

Institutions Working for Physically Handicapped

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Abstract :

The Employment opportunities are to be given to the physically handicapped for their overall development in this common various opportunities are given to the physically handicapped further there are various institutions working for the development of the physically handicapped.

Introduction

India is the largest democratic country in the world and is on its way to become a key player in the global scenario. It is our responsibility to ensure that this developmental cycle touches all the citizens of this country that is able and, especially, the physically handicapped, who are often referred to as the invisible minority. But before we stamp them as minority, let us consider the recent census reports. According to the 2011 census the government figure for the physically handicapped was 2.7% of the entire population. A reserved guess would place that figure between seven to ten crores. The National Policy identifies the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) as necessary and valuable assets of this country and the basic goal is to create an atmosphere for them in conjunction with the basic constitutional rights i.e. equality, freedom, justice and dignity. This will also guarantee equal opportunities for the PWD thereby ensuring the protection of their rights and enabling their full participation in the society.

Physically handicapped are those things that prevent people with impairment from functioning properly in the society. Many studies argue that disabilities can occur at birth but in some cases, disability is acquired later in life. Common disabilities include physical deformities that affect the upper and lower limbs, manual dexterity problems, inability to coordinate body organs and others.

The cause of the disability may be due to old age, a viral infection such as polio, a hereditary condition and paralysis or amputation. Other

disabilities include speech and hearing impairment. This category includes individuals suffering hearing impairment; some partially while others totally, a condition also known as deafness. There are a number of individuals who have problems with speech, where others cannot speak and are said to be mute. Sufferers of speech impairment may stutter and stammer while speaking while others may have voice disorders. However, People suffering from disabilities face a lot of challenges every day. Simple tasks that ordinary people perform on a daily basis as routine are extremely delicate and difficult to those suffering from disabilities. Thus accomplishing simple tasks such as taking a shower, dressing up, brushing teeth or even having a meal are tasks that may take much longer than normal and in many cases, may require the assistance of others. Individuals with disabilities are faced with stigma and discrimination from the society where they live. Most people look down on them and treat them as special. Disabled people may find it hard to socialize with members of the society. With above back drop the study assumed great significance to study the problems and prospects of physically handicapped.

Definitions of Physically Handicapped :

According to the medical model, disability lies in the individuals, as it is equated with those restrictions of activity. Faced with the line of thinking, individuals would feel pressured to work on 'their' restrictions, bearing the burden of adjusting to their environment through cures, treatment or rehabilitation.

According to World trade organization disabilities are an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.

According to Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995, "Person with disability" means a person suffering from not less than forty per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority (any hospital or institution, specified for the purposes of this Act by notification by the appropriate Government). As per the act "Disability" means Blindness, Low vision, Leprosy-cured; Hearing impairment; Loco motor disability, Mental retardation; and Mental illness.

Research Methodology:

The size of physically handicapped population is very large in Belgaum district like other district. In view of the said reasons the study of all handicapped in Belgaum district is very difficult and it is time consuming and it is not manageable by the researcher to complete the study on time hence, the study has adopted cluster sampling method and has been divided into different stratum like ten taluka and each taluka has taken 30 sample physically handicapped respondents by adopting simple random sampling techniques. Therefore, the total sample respondents' is 300 While selecting sample respondents from each taluka of Belgaum district, equal weightage has been given to different types of physically handicapped.

Employment opportunity to physically handicapped:

There is a 3% of vacancies in government employment shall be reserved for people with disabilities, 1% each for the persons suffering from handicapped like Blindness or Low, Loco-motor Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy, Suitable Scheme shall be formulated for the training and welfare of persons with disabilities, The relaxation of upper age limit, Regulating the employment and Health and Safety measures and creation of a non-handicapping, environment in places where persons with disabilities are employed. The Government Educational Institutes and other Educational Institutes receiving grant from Government shall reserve at least 3% seats for people with disabilities. No employee can be sacked or demoted if they become disabled during service, although they can be moved to another post

with the same pay and condition. No promotion can be denied because of impairment.

Affirmative Action:

Aids and Appliances shall be made available to the people with disabilities and allotment of land shall be made at concessional rates to the people with disabilities for the purpose of House, Business, Special Recreational Centres, Special Schools, Research Schools, factories by Entrepreneurs with Disability, Public building, rail compartments, buses, ships and air-crafts will be designed to give easy access to the disabled people, In all public places and in waiting rooms, the toilets shall be wheel chair accessible. Braille and sound symbols are also to be provided in all elevators and all the places of public utility shall be made barrier-free by providing the ramps.

Education for disables:

- Every Child with disability shall have the rights to free education till the age of 18 years in integrated schools or special schools.
- Appropriate transportation, removal of architectural barriers and restructuring of modifications in the examination system shall be ensured for the benefit of children with disabilities.
- Children with disabilities shall have the right to free books, scholarships, uniform and other learning material.
- Special Schools for children with disabilities shall be equipped with vocational training facilities.
- Non-formal education shall be promoted for children with disabilities.
- Teachers' Training Institutions shall be established to develop requisite manpower.
- Parents may move to an appropriate forum for the redressal of grievances regarding the placement of their children with disabilities.

Research and Manpower Development for disables

- Research in the following areas shall be sponsored and promoted.
- Prevention of Disability.
- Rehabilitation including community based rehabilitation.

- Development of Assistive Devices.
- Job Identification.
- On site Modifications of Offices and Factories.
- Financial assistance shall be made available to the universities, other institutions of higher learning, professional bodies and non-government research- units or institutions, for undertaking research for special education, rehabilitation and manpower development.

Social Security for disables:

- Financial assistance to non-government organizations for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- Insurance coverage for the benefit of the government employees with disabilities.
- Unemployment allowance to the people with disabilities who are registered with the special employment exchange for more than a year and could not find any gainful occupation.

Institutions Working for Physically Handicapped District Rehabilitation Centres:

In order to serve disabled in rural areas, Govt. has set up District Rehabilitation Centres. Under the Scheme each Village Consisting of 1000 people has been assigned a village rehabilitation worker to identify the needs of disabled persons. For a cluster of 20 to 30 villages a primary Rehabilitation Assistant is being appointed and a block consisting of about 1,50,000 people a primary Health Centre works to assist handicapped in getting Vocational training, appropriate education and employment. It also helps the disabled to get aids and appliances. In this hierarchy, there is a District Rehabilitation Centre over a population ranging from 1 to 1.5 million. The Regional Training Centres in the State or region serve as the Referral Centres from the DRC. These Centres provide advanced physical restoration, Vocational Counseling and professional manpower training Services. Presently DRCs are functioning at Bhiwani (Haryana), Bilaspur (M.P.), Changalpath (T.N.), Jagdishpur (U.P.), Kharakpur (West Bengal), Kota (Rajasthan), Mysore (Karnataka), Sitapur (U.P), Vijayawada (A.P), Virar (Maharashtra) , Bhubaneshwar (Orissa).

Vocational Rehabilitation Centres:

Seventeen VRCs for the Handicapped are functioning at Ludhiana, Delhi, Kanpur, Calcutta, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Trivandrum, Bhubaneshwar, Guwaahati, Agartala and Patana (List Appendix B). The main purpose of these Centres is to assess the residual Capacity of the physically handicapped and recommend occupations suited to them. VRCs also arrange for their training in industries as apprentices and in other training institutions. These Centres also provide placement services. The five categories of Handicapped persons – the Deaf, the Blind, Orthopedically Handicapped, Mildly retarded and Negative Leprosy persons may avail the services provided by VRCs. Some training Workshops on trades such as Radio Assembly, Metal, Commercial, Carpentry, Tailoring are also functioning at VRCs to provide training and evaluate skills possessed by an individual. The individuals get a stipend of Rs. 100 during evaluation period of month. No fees are taken from the candidates for evaluation and other services provided by these Centres. Assistance is also available for procuring financial aid for purchase of artificial limbs and other aids. Centres also provide help in setting own ventures in terms of arranging finances, allotment of shops, telephone booths etc. 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are functioning under DGE&T, Ministry of Labour. The rehabilitation services have been extended to the handicapped living in rural areas. This is done through Mobile camps and 11 Rural Rehabilitation Extension Centres (RRECs) set up in 11 Blocks under 5 VRCs situated at Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur, Ludhiana and Madras.

The Voluntary Organisations:

A large number of Voluntary organisations has sprung-up in recent years for the Cause of handicapped persons. As per the Directory published by the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. There are about 8000 such institutions. About 80 per cent of these organisations are located in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi. A large majority of the Organisations are in the big cities.

Special Employment Exchanges:

Special Employment Exchanges have been established in some State Capitals and special Capitals and Special cells in other employment exchanges. These exchanges exclusively register physically handicapped persons seeking jobs. They also arrange for their placement both in public and private sector.

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