

International Day of Disabled Persons

3rd December

International Day of Disabled Persons has been held annually on 3rd December. This day was created to increase the understanding of the issues around disabilities and attention the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. This day is to help increase the awareness of the gains for everybody if disabled persons are integrated into all aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life and raising money for resources for persons with disabilities.



Types of Disabilities



According to “**Person with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**” “**Disability**” means-

1. Blindness;
2. Low vision;
3. Leprosy-cured;
4. Hearing impairment;
5. Loco motor disability;
6. Mental retardation;
7. Mental illness;

Disabilities could be Physical, Acquired or Developmental in nature. Disabilities which are generally apparent at birth or in the immediate period following birth normally manifest as physical disabilities. For instance – Spina bifida, Cerebral Palsy are apparent during birth and are life long physical disabilities. This form of disability hampers their physical mobility.

Acquired disabilities can strike at any time irrespective of age, race or gender. Accidents, injuries, Alzheimer’s disease, Multiple sclerosis are some of the examples of acquired disabilities. These could hamper their physical abilities or lay siege on their mental faculties.

Developmental Disabilities are abnormalities manifesting at birth which hamper the development and growth of an individual. Mental retardation, Down’s syndrome,

visual impairment, hearing impairment could be some of the examples of developmental disabilities.

Differently Abled Persons in Orissa

Orissa is the ninth largest state by area and the eleventh largest by population. According to the 2001 census of India, the total population of Orissa is 36,706,920. Out of which, there are 10.21 lakh persons with disabilities in Orissa who constitute around 2.77 percent of the total population of the State. This includes persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotors, and mental disabilities.



Initiatives taken by Orissa Government for Differently Abled Persons

- **Disability Pension under Madhubabu Pension Yojana**

To Support sustenance of physically handicapped persons

- **Special Schools for children with disability:**

The scheme aims at providing free education to visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally challenged children in Special Schools having specially-trained teachers.

- **Training & Rehabilitation of Persons with Disability**

To provide training to adolescent/ adults with disabilities for their economic empowerment and to become self-sufficient and self-reliant.

- **'Banishree' a scheme of scholarship for disabled students:**

The Scheme envisages scholarships to physically challenged students, who are studying in recognized normal schools from primary level up to the University level, including those pursuing technical and vocational education in recognized institutes.

- **Supply of Special Aids & Appliances**

To provide special aids and appliances to differently abled persons.

- **Training Centres for Teachers for Students with Disability**

There are three training centers for teachers of special schools in the state.

- i. **Training Centre for Teachers of the Visually Handicapped**

(TCTVH),run in collaboration with NIVH,Dehradun.

- ii. **Training Centres for Teacher of the Deaf (TCTD)**, functioning as

Regional Centre of NIHH, Mumbai.

iii. **Training Centre for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped**

(TCMH), run by Chetana, a Bhubaneswar based voluntary organisation with self support.

- **Rehabilitation of Cured Leprosy Patients (LCP)**

To empower the Leprosy Cured Persons with skills that would enable them to improve their socio-economic condition and to sustain themselves through self-employment and entrepreneurship either individually or collectively.

- **NHFDC Loan & Other Loan schemes.**

Implemented through **Mahila Vikash Samabaya Nigam (MVSN)** with funds availed from NHFDC.

In Employment Sector:

State govt. have reserved **3%** of posts for the PWDs in the different groups of services. Job identification has been updated. **603** posts have been identified: **Group A – 12, Group B - 54, Group C – 422 and Group D – 115.**

- **‘Niyukti Mela’ for the Physically Challenged**

The W&CD Department and State Employment Mission organized State wide Atma Nijukti Paramarsha Mela (ANPM) in January 2008 in all 314 Block headquarters for the rural physically challenged persons. The mela was a first step for institutional identification of rural PWDs (Persons with Disabilities) in age group of 16 to 45 for skill upgradation and self-employment.

- **Trade Identification and Training.**

The Orissa Government has also taken steps for skill upgradation training of differently abled persons through CIPET, NIIT, Bhubaneswar & TCTD. Besides, State support has been provided to 3 institutions, TCTVH, Chetna and the Institute of the Disabled for improving infrastructure for vocational training.

- **Services from Single Window**

A state wide mission for providing multi-sectoral services by organizing Single Window Camps at Block headquarters of the state has been launched.



“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility of each others’ welfare, social justice can never be attained”.

..... Helen Keller.