



Physically challenged persons and their reservations

Mr. Bonela Ganapathi, Research Scholar U.G.C RGNF, Department of Social Work,
Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

Prof. P.Arjun, Head of the department, Department of social worker, Andhra
University, Visakhapatnam

Abstract: *Disabilities are estimates nearly 180 and 220 million over the worldwide, and nearly 80 percent of them live in developing countries. All of the issues that affect young people, such as access to education, employment, health care and social services, also affect youth with disabilities. Schemes for Physically Challenged Persons (Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities envisage three percent reservations for persons with disability in identified posts in Government establishments. 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*

Key words: *establishment, self-employment, malnutrition*

Introduction

Young people with disabilities are among the poorest and most marginalized of the world's youth. Estimates suggest that there are between 180 and 220 million youth with disabilities worldwide, and nearly 80 percent of them live in developing countries.¹ When a child is born or develops a disability, it is often seen as a tragic event by his or her family and community. In many countries, there are certain traditional beliefs associated with the causes of disability, such as curses and contagion, which results in these children and their mothers being shunned and isolated. Moreover, families tend not to priorities the needs of children with disabilities, which is shown by higher levels of malnutrition, lower rates of immunization, and higher rates of infection and communicable disease among children with disabilities.

All of the issues that affect young people, such as access to education, employment, health care and social

services, also affect youth with disabilities, but in a far more complex way. Attitudes and discrimination linked to disability make it much more difficult for them to go to school, to find work or to participate in local activities. In many communities, both rural and urban, the environment is immensely challenging with physical and communication barriers that make it hard for them to participate in social life. There is a significant dearth of research on the prevalence and consequences of disabilities among youth. The data that does exist shows that young people with disabilities face many more challenges than their non-disabled peers. In addition, they may also have to cope with challenges linked to gender, poverty, ethnicity or sexuality.²

Government Schemes:

Schemes for Physically Challenged Persons (Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities)³ envisage three percent reservations for persons with



disability in identified posts in Government establishments.

Under the Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for employees with disabilities including visually impaired persons employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs.25, 000. ⁴

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.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees employment to rural household adults including differently abled persons. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), a provision of 3% of the total beneficiaries has been made for PwDs.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) provides pension to BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities between the age group of 18 to 79 years @ of Rs. 300 p.m. per beneficiary.

Under 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.

Under the National Scholarship Scheme which is funded from Trust Fund for Empowerment of PwDs financial assistance is provided to students with disabilities to enable them to pursue professional or technical courses from recognized institutes and get employed/self employed. Under the Scheme every year 1000 scholarships are provided to the students with disabilities throughout the country. 30% scholarships are reserved for girls. Only Indian nationals are eligible for scholarships.

National Fund has a scholarship scheme for students with disabilities. 500 new scholarships to be awarded each year are equally distributed (125 each) for the four major categories of disabilities viz. (i) Orthopaedic (ii) Visual (iii) Hearing and (iv) Others. 40% of the scholarships in each category are reserved for girls.

Scheme of 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' provides scholarship to students with disability to pursue M.Phil and Phd. programs in higher education. It is implemented by UGC. A statement showing State-wise number of persons with disabilities is:⁵



Table 1. Number of persons with disabilities in India

S.No.	States/Union Territory	Number of persons with disabilities.
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7057
2	Andhra Pradesh	1364981
3	Arunachal Pradesh	33315
4	Assam	530300
5	Bihar	1887611
6	Chandigarh	15538
7	Chhattisgarh	419887
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4048
9	Daman & Diu	3171
10	Delhi	235886
11	Goa	15749
12	Gujarat	1045465
13	Haryana	455040
14	Himachal Pradesh	155950
15	Jammu & Kashmir	302670
16	Jharkhand	448377
17	Karnataka	940643
18	Kerala	860794
19	Lakshadweep	1678
20	Madhya Pradesh	1408528
21	Maharashtra	1569582
22	Manipur	28376
23	Meghalaya	28803
24	Mizoram	16011
25	Nagaland	26499
26	Orissa	1021335
27	Pondicherry	25857
28	Punjab	424523
29	Rajasthan	1411979
30	Sikkim	20367
31	Tamil Nadu	1642497
32	Tripura	58940
33	Uttar Pradesh	3453369
34	Uttarakhand	194769
35	West Bengal	1847174
	Total	21906769



Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Vikalagula Cooperative Corporation was set up in the year 1981 in the International year of the disabled to look after the welfare of the handicapped. A separate directorate for the welfare of the handicapped came into existence in 1983. These two organizations are

Table 2: **Percentage of reservation**

working for the betterment of the disabled in the state

Reservation: In Government Job: In Gr. 'C' and 'D' posts under the Government reservation are provided in direct recruitment for physically handicapped persons as indicated below:

Category of handicapped	Percentage of reservation
Visually handicapped	1%
Orthopaedically handicapped	1%
Hearing handicapped	1%

b) In Educational Institutions:

1. 2% seats are reserved in I.T.I's
2. 3% seats are reserved in Government B.Ed colleges and T.T.C's
3. 1% each in 3 regions of the Engineering Colleges of State of A.P
4. ¼ in MBBS course

c) **In Fair Price Shop:** a) 3% reservation is given to PH persons in allotment of fair price shop by Civil Supply Department. Priority is given to PH persons in sanction of ration card.

b) In Housing Board:

2% quota in the houses constructed by the A.P. Housing Board is reserved for handicapped persons under hire purchase scheme. The handicapped beneficiaries are allowed to pay the contribution for allotment of houses in installments.

d) **Age relaxation:** The upper age limit is relaxed by 10 years for handicapped persons for applying in Government jobs.

e) **Scholarship/stipend:** The State Government awards scholarship to the disabled students (OH VH HH) at the following rate:

Table 3. Scholarship/stipend rates

Class	Amount
I to V	Rs.35/-p.m
VI to VIII	Rs.50/-p.m
IX, X and intermediate	Rs.85/-p.m
Degree course	Rs.125/-p.m
PGCourse, Inplant trg. Professional Courses	Rs.170/-p.m



Scholarship for The disabled students

- f) In addition to OH students who are severely disabled are also eligible for Rs.50/-p.m. and Rs.25/-p.m towards Conveyance Allowance and Prosthetic/Orthotic Maintenance Allowance respectively. Further, the VH students are also eligible for an amount of Rs.50/- ,75/- & 100/- p.m. towards reader allowance as per the Courses/Classes (as the case may be.)
- g) **Disability Pension:** The State Government has sanctioned disability pension @ Rs.75/-p.m to disabled irrespective of age.
- h) **Unemployment allowance:** Rs.50/- p.m. is offered to unemployed disabled persons in the age group of 18 to 60 years and to those whose two limbs are deformed and whose annual income is less than Rs.12,000/-p.a
- i) **Conveyance allowance:** The State Government have been allowing conveyance allowance to their employees who are totally blind or Orthopaedically Handicapped at the rate of 10% of basic pay subject to maximum of Rs.175/- The same concession is also applicable to the employees working in the Public Sector Undertakings, State Electricity Board and Universities.

Physically Challenged persons Pension

The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced enhancement of pension for the physically challenged from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 a month and the Government would sanction Antyodaya Anna Yojana cards to all the eligible physically challenged persons.

The Andhra Pradesh Government provides various incentives for the physically-challenged persons to mark the International Disabled Welfare Day. The sops included assistance of Rs. 1 lakh for housing on par with the SCs/STs and the physically-challenged persons joining professional and PG courses would be given 3G mobiles. This is in addition to Rs. 1 lakh that would be given to them if they marry other physically-challenged person.

The Government offered to consider a request for providing scooter or motor cycle to students who completed graduation and appear for post graduate course. The Government would examine the request for providing pension of Rs. 200 a month to 84,113 people with 20 to 40 p.c. disability.

There was a need to implement schemes for the welfare of the physically-challenged persons. The Government was committed to doing everything possible to ensure they lead their life with self confidence and without depending on others. In this direction, self employment schemes with necessary subsidies would be implemented. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Sunitha Laxma Reddy and other officials were present.⁶

Andhra Pradesh State Schemes for Persons with Disabilities by Department for the Welfare of women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizen

1. State Disability Pension

This is called Viklangata Pension and contributed by State and Central government such as Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension scheme. The sum amount of the pension is Rs 500/-per month. It is administered by the



Department of Rural Development in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

2. Bus concession

The persons with vision impairment are entitled to free bus journey in the city and in the suburban buses with escorts. In case of services operating in rural areas, these persons with disabilities are allowed 50 % concession in normal fares. Escorts to person with visual impairment and mental retardation are allowed when accompanying them. These escorts are charged a nominal fee of Rs.5/- per head per month for travel by city buses and at 50 % concession by mofussil buses.

3. Incentive Award for Marriage between Disabled and Non- Disabled

State of Andhra Pradesh is giving grants for marriage between disabled and non – disabled, which is administered by the Department for the Welfare of Disabled & Senior Citizen. The lump sum money is Rs 50,000/- given at once to the married couple where, one partner or both partner is disabled.

4. Educational Scholarship

There is post matric scholarship and reimbursement of tuition fees to the eligible persons with disabilities for various courses. Schemes are administered by the department of welfare of disabled and senior citizen, Hyderabad. For more details, applicant can contact to Dept for the welfare of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities.

While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet requirements and benefits. It is also state obligation.

References

- ¹ Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (DESA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSCO), Youth: Social Policy and Development Division, 2014
- ² Ibid.
- ³ The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
- ⁴ Press Information Bureau Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment 06-August-2013
- ⁵ This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri P. Balram Naik in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 06-August-2013.
- ⁶ The Hindu, Daily, Hyderabad, December 4, 2013