

**THE PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES
(EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES,
PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND
FULL PARTICIPATION) ACT,
1995**

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Introudction

“The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995” has come into enforcement on February 7, 1996. This law is an important landmark and is a significant step in the direction to ensure equal oppotunities for people with disabilities and their full participation in the nation building. The Act provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation of persons with disability, unemployment and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability, etc.

This booklet aims at wider dissemination of the rights conferred upon by the Act.

Main Provisions of the Act

- Prevention and Early Detection of Disabilities.
- Education.
- Employment.
- Non-discrimination.
- Research and Manpower Development.
- Affirmative Action.
- Social Security.
- Grievance Redressal.

Prevention and Early Detection of Disabilities

- Surveys, investigations and research shall be conducted to ascertain the cause of occurrence of disabilities.
- Various measures shall be taken to prevent disabilities. Staff at the Primary Health Centre shall be trained to assist in this work.
- All the children shall be screened once in a year for identifying “at-risk” cases.
- Awareness campaigns shall be launched and sponsored to disseminate information.
- Measures shall be taken for pre-natal, perinatal, and post-natal care of the mother and child.

Education

- Every child with disability shall have the right 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 appropriate fora for the redressal of grievances regarding the placement of their children with disabilities.

Employment

- Three percent of vacancies in government employment shall be reserved for people with disabilities, one percent each for persons suffering from:
 - Blindness or Low Vision
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Locomotor 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.
 - Health and safety measures and creation of a non-handicapping.
 - Environment in places where persons with disabilities are employed.
- Government Educational Institutes and other Educational Institutes receiving grant from Government shall reserve at least three percent 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 people with disabilities.
- Allotment of land shall be made at concessional rates to the people with disabilities for:
 - House

- Business
- Special recreational centres
- Special schools
- Research schools
- Factories by entrepreneurs with disability

Non-discrimination

- Public building, rail compartments, buses, ships and aircrafts will be designed to give easy access to disabled people.
- In all public places and in waiting rooms, toilets shall be wheel chair accessible. Braille and sound symbols are also to be provided in lifts.
- All the places of public utility shall be made barrier-free by providing ramps.

Research and Manpower Development

- Research in the following areas shall be sponsored and promoted:
 - Prevention of Disability.
 - Rehabilitation including CBR.
 - 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

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

Grievance Redressal

- In case of violation of rights as prescribed in the act people with disabilities may move an application to :
 - Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the Centre
 - Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the States.

For further details contact

Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Tuli
Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
G-31, Sector 39
Noida -123001
Phone- 91-4500282, 4570456

Deputy Chief Commissioner
G-31, Sector 39
Noida -123001
Phone- 91-4500282, 4570456

**ADDRESSES OF STATE LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL WELFARE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Commissioner Disabled Welfare
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
Chandra Vihar, 6th floor
M.J. Road, Nampally
Hyderabad-500001.

Secretary & Commissioner
Disabilities
Social Welfare Deptt.
Secretariat
Panaji-Goa

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
Itanagar-791111

Commissioner Disabilities
Social Justice & Empowerment Deptt.
Block No. 5, 9th Floor, Sachivalaya,
Govt. of Gujarat
Gandhi Nagar-382010.

Principal Secretary &
Commissioner Disabilities
Deptt. of Social Welfare
Govt. of Assam
Guwahati

Commissioner Disabilities &
Secretary
Social Defence & Security Deptt.
Govt. of Haryana
Chandigarh

Director Social Welfare &
State Commissioner Disabilities
Social Welfare Department
Govt. of Bihar
Patna-800001.

Commissioner Disabilities &
Secretary
Deptt. of Social Welfare
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
Shimla-171001

Commissioner Disabilities &
Director Social Welfare
Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi
1, Canning Lane
K.G. Marg
New Delhi-110001

Commissioner & Secretary
Social Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
Srinagar

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Women & Child Development
Govt. of Karnataka
Bangalore

State Commissioner (Disabilities)
& Ex-Officio Secretary to Govt.
Govt. of Kerala,
Poojapura,
Thiruvananthapuram

Commissioner
(Social Welfare Disabled)
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
Bhopal-562003

Commissioner of Social Welfare
Govt. of Maharashtra
Pune

Secretary & Ex-Office Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Old Secretariat, Room No. 183
Govt. of Manipur
Imphal-795001

Commissioner & Secretary
(Disabilities)
Govt. of Meghalaya
Civil Secretariat
Additional Building
Shillong-793001

Additional Secretary &
Commissioner (Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Mizoram
Aizwal

Commissioner Disabilities Cell
Nagaland Civil Secretariat
Social Security & Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Nagaland
Kohima.

Secretary & Commissioner
Disabilities
Women & Child Development
Govt. of Orissa
Bhubaneshwar-751001

Commissioner Disabilities
Room No. 316, 6th Floor
Govt. of Punjab
Punjab Mini Secretariat
Sector 9
Chandigarh

Commissioner Disabilities
Social Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Rajasthan
Jaipur

Commissioner-cum-Secretary
Social Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Sikkim
Gangtok

Commissioner for Rehabilitation
of the Disabled
No. 2, Bakthvatchalam Road
Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance
Board Building, Vishalakshi Garden
Myaplore,
Chennai-600004.

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare & Social Education
Deptt.
Govt. of Tripura
Agartala-799001.

Secretary
Handicapped Welfare &
Commissioner
Handicapped Social Welfare
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
Lucknow

Commissioner (Disabilities)
Govt. of West Bengal
45, Ganesh Ch. Avenue
Calcutta-700013.

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Chandigarh Administration
Chandigarh

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Administration of Dadra & Nagar
Haveli
Silvassa

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Govt. of Pondicherry
Pondicherry

Secretary & Commissioner
(Disabilities)
Social Welfare Deptt.
Andaman & Nicobar Administration
Port Blair

Director & Commissioner Disabilities
Social Justice Empowerment &
Culture
Lakshadweep Administration
Kavarati

Commissioner for Persons with
Disability
Social Welfare Deptt.
Collectorate
U.T. of Daman & Diu
Daman-396220

CHANNELISING AGENCIES

(as on 8.5.98)

ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh Viklangula
Cooperative Corporation
11-4-634, Venkatramana Apts.
B-Block, A.C. Guards
Hyderabad-500004.

GUJARAT

The Gujarat Women Economic
Development Corpn. Ltd.
Block No. 28
Udyog Bhavan
Gandhi Nagar-382011

BIHAR

Bihar State Backward Classes
Finance &
Development Corporation
4th Floor, Sone Bhawan
Birchand Patel Marg
Patna-800001

GOA

Goa State Schduled Caste and
OBC
Finance Development
Corporation Limited
4th Floor, Patto Centre
Near Kadamba Bus Stand
Panaji-Goa

CHANDIGARH (UT)

Chandigarh Child & Women
Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
Town Hall Building
3rd Floor, Sector 17-C
Chandigarh

HARYANA

Haryana Backward Classes &
Economically Weaker Section
Kalyan Nigam
SCO No. 813-14
Sector22-A
Chandigarh

DAMAN & DIU (UT)

B.D.O, Fort Area
Moti, Daman-396220

KERALA

Kerala State Handicapped
Persons Welfare Corporation
Thiruvananthapuram

MADHYA PRADESH

- a. M.P. Pichra Varg Vitt Evam
Vikas Nigam
6, Maharana Pratap Nagar
Zone 1
Bhopal-482001.
- b. M.P. Rajya Sahakari
Anusuchit Jati Vitt Evam
Vikas Nigam
Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan
35, Shyamla Hills
Bhopal-482002
- c. M.P. Adivasi Vitt Evam
Vikas Nigam
52, Maharana Pratap Nagar
Zone 1
Bhopal-482001
- d. M.P. Alpsankhayak Vitt Evam
Vikas Nigam
6, Maharana Pratap Nagar
Zone 1, Bhopal-482001

MAHARASHTRA

Mahatma Phule Backward
Class Development
Corporation Ltd.
Supreme Shopping Centre
Gulmohar Cross Road
JVPD Scheme
Juhu, Mumbai-400049

ORISSA

Mahila Vikas Samabaya Nigam
Qtr. No. A/5, Unit V
Bhubaneshwar-751001

PUNJAB

Director
Social Security and Women &
Children Development
Govt. of Punjab
Chandigarh

RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan Scheduled Castes &
Scheduled Tribes Financial &
Development Cooperative
Corporation
Nehru Sahakar Bhawan
Central Block , IIIrd Floor
Bhawani Singh Marg,
Jaipur

TRIPURA

- a. D.R.D.A., West Tripura,
Agartala
- b. D.R.D.A. , South Tripura,
Agartala
- c. D.R. D.A., Dhala District,
Ambassa
- d. D.R. D.A., North Tripura,
Kailashar