a State Coordination Committee for Persons with Disabilities (SCC), under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, SW & SE Department and a State Executive Committee for Persons with Disabilities (SEC), under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Govt. of Tripura, SW & SE Deptt. have been constituted which are holding their meetings regularly. The last meetings of both the Committees have been held on 6.8.2007 & 8.02.2008 respectively.
3. The State Govt. has appointed the Secretary, Social Welfare and Social Education Department as State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in compliance with the norms of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, to look into the overall implementation of the provisions of the said Act and Rules along with other issues relating to the welfare of persons facing physical challenges in addition to his normal duties.
4. Taking in view the importance of speedy, effective and smooth materialization of the provisions of the said Act and Rules, the State Govt. has appointed the D.M. & Collectors of the four Districts of the State as Additional Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in order to oversee the effective implementation in of their respective Districts.
5. State Govt. has nominated the Director of SW & SE, as Competent Authority in respect of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.
6. There is a "Disabled Welfare Section" set up under the Directorate of SW & SE, which is exclusively dealing with overall administrative functions in connection with implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.
7. The State Govt. has provided 3% reservation of seats for the following categories of physically handicapped persons in case of direct recruitment both in Govt. services and Public Sector Undertakings vide G.O. No. 17 under reference No.F.23(7)-GA(P&T)/98 dated 31-3-2001 of the State G.A.(P&T) Department.
  - (i) Blindness or Low Vision.
  - (ii) Hearing Impaired: and
  - (iii) Loco motor Disability or Cerebral Palsy.
8. State Government has made provision of 15 (fifteen) days Special Casual Leave in favour of the physically handicapped Govt. employees on the ground of Medical Treatment and fitting of Artificial Limbs, etc.

9. The State Government has issued Notification identifying Group C & D posts to which reservation for the persons with disabilities shall apply. Further, a request has also been made to the G.A. (P & T) Department (Nodal Department in case of employment of the physically handicapped persons) to take necessary action for identification of the Group A & B posts to which 3% reservation for the persons with physically handicapped persons shall apply.
10. The State Government has already conducted Special Recruitment Drive for appointment of the persons with disabilities. After conclusion of interview the SW & SE Department has sponsored names of eligible 140 physically challenged candidates to the various departments to issue offer of appointment in Group C & D posts being the Nodal Department.
11. The State Govt. has been providing land on priority basis at concessional rate to the persons with disabilities on the following grounds:-
  - (i) House.
  - (ii) Setting up of business.
  - (iii) Establishment of Special Schools.
  - (iv) Establishment of factories by entrepreneurs with disabilities.
12. The State Govt. has amended “the Tripura Building Rules, 2004” incorporating all necessary provision in order to create barrier free environment for persons with physical disabilities as follows which has come in to effect from 20-12-2004 in the State. decided to materialize the following provisions in all new buildings in order to make barrier free environment for the welfare of the physically disabled persons.
  - (i) Ramps in public places ;
  - (ii) Adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users ;
  - (iii) Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators ;
  - (iv) Ramps in hospitals, PHC & Medical care and Rehabilitation Institutes.
13. Vocational Training is being imparted to the Persons with Disabilities through the Tripura Institute of Technology (then Polytechnic Institute, Narsingarh) run by the State Government and Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Abhoynagar run by the Govt. of India.
14. Reservation of not less than 3% has been provided in implementation of all beneficiary oriented schemes, like SGSY, PMRY ,IAY and in other Poverty Alleviation Schemes, which are being implemented through the Panchayats.
15. The State Govt. has provided not less than 3% reservation of seats for the physically handicapped persons for admission in all Government Educational Institutions and other Educational Institutions receiving aid from the Government.

16. The State Government (School Education) has been providing writers to the acute upper limb handicapped examinees on demand subject to production of disability certificate from the appropriate authority.
17. State Government has provided exemption from payment of Professional Tax for the physically challenged Govt. employees.
18. State Government has provided 5(five) years relaxation in respect of upper age limit for all categories of physically handicapped persons in direct recruitment in various services / posts.
19. State Government has approved the matter of giving Bank Guarantee not exceeding Rs. 25.00 lacs to facilitate availing loan under NHFDC by the disabled persons.
20. State Government has framed the “Tripura Unemployment Allowances for the Blind Persons (Amendment) Scheme, 2005”. The 100% visually handicapped unemployed persons of the State who have passed at least Class-VIII standard and registered their names at least 2(two) years ago at the Employment Exchange and could not be able to secure any gainful job under Govt. or Non-Govt. Organizations are deemed eligible to avail benefit @ Rs.1,000/- per head per month. The said scheme is being implemented through the O/o the ISWEs / CDPOs of their concerned jurisdiction. Necessary amount of fund under the scheme is provided from the State Plan. Total 90 beneficiaries are availing benefit under scheme at present.
21. State Government has been providing financial grant in the form of pension to the blind persons of 18 years or above age, who have lost 100% eyesight, belonging to BPL Category. Pension @ Rs.1000/- per head per month are being granted under the scheme. The scheme has been introduced w.e.f. November 2006. At present 856 fully blind eligible persons are getting benefit under the scheme. Further, action has been taken to extend the benefit to the other eligible fully blind persons. The said scheme is being implemented through the O/o the ISWEs / CDPOs of their concerned jurisdiction. Necessary amount of fund under the scheme is provided from the State Plan.
22. Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC) has been providing full traveling concession benefit to 100% blind persons and 50% concession to the other category of physically handicapped persons for journey in the state and inter state buses. The concerned physically disabled persons can also have one escort with them who is also entitled to have 50% concession.
23. The Government has been giving loan to physically disabled persons on soft terms basis through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. The Traipura SC Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd. has been declared as State Canalizing Agency in this regard.
24. Blind and Handicapped Pension are being granted since 1980@ Rs.300/- per head per month to the physically disabled persons of 18 years and above age, who do not have any source of livelihood. Total 5,455 persons with disabilities are getting benefit under the scheme. The said scheme is being implemented through the O/o the ISWEs /

CDPOs of their concerned jurisdiction. Necessary amount of fund under the scheme is provided from the State Plan.

25. The State Government has been providing Conveyance Allowance @ Rs.100/- per month along with salary to all Blind & Orthopeadically Handicapped Govt. Employees w.e.f. 01-09-1998. The said scheme is being implemented through the O/o the ISWEs / CDPOs of their concerned jurisdiction. Necessary amount of fund under the scheme is provided from the State Plan.
26. The State Government has introduced pension @ Rs.300/- per month to the physically challenged persons who are 18 years and above age and having 80% and above disability and belong to BPL family w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2007. At present 347 nos. of physically handicapped persons are getting pension under the scheme. The said scheme is being implemented through the O/o the ISWEs / CDPOs of their concerned jurisdiction. Necessary amount of fund under the scheme is provided from the State Plan.
27. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for the Children with Disabilities (I.E.D.C) are being implemented through the respective schools in the State. At present 1195 disabled students are getting stipend under the scheme.
28. There is a provision to grant scholarship to the students with disabilities studying at college level.
29. Students with Disabilities, reading from Class- I to IX, are being provided extra 20 minutes time in all School Examination and maximum of 5 marks in each paper is also allowed as weightage in all School Examinations to the students with disabilities to secure pass marks.
30. School authorities have been advised to make barrier free environment in all the educational institutions for the welfare of the children with physical challenges.
31. Training on treatment of the disabled is being provided to Medical Officers by the Health Department.
32. Amanuensis is being provided to the blind students in all the examinations held under the Tripura Board of Secondary Education.
33. The children facing physical challenges are exempted from payment of admission fee, transfer fee & other fees in case of getting admission in the educational institutions in the State.
34. Relaxation of age, raising the upper age limit to 10 years, has been provided for admission of children with disabilities in the educational institutions.
35. State Government has framed rules for providing Periodical Medical Checkup of the fully visually handicapped students reading in the Institutes of Visually Handicapped (IVH), Narsingarh and Badharghat run by the SW & SE Department.

36. Special Medical Boards, headed by Chief Medical Officers, have been set up in West, South, North Tripura & Dhalai Districts of the State in order to issue certificates alongside treatment of the physically challenged persons. Besides, there is a State Appellate Board at the State Capital, Agartala, to dispose of the complaints, if any, lodged in respect of percentage of disability etc.
37. A Rest House for the disabled persons at the State Capital, Agartala, has been constructed which will be started shortly.
38. State Government has created 100 posts for recruitment of the fully blind persons only. Offer of appointment in respect of eligible 93 fully blind persons have already been issued.
39. The State Health & Family Welfare Department holds camps regularly in collaboration with the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in the various parts of the state from time to time in order to provide various rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities.
40. A State Resource Centre (at the DDRC Complex), Shyamali Bazar, Agartala and three District Disability Rehabilitation Centers have been set up in West, North & Dhalai District of the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The DDRCs are functioning towards providing rehabilitation services to the persons with physical challenges in the State.
41. The NGOs who are working for the welfare of the disabled persons have been issued instruction to have certificate of registration from the competent authority ( the Director of SW & SE) as per provision under Sec. 52 of the PWD Act, 1995. Total 9 Nos. of NGO has been registered up to the date.
42. Aids and appliances are being provided to the Physically Disabled persons under ADIP scheme (CSS) through the DDRC, West, Tripura and one NGO namely Pratibandhi Punarbas Samity, Abhoynagar under the scheme as and when sanction received from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.
43. Draft database on persons with physical disabilities of the State has been prepared, which are being updated taking in view the welfare of such persons.
44. The Directorate of Industries & Commerce has been requested to provide incentives in case of admission of 3% disabled students at ITIs.in non technical trades.

<p><b><u>NGO details:</u></b> (Disability wise list of NGOs regd under Sec 52 of Persons with Disabilities Act 95)</p>	<p>Names of the NGOs regd under Sec 52 of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.</p> <p>1) The Secretary, Manobikash Sansthan, Amulya Villa, Ramnagar Road No. 8, Agartala- 799002, West Tripura, Phone- 0381-222-2849, 0381-220-0482, Fax- 222-2847. (Special School for Education and Training for the</p>
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	<p>mentally retarded children).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) Shri Alekhya Dasgupta, Managing Director, Agartala Hospital &amp; Research Centre Pvt. Ltd., 9 – A Mantribari Road, Agartala, West Tripura (Conducting welfare activities of persons with disabilities)</li> <li>3) The Secretary, Swabalamban (All Tripura Sch. Castes, Tribes &amp; Minority Upliftment Council), Ramnagar Road No. 1, Agartala (Conducting welfare activities of persons with disabilities).</li> <li>4) The General Secretary, Tripura Council for Child Welfare, Laxmi Narayan Bari Road, Agartala, West Tripura (Conducting welfare activities in the field of disabled persons).</li> <li>5) The Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Agartala, West Tripura.</li> <li>6) The Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Ambassa, Dhalai District, Tripura.</li> <li>7) The Secretary, North Tripura Deaf &amp; Dumb School, PO. Kailashahar, North Tripura.</li> <li>8) The Director, Ferrando Rehabilitation Society for the Disabled, PO. Bankumari, Nandan Nagar, Agartala- 799 006.</li> <li>9) The Director, Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Circute Annexe, PO. Kunjaban- 799006</li> </ol>
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The State Social Welfare & Social Education Department has set-up the following 2 (two) Institutes for the Visually Handicapped Children on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1972 as one of the schemes of Social Welfare under the Fourth Five Year Plan:

- 1) Institute for the Visually Handicapped (Boys), Narsingarh, Agartala.
- 2) Institute for the Visually Handicapped (Girls), Badharghat, Agartala.

The main features of the above institutes are as follows:

1. Objectives of the Institutes:

Providing mobility training and academic education in Braille method to the blind children reading upto Madhyamik grade within the residential environment.

2. Intake Capacity:

The Institute is a residential one and the intake capacity is for 50 blind children at present.

3. Eligibility and Admission Requirements:

i) Parents of Indian Nationals having Citizenship Cards from Appropriate authority are eligible for applying for admission of their blind children.

ii) Blind children who have total absence of sight and have lost both the eyes and who are in the age group 5 and 10 are usually eligible for admission.

iii) Children of the age group 5 and 10 and whose visual acuity do not exceed 6/60 or 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses and having no other handicap other than blindness are also eligible for admission.

iv) Parents of Indian Nationals who have continuous stay of at least two years in Tripura State are eligible for applying for their wards. Such parents must possess certificate of residence in this respect either from a Member of Tripura Legislative Assembly or from a Member of either the Loka Sbha or Rajya Sabha from Tripura or from any Gazetted Officer of either the State or the Central Government.

Despite the above Institutes the State Social Welfare & Social Education Department has also set-up the Institute for Speech Rehabilitation for Deaf and hard-of-hearing children at Abhoynagar, Agartala on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1971 as one of the Schemes of Social Welfare under the Fourth Five Year Plan. The main features of the Institute are as follows:

1. Objectives of the Institute:

Providing modern educational treatment on education of the deaf children leading upto Vth Grade within the residential environment.

## 2. Intake Capacity:

The Institute is a Residential one and the intake capacity is for 40 children for the present.

## 3. Eligibility and Admission Requirements:

i) Parents of Indian Nationals having citizenship Registration cards from appropriate authority are eligible for applying for admission of their deaf and hard of hearing children.

ii) Deaf children of the age-group 4 and 8 in whom the sense of hearing is non-functional for ordinary purposes of life and who have hearing loss at 70 decibels or above at 500, 1000 or 2000 frequencies are usually eligible for admission.

iii) Deaf children of the age-group 4 and 8 having no contagious diseases and having no other handicap other than deafness are eligible for admission.

iv) Parents of Indian Nationals who have continuous stay of at least two years in Tripura State are eligible for applying for their wards.