



NATIONAL POLICY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES-2006

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Paper Received On: 25 JULY 2021

Peer Reviewed On: 31 JULY 2021

Published On: 1 AUGUST 2021

Content Originality & Unique: 70%

Abstract

The National policy recognizes that person with disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. The present article main focused on the National policy for persons with disabilities- 2006.

Key words: National Policy, Persons, Disabilities- 2006.



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Introduction

The government of India formulated the National policy for persons with disabilities in February 2006 which deals with physical educational & Economic Rehabilitation of person with disabilities. In addition the policy also focuses upon rehabilitation of women and children with disabilities, barrier free environment, social security, research etc. The National policy recognizes that person with disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. Persons with disabilities according the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, include those who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

The international classification of functioning, disability and health refers to disability as an umbrella term covering impairments activity limitations and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty

encountered by individual in executing a task or action; while participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. The ICFs definition of disability denotes a negative interaction between a person and his or contextual factors. A comprehensive approach in interventions is then necessary for persons with disabilities as it entails actions beyond the context of health, but more on helping them to overcome difficulties by removing environmental and social barriers.

FOCUS OF THE POLICY

1. Prevention of disabilities:

Since disability, in a large number of cases, is preventable, the policy lays a strong emphasis on prevention of disabilities. It calls for programme for prevention of diseases, which results in disability and the creation of awareness regarding measures to be taken for prevention of disables during the period of pregnancy and thereafter to be intensified and their coverage expanded.

2. Rehabilitation measures:

Rehabilitation measures can be classified into two distinct groups.

(1). Physical rehabilitation, which includes early detection and interventions and, counseling & medical interventions and provision of aids & appliances. It will also include the development of rehabilitation professionals.

(2). Educational rehabilitation including vocational education and economic rehabilitation for a dignified life in society.

3. Women with disabilities:

Women with disabilities require protection against exploration and abuse. Special programmes will be developed for education. Employment and providing of other rehabilitation services to women with disabilities keeping in view their special needs. Special educational and vocation training facilities will be setup programmes will be under taken to rehabilitate abandoned disabled women/girls by encouraging their adoption in families, support to house them and impart them training for gainful employment skills. The government will encourage the projects where representation of women with disabilities is ensured at least to the extent of twenty five percent of total beneficiaries

4. Children with disabilities:

Children with disabilities are the most vulnerable group and need special attention. The government would strive to; Ensure right to care, protection and security for children with

disabilities; ensure inclusion and effective access to education, health, vocational training along with specialized rehabilitation services to children disabilities. Ensure the right to development as well as recognition of special needs and of care and protection of children with severe disabilities. Ensure the right to development with dignity and equality creating an enabling environment where children can exercise their rights, enjoy equal opportunities and full participation in accordance with various statutes,

5. Issue of disability certificates:

The government of India has notified guidelines for evaluation of the disabilities and procedure for certification. The government will ensure that the persons with disabilities obtain the disability certificates without and difficulty in the shortest possible time by adoption of simple, transparent and client friendly procedures.

6. Social security:

Disabled persons ,their families and care givers incur substantial additional expenditure for facilitating activities of daily living, medical care transportation, assistive devices, etc. therefore there is a need to provide them social security by various means. Central government has been providing tax relief to persons with disabilities and their guardians. The state government/ u.t. administration have been providing unemployment allowance or disability pension. The state governments will be encouraged to develop a comprehensive social security policy person with disabilities.

7. Research:

For improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities, research will be supported on their socio-economic and cultural context, cause of disabilities, early childhood education methodologies, development of user friendly aids and appliances and all matters connected with disabilities which will significantly alter the quality of their life and civil society ability to respond to their concerns. Wherever persons with disabilities are subjected to research interventions, their or their family member or caregivers consent is mandatory.

8. Sports, Recreation and cultural life:

The contribution of sports for its therapeutic and community spirit is undeniable. Persons with disabilities have right to access sports recreation and cultural facilities. The government will take necessary steps to provide them opportunity for participation in various sports, recreation and cultural activities.

9. Promotion of Non-Governmental organizations :

The national policy recognizes the NGO sector as a very important institutional mechanism

to provide affordable services to complement the endeavors of the government. The NGO sector is a vibrant and growing one. It has played a significant role in the provisions of services for persons with disabilities. Some of the NGOs are also undertaking human resource development and research activities. Government has also been actively involving them in policy formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and has been seeking their advice on various issues relating to persons with disabilities. Interaction with NGOs will be enhanced on various disability issues regarding planning, policy formulation and implementation. Networking, exchange of information and sharing of good practices amongst NGOs will be encouraged and facilitated. Steps will be taken to encourage and accord preference to NGOs working in the underserved and inaccessible areas. Reputed NGOs shall also be encouraged to take up projects in such areas.

10. Collection of regular information on person with Disabilities:

There is a need for regular collection, compilation and analysis of data relating to socioeconomic conditions of persons with disabilities. The national sample survey organization has been collecting information on socio-economic conditions of persons with disabilities on regular basis once in ten years since 1981. The census has also started collection of information on persons with disabilities from the census-2001. The national sample survey organization will have to collect the information on persons with disabilities at least once in five years. The differences in the definitions adopted by the two agencies will be reconciled.

11. Barrier-free environment:

Barrier free environment enables people with disabilities to move about safely and freely and use the facilities within the built environment. The goal of barrier free design is to provide an environment that supports the independent functioning of individuals so that they can participate without assistance, in everyday activities. Therefore, to the maximum extent possible, buildings/places/transportation systems for public use will be made barrier free.

Responsibility for implementation

The ministry of social justice & Empowerment will be the nodal ministry to coordinate all matters relating to the implementation of the policy. An inter-ministerial body to coordinate matters relating to implementation of national policy will be formed. All stake holders including prominent NGOs, Disabled peoples organizations, advocacy groups and family associations of parents/guardians, experts and professionals will also be represented on this body. Similar arrangements will be encouraged at the state and districts levels. Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies will be associated in the functioning of the District
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Disability Rehabilitation Centers District Level committees to coordinate the matters relating to the implementation of the policy.

The chief commissioner for Disabilities at central level and state commissioners at the state level shall play key role in implementation of National policy, apart from their statutory responsibilities. Infrastructure created during the course of implementation will be required to be maintained and effectively used for a long period. The community should take a leading role in generating resources within themselves or through mobilization from private sector organizations to maintain the infrastructure and also to meet the running cost. This steps will not only reduce the burden on state resources but will also create a greater sense of responsibility among the community and private entrepreneurs.

Every five years a comprehensive review will be done on the implementation of the national policy. A document indicating status of implementation and a road map for five years shall be prepared based on the deliberations in a national level convention. State governments and union territory administrations will be urged to take steps for drawing up state policy and develop action plan. The ministries of home affairs, health & family welfare, rural development, urban development, youth affairs and sports, railways, science & technology, statistics & programme implementation, labour, panchayati raj and departments of elementary education & literacy, secondary & higher education, road transport & highways, public enterprises, revenue, women & child development, information technology and personnel & training will setup necessary mechanism for implementation of the policy.

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