

Status report

**On the implementation of the PWD Act 1995 in the state of
Tamil Nadu**

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Acknowledgement:

With utmost humility do I wish to place on record my sincere gratitude to the National Human Rights Commission, more particularly, its honourable Chairperson, honourable members, neseemed officials, and other functionaries for allowing and facilitating a review process of the status of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of Rights, and Full Participation) Act, 1995 in the state of Tamil Nadu.

My sincere thanks are also due to the Commisioner, Dept. of Welfare of the differently abled, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, and the officials and the functionaries of the said Dept.

I also owe a very special debt of gratitude to the members of the State Coordination Committee (SCC) including members with disabilities for their participation in the interactive session with me.

Structure:

This brief report comprises three parts.

Part one is the introductory remarks, and it gives the objective, methodology and limitation.

Part two contains some general comments and observations.

Part three is on some recommendations which are illustrative in nature.

The report closes with some concluding remarks.

Part one

Introductory remarks:

This brief status report is the outcome of a review exercise carried out by me on the 28th Feb. and the 1st March, 2011 in the course of my visit to Chennai.

Objective:

The objective of the aforesaid review exercise was to identify gaps in the implementation of the PWD Act in the state of Tamil Nadu with a view to making necessary and appropriate recommendations to the concerned Govt. by the honourable Commission for bringing about required systemic and other changes in order to ensure effective and expeditious implementation of the said Act in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Methodology:

The methodology adopted for the purpose of the said review exercise included interactions with the Commissioner and other officials of the Dept. of Welfare of differently abled persons, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, interactions with members of the State Coordination Committee (SCC) constituted under the existing PWD Act which included members with disabilities, perusal of a response submitted to me by the concerned Dept. as per a format sent by the Commission, and, visits to two Govt. aided institutions and one purely Govt. institution run by the concerned state Govt.

Limitations:

It goes without saying that this review exercise did have certain limitations as only a limited range of stakeholders could be contacted and covered given certain constraints including that of time. Hence, there was no time for carrying out field visits at the district level. Nevertheless, this report makes an attempt to identify and capture some broad gaps and seeks to make some broad illustrative recommendations for ensuring smooth and expeditious implementation of the said Act in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Part two:

General comments and observations:

The PWD Act 1995 came into force across the country except in the state of Jammu and Kashmir on and from the 7th of Feb. 1996. The visible lethargy in the matter of implementation of this Act all over the country has been an area of prime concern for the National Human Rights Commission. While a new legislation which will replace the existing PWD Act is on the anvil, more particularly, following ratification by India of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the existing PWD Act also has a number of progressive provisions which have not been fully and properly implemented in different parts of the country. Besides, it appears that it would still be quite a while before we have the proposed new legislation in place. This explains why the National Human Rights Commission has decided to undertake a review of the implementation status of the existing PWD Act in some states of the country in order to identify gaps in its implementation so that necessary and appropriate recommendations as indicated in Objectives under part one of this report could be made to the concerned Govt.

The state of Tamil Nadu comprises 32 districts; and, the population of persons with disabilities as per the census figures of 2001 is around sixteen lakhs or so. It is common knowledge that a good number of categories of disabilities got left out from the said census which is why a marked improvement is noticed in the relevant question (question No. 9) of the recently concluded census of 2011. Be that as it may, the population of persons with disabilities in the state is substantial.

The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has a dedicated department known as the Dept. for the Welfare of Differently Abled persons. This department is headed by a Commissioner who functions under the administrative control of a Secretary. Currently, this department is with the Honourable Chief Minister of the state.

The following facts are demonstrative of abiding sensitivity of the state Govt. to the cause of rights of persons with disabilities:

- A. That the state has a dedicated department for the welfare of persons with disabilities as indicated above. Thus, unlike in most of the Indian states, disability matters do not form part of the social welfare department.
- B. That the Govt. of Tamil Nadu has in place a policy on disability;
- C. That there is a visible focus on some groups which are more marginalised and vulnerable within the larger group of persons with disabilities;
- D. That there exists a State Board for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons which was created under a statute of the state legislature in the year 2007 to oversee and monitor the implementation of the various social security schemes for the benefit of persons with disabilities;
- E. That the state Govt. manages and runs as many as 23 institutions for persons/students with disabilities and extends aid to some 54 such institutions. This is in addition to some privately run 152 institutions for persons/students with disabilities.
- F. That some 225 posts falling under C and D categories as identified by the central Govt. in 1986 were also declared as identified by the state Govt. in 1988.

However, the procrastinated identification of jobs in A and B categories invites comments.

Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms:

The Commissioner for the welfare of differently abled persons in the state of Tamil Nadu is entrusted with the responsibilities of both implementing various schemes meant for persons with disabilities as well as with the functions of Commissioner for persons with disabilities as envisaged in the existing PWD Act. Earlier, there existed a directorate for the welfare of disabled persons which was upgraded to the level of commissionerate in June 1999. The said Commissionerate was renamed as Commissioner for the welfare of differently abled persons in 2010. However, I personally feel; that the expression "differently abled persons" should be avoided and replaced with the expression "persons with disabilities" for the simple reason that no two living entities under the sun can ever be uniformly abled in all respects. Each individual, regardless of her or his abilities, is unique in herself or himself.

A conjunctive reading of Sections 61 and 62 of the existing PWD Act leaves one convinced that the functions of the Commissioner for persons with disabilities are broadly around monitoring utilization of funds disbursed for disability related work and also around coordinating disability related work amongst various Govt. departments. Besides, The Commissioner for persons with disabilities is also mandated to take steps to safeguard rights and facilities for persons with disabilities, and also take cognizance, suo moto or otherwise, of complaints of deprivation of rights suffered by persons with disabilities. Here, in the context of Tamil Nadu, the implementing agency/authority and the monitoring agency/authority is the same body. Evidently, this raises a question of propriety. Under the current dispensation, somebody who is aggrieved by an order or action of the implementing authority has to approach the same authority for redressal of her/his grievance as the implementing and the monitoring/adjudicating authority is the same. This underscores the need for separating the implementing authority and the monitoring and enforcing authority.

During my interactions with concerned stakeholders, I noticed a visible gap in the area of monitoring and enforcement. The need and urgency of evolving and putting in place a credible and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement mechanism can not be understated. This can be achieved through imaginative application of mind, for example, by getting each concerned department to designate a focal person on disability at various levels, requiring each concerned department to submit periodic returns in a department specific prescribed format, maintaining a department specific database on disability related work, carrying out surprise field visits, ETC.

While the move to institutionalize the state board for the welfare of differently abled persons also having district level committees is a welcome step, it appears that neither the said state board nor the said committees meet regularly, or perhaps they hardly ever meet.

While no case of any suo moto action by the Commissioner was reported to me, the number of complaints/grievances received and disposed of during the last two years is also very small. This serves to highlight the need for visible and positive proactivism on the part of the Commissioner in the matter of taking suo moto cognizance as well as in the matter of raising awareness about the PWD Act and other legislative and

programmatic/schematic measures amongst persons with disabilities and persons working with them, and also among stakeholders of strategic importance which includes members of the bureaucracy, legal and judicial fraternity, media persons, ETC. It is in fact, critical to undertake capacity building exercises on an ongoing basis. To start with, I feel the officials of the department for the welfare of differently abled persons themselves need orientation and capacity building in the area of rights of persons with disabilities.

Another gap which surfaced during my interactions with concerned officials is the continuous non-compliance with Section 65 of the PWD Act which stipulates that the annual report of the Commissioner must be placed on the table of the state legislature together with an action taken report. The said action taken report must contain details of recommendations which have been accepted and recommendations which could not be accepted giving reasons for such non-acceptance. As has been reported to me, while the Commissioner has been submitting her/his annual reports regularly, the said reports have not been tabled in the State Legislative Assembly as mandated by the relevant Section of the PWD Act.

It appears that the Commissionerate became operational with effect from June 1999, and the first mobile court was held in 2008. I was however informed that mobile courts are slated to be held during the current year. It goes without saying that mobile courts should be held from time to time so that persons with disabilities can benefit from them with ease.

The need for setting up of a legal cell in the Commissionerate with adequate infrastructure was highlighted. Concern was expressed that the Commissioner for persons with disabilities did not have ample powers under the Act and that the orders passed by the Commissioner were not legally binding. This visible lack of teeth weakens the enforcement and monitoring aspect.

State coordination Committee (SCC) and State Executive Committee (SEC):

The State Coordination Committee constituted under the PWD Act is intended to serve as a focal point on disability. One of its primary functions is to facilitate continuous evolution of comprehensive policy on disability. The relevant provision of the Act stipulates that the SCC must meet at least once every six months.

Likewise, the primary function of the SEC is to execute the decisions of the SCC. It is mandated to meet at least once every three months to transact its business.

Unfortunately, despite the above-mentioned distinct mandate in respect of the SCC and the SEC to meet at least once every six months and every three months respectively, and despite the claim by the state Govt. that these committees have been meeting regularly, it turned out during one of my interactive sessions with the concerned officials that these committees have not in fact been meeting as stipulated vide the relevant provisions of the PWD Act. It is however another matter that these committees have not been as badly irregular in terms of holding meetings as similar committees of some other states of India. Nevertheless, there is a gap in terms of holding meetings as per the stipulation envisaged in the PWD Act.

It is indeed heartening to note that the Govt. of Tamil Nadu had put in place a policy on disability in the year 1994, i.e., before the enactment of the PWD Act by the Indian Parliament. While the said policy has since been revised in 2009 in order to bring it in

line with the PWD Act, It is now necessary to revisit the said policy in an attempt to make it UNCRPD consonant.

Education:

Chapter V of the PWD Act (Sections 26-31) makes comprehensive provisions in respect of education of persons/students with disabilities. Besides, Section 39 which inadvertently figures in the chapter on employment provides for not less than three percent reservation for persons with disabilities for admission to Govt and Govt aided educational institutions.

A careful reading of the relevant portion of the Tamil Nadu Govt's response to the NHRC format/questionnaire does give the impression that a range of efforts are under way to promote the so-called special education as well as integrated/inclusive education concurrently. While this augurs well for students with disabilities, there is ample scope for improvement in both these areas. The biggest challenge is to ensure appropriate environment for students with disabilities both in so-called special setup as well as in mainstream schools.

There exist some 23 purely Govt. educational institutions in the state for students belonging to various categories of disabilities. It would be in the fitness of things to ascertain as to how many of these special schools were set up after the PWD Act came into force. While these institutions need to be run and managed on modern and scientific lines, the urgency of improving the living conditions of the inmates/students can not be over-emphasized. I got this impression after visiting one institution for children with mental retardation. I must however hasten to add here that the status of such institutions in Tamil Nadu is perhaps relatively less worse compared to similar institutions of the other two states I had occasion to review in the past. Currently, the state Govt. is providing financial assistance to some 52 non-governmental institutions. Moreover, there exist 152 privately run institutions.

It goes without saying that a great deal still remains to be done in the area of promoting integrated/inclusive education in the state. Here again, the state, prima facie, appears to have fared better than the other two states I had earlier reviewed. Lack of adequate trained human resources, absence of parity of treatment between the so-called special educators and mainstream teachers, dearth of teaching learning material for students of various categories of disabilities, absence of required coordination between the department for welfare of differently abled persons and the education department/Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, ETC. surfaced as some of the many areas that need to be addressed on priority basis.

Besides, while the ongoing efforts at promoting vocational training/education should be consolidated and expanded, fresh initiatives to promote professional education should be launched.

A distinct need for launching, from time to time special drive for admission of girls with disabilities to schools was also highlighted during my interactions with stakeholders. Steps should also be taken to set up disability study centres in various universities of the state.

Particular attention needs to be paid to the implementation of the provisions enshrined in sections 27, 28 and 29 of the PWD Act.

Employment:

Chapter six of the Act (Sections 32-41) deals with employment. It is common knowledge that while section 32 of the Act provides for identification of jobs by the appropriate Govt. and local authorities, Section 33 makes provision for reservation of not less than three percent of vacancies in all categories of posts for the blind and the low vision, the hearing impaired, and also for persons with locomotor disabilities and cerebral palsy. Gaps around the implementation of Sections 32 and 33 majorly surfaced during my interactions with stakeholders.

Section 32 of the Act not only enjoins it upon the appropriate Govt. to identify jobs for persons with disabilities, but also makes it mandatory for the Govt. to review and update such list of identified jobs every three years. The identification has to be done in respect of all categories of Jobs, namely, A, B, C, and D categories. In case of Tamil Nadu, identification of posts in the A and B categories of posts for persons with disabilities happened only in the year 2005 although the Act came into force with effect from 7th Feb. 1996. Moreover, the said list of identified posts brought out in 2005 is yet to be updated and it perhaps constitutes only roughly five percent of the total posts in the said categories. This constitutes a clear non-compliance with the provisions of section 32. This non-compliance also raises some questions around accountability. Who, for example, is responsible and accountable for the deprivation of the relevant right/entitlement suffered by persons with disabilities from the 7th of Feb. 1996 till the publication of the relevant notification in 2005. Besides, what is the status of backlog of vacancies? Such backlog must be computed from the date from which this Act came into force.

It appears that there has been a huge backlog to be filled up in respect of posts of all categories. This backlog points to certain gaps in the implementation of Section 33 of the Act on reservation of vacancies in Govt. establishments. The posts of C and D categories identified by the state Govt. in 1988 needs updation. This identification was done before the Act came into force.

Provisions of Section 38 of the Act need to be implemented in toto. For example, while there is relaxation of upper age limit in recruitment, there is no such relaxation in the upper age limit of superannuation. It is also mandatory to ensure just and favourable conditions of work for employees with disabilities. Special drive should also be launched for recruitment of women with disabilities. Concrete and comprehensive steps must be taken to enhance employability of persons with disabilities.

Although Section 40 of the Act provides for a quota of not less than three percent for persons with disabilities in all poverty alleviation schemes, it appears that the benefits of this provision do not reach all deserving persons with disabilities. Lack of awareness amongst district, block and Panchayat level officials, and also amongst persons with disabilities themselves is one amongst the various reasons of this deprivation. Thus it is critical to generate awareness amongst stakeholders and also to maintain a database of beneficiaries at all levels including at the level of the Commissionerate. Steps should also

be taken to ensure implementation of the provisions of Section 41 of the Act which talks about grant of incentives to public and private sector units whose employees with disabilities constitute at least five percent of their work force.

Affirmative action/non-discrimination/social security:

Section 42 and 43 of the Act provide for some affirmative actions which includes provision for assistive devices and preferential allotment of land at concessional rates. Section 44, 45, 46 and 47 talk about non-discrimination in transportation, roads, built environment, and Govt. service. Sections 66, 67 and 68 provide for some social security measures, which among others, include provision for unemployment allowance.

The need for enforcing the aforesaid provisions with greater strictness figured prominently during my discussions with the stakeholders. Schemes relating to assistive devices must be expanded. Effective implementation of poverty alleviation schemes depends to a large extent, on the level of awareness amongst primary stakeholders and also amongst the middle level and ground level functionaries.

The points that emerged in respect of accessibility/non-discrimination were essentially around the need for stricter enforcement of accessibility norms, assess audit in a phased manner with the active involvement of both subject and experiential experts, training of functionaries at various levels on accessibility. Accessibility is not limited to mere putting up of a ramp here and there. It is in fact a far larger issue which extends to access to information and a range of other areas.

It is also critical to implement and monitor the implementation of the provisions of Section 47 of the Act relating to persons who may acquire disability while in Govt. service, and also relating to denial of promotion on ground of disability. Sub-Section (2) of Section 47 explicitly stipulates that no person can be denied promotion on grounds of disability.

While the provisions in respect of social security need to be implemented holistically, provision for grant of unemployment allowance as stipulated vide Section 68 of the Act must be implemented without any delay.

Part three:

Some illustrative recommendations

This part of the report gives some recommendations which are only illustrative, and not exhaustive. The recommendations pertain to the enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, and some thematic areas covered by the existing PWD Act.

While the enforcement and monitoring mechanisms comprise the Commissionerate for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, the State coordination committee (SCC), and the State Executive Committee (SEC), the thematic areas include education, employment and poverty alleviation schemes, affirmative action/non-discrimination/social security.

Enforcement and monitoring mechanisms:

1. Separate the implementing authority/agency from the enforcement/monitoring authority/agency. Thus, the Commissioner for persons with disability should be a full-time incumbent with independent charge entrusted only with the responsibility of carrying out the mandate vide the PWD Act in general, and the mandate vide Sections 61 and 62 of the Act in particular. Implementation of disability related schemes should not form part of the Commissioner's mandate. The implementation part may be taken care of by some other authority/agency. This will ensure objectivity and bias free discharge of functions by the Commissioner for persons with disabilities.
2. The Commissioner for persons with disabilities must put in place credible and comprehensive coordination and monitoring mechanisms by imaginative application of mind. Designating of a focal person on disability by each concerned department at various levels, developing of a data base of disability related work by each concerned department at various levels, requiring each concerned department to furnish periodic returns as per format to be developed and made available by the Commissioner for persons with disabilities, surprise field visits by Commissioner for persons with disabilities (CPD), ETC. can form part of such mechanism.
3. The CPD must demonstrate visible and positive proactivism including taking of suo moto action in respect of violation of the provisions of this Act by any authority/person, and also in respect of deprivation of rights suffered by any person with disabilities.
4. Capacity building activities in respect of rights of persons with disabilities must be undertaken as a part of regular ongoing programme; and, such capacity building measures should target primary stakeholders, and stakeholders of strategic importance, such as , members of the bureaucracy, media persons, members of the legal/judicial fraternity, elected representatives, etc. Additionally, mass awareness programmes should also be launched.
5. The state Govt. must ensure compliance with Section 65 of the Act so that the annual report of the CPD is tabled before the state legislature regularly as mandated.

6. The state Govt. must ensure adequate infrastructure including budgetary provision for CPD. This should include provision for a legal cell.
7. The CPD must organize mobile courts from time to time so as to enable persons with disabilities to access justice with ease
8. The State Coordination Committee and the State Executive Committee must meet at regular intervals as mandated under the relevant provisions of the Act to transact business.
9. The state policy on disability, 2009 should be revisited following ratification by India of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.

Thematic areas

Education:

10. Ensure appropriate environment both in the so-called special schools as well as in the mainstream schools. This, among other things, will require creation of accessible environment, peer sensitization and teacher sensitization with particular reference to the mainstream schools, availability of teaching-learning material for students with different categories of disabilities, availability of aids, appliances, equipment, and other assistive devices, books in accessible formats, etc.
11. Run the special schools on modern and scientific lines. Ensure improved living conditions for the inmates/students. This should include improved health, hygiene, sanitation, recreation and sports facilities and nutritious diet.
12. In the context of integrated/inclusive education, ensure greater coordination amongst the department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons, the Education department/Sarvashiksha Abhiyan, and the civil society organizations. Also focus on availability of adequate trained human resource and teaching-learning material.
13. ensure stricter enforcement of not less than three percent reservation for students with disabilities for admission to educational institutions as mandated by Section 39 of the PWD Act.
14. Ensure stricter compliance with the provisions of Sections 27, 28 and 29 of the PWD act which includes provisions for non-formal education, research on assistive devices, and launching of required teacher training programmes respectively.
15. Launch, from time to time, special drive for admission of girls with disabilities to schools.
16. focus on promoting professional and vocational programmes.
17. Bring in parity between trained special educators and trained mainstream teachers whose substantive academic qualification is same, and the duration of the training in special education is also same with the duration of the mainstream teachers' training. For example, a special educator who has passed ten plus two exams and has a diploma in special education (the diploma course being of two years' duration) should be treated at par with a mainstream teacher who has passed ten plus two exams and has a diploma in teaching (the diploma course also being of two years' duration). This should extend to parity of pay scales/salary.

18. Set up disability study centres in various universities for the benefit of students with disabilities.

Employment and poverty alleviation:

19. In compliance with the provisions of Section 32 of the PWD Act, complete the identification of posts in all categories without any further loss of time; and, where such identification is already completed, revise and update the list as mandated by the said Section. Involve subject and experiential experts in the identification exercise.
20. Fix accountability in the matter of disproportionately delayed identification of posts in A and B categories.
21. Expedite the process of filling up of backlog of vacancies. Such backlog must be computed with effect from the date from which the PWD Act came into force.
22. Launch special drive for recruitment of women with disabilities.
23. Take steps to ensure just and favourable conditions of work for employees with disabilities. Also consider relaxing the upper age limit for superannuation as well.
24. Draw up and implement schemes and programmes for enhancing employability of persons with disabilities in the state.
25. announce incentives for the private and public sector undertakings whose work force comprises five percent employees with disabilities as mandated by Section 41 of the Act.
26. Enforce the provision of reservation of not less than three percent quota in poverty alleviation schemes with utmost strictness. Also maintain a database of beneficiaries with disabilities at various levels to facilitate monitoring of implementation of this provision. Raise awareness about the provision of reservation amongst the middle level and ground level functionaries.
27. Enforce the provisions of Section 47 on non-discrimination in matters of employment which, among other things, includes a provision that no person shall be denied promotion on ground of disability.

Affirmative action, non-discrimination, social security:

28. consolidate, streamline and expand schemes for providing assistive devices to persons with disabilities.
29. ensure stricter compliance of the provisions relating to preferential allotment of land at concessional rates in favour of persons with disabilities including in favour of women with disabilities and maintain a database of beneficiaries at various levels.
30. enforce with utmost strictness compliance with accessibility norms in all spheres including in respect of the roads, built environment, and transportation.
31. conduct access audits for this purpose on a regular basis and in a phased manner.
32. Routinely organize training of concerned functionaries on access and accessibility.
33. Take steps to make the websites accessible by complying with the latest web content accessibility guidelines.
34. ensure that the State Board for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons and the District level committees constituted by the Govt. to monitor and oversee

implementation of the large number of social security schemes meet regularly at periodic intervals.

35. Provide for grant of unemployment allowance as stipulated vide Section 68 of the Act.

Concluding remarks:

In all fairness, I must acknowledge that the performance of the state Govt. in Tamil Nadu in respect of implementation of the PWD Act has been relatively better compared to the two other states which I had occasion to review earlier. It is therefore, not without any reason that the chief Commissioner for persons with disabilities had once rated Tamil Nadu the best and later as the second best in India in terms of implementation of the Act. It is indeed a happy augury that as many as some twenty new schemes on social security were launched last year alone at the initiative of the current incumbent Secretary, Dept. for Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons. However, Tamil Nadu has the potential of doing even better. I sincerely hope that the Govt. of Tamil Nadu will implement the aforesaid recommendations within a defined time-frame.

Response of the Tamil Nadu Govt. to the NHRC format/questionnaire is attached herewith for ready reference.

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1. Introduction

The Department for Rehabilitation of the Disabled was established by bifurcating the Department of Social Welfare in 1993 to deal exclusively with the Welfare of the Disabled. Subsequently, the Directorate was upgraded as the office of the State Commissioner for the Disabled on 11-6-1999 as per the provisions in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. The Government further redesignated post as State Commissioner for the Differently Abled w.e.f. 29.3.2010

Presently Tmt. C.T. Manimekalai I.A.S., is The State Commissioner for Differently Abled persons and she is a full time officer, having independent charge at the state level to look after the welfare of the differently abled persons and implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 Act, 1995 in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has been always a pioneer in the implementation of welfare schemes for all sections of socially disadvantaged groups. With a view to eliminate the social stigma attached to the description of persons based on their disability namely physically handicapped, blind, deaf etc., it was announced by the Government to refer them as **Differently Abled Persons** as they possess exceptional and extraordinary talents. Awareness is being created among public to accept them as natural partners of growth and provide them access to service and equal participation in social life to create an inclusive society.

The Government of Tamil Nadu established a new administrative department exclusively to deal with differently abled persons namely Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons with a Secretary to Government. The new department is brought under the direct supervision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Thiru S.S. Jawahar I.A.S., is the Secretary to Government for the Department for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons. The post District Disabled Rehabilitation Officer has been redesignated as District Differently

Abled Welfare Offices and upgraded to the level of Deputy Collector. The District Office has been established in all the 32 Districts in Tamil Nadu with Professional and supporting staff. A jeep is being provided in all the districts. All the district Offices are provided with Phone, Fax, Computer peripherals and internet connection. The District Differently Abled Welfare Offices in each of the District are equipped with a Prosthetic and Orthotic Workshop. Custom made Prosthetic and Orthotic devices like caliper, artificial limb etc are fabricated and supplied to the differently abled persons as per their requirement. Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy is also provided by qualified professionals. (Organization Chart of the District differently Abled Welfare Office is given in Annexure I)

A separate website www.scd.tn.gov.in has been launched in 2010 with the following differently abled friendly features.

- Screen reader support, PDF view option, skip to main content.
- Larger, Largest and smallest font options
- Colour contrast option
- Descriptive link text

The Government of Tamil Nadu through various policies and initiatives have been extending full support to the Differently Abled Persons in their pursuit of full and equal involvement in every aspect of social and cultural life.

The State Policy has been announced as early as 1994 for the Differently Abled Persons, by the Government taking into account of the latest developments in Science and Technology. The policy focuses on the special needs of differently abled women and children as they need more care and attention. This policy also provides for a mechanism for promotion and protection of the rights of Differently Abled Persons and methods for ensuring equal opportunities for their full participation in social life.

In a pioneering effort, Government formed an exclusive **Board for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons** in 2007 for the first time in the

country. The Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for Differently Abled Persons was established based on legislation enacted in the State Legislative Assembly.

This Board administers social security schemes to Differently Abled Persons.

It is the responsibility of everybody in a civil society to play a vital role in creating an inclusive society where differently abled persons have equal opportunities and full participation in the growth and development of the country. A change of mind set and an approach with human touch towards the challenges faced by differently abled persons is the aim of this Government so that they lead a life of dignity and honor.

2. Steps taken to implement the provisions of the PWD Act

In order to provide legal protection to the persons with different abilities, the petitions from them were forwarded to concerned departments and follow up action is being taken to redress the grievances of the petitioners. During the last year 72 nos of complaints received and 68 of them were disposed. Whenever the differently abled persons came forward to register complaints / Grievances, simplified procedures were followed. During the last two year no suo motto cognizance was taken by the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled.

State Commissioner for Differently Abled is monitoring the allotment and utilization of funds earmarked for the differently abled persons in the state by various department and agencies. Every year annual report on the implementation of PWD act were sent to Chief Commissioner for the Persons with Disabilities, and this report is also forwarded to the Government of Tamil Nadu. The State Commissioner for the Differently Abled persons through the District Officers and State Resource Training Center (SRTC) conducts periodicals training programs and awareness campaigns in order to sensitise the various officials of the Government department NGO's, parents professional and persons with disabilities.

During 2008 a mobile court under the provisions of PWD act were conducted at Chennai and Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu by involving all the Government Officials both Central and State Governments. It is proposed to hold mobile court in other Districts in 2011-2012. Actions were taken on majority of the petitions received.

So far no action was initiated against any person for the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities as most of the cases are settled through official intervention and conciliation.

During 1999-2000 stay orders were given to the effect not to evict the bunk stalls installed in public places/ pavements by the differently abled persons particularly in the city of Chennai. This has ensured livelihood for some of the differently abled persons.

The state commissioner for the differently abled persons is functioning as the head of the department of the differently abled persons for providing various welfare schemes for which a sum of Rs. 186 Crores have been earmarked during 2010-2011 and for 2011-2012 Rs. 221 Crores proposed to this department. Apart from this under Sarva Siksha Abiyan a sum of 39 Crores, Integrated Education for a sum of Rs. 45 Crores pension Differently Abled Persons Rs. 48 Crores are spent by the Government of Tamil Nadu and various benefits such as Conveyance Allowance to Government Employees with Different Ability, Exemption from paying Professional Tax and due to lifting of Income Ceiling for availing benefits State Government Schemes several differently abled persons are benefited.

In order to implement more number of new schemes to benefit the differently abled, the Central Government may provide 50 % of the cost. There is no separate staff strength for the implementation of the persons with disabilities act and enforcement of the act. In view of higher workload it is proposed for additional staff for implementation of the act is being sent to the Government.

At the outset the over all status of the implementation of PWD act in Tamil Nadu is Very Good.

The State Co ordination Committee and State Executive Committee have been constituted under the PWD act and meeting at regular intervals. State Policy for the differently abled persons was released during 2009 incorporating the various provisions of the PWD act 1995.

3. Special measures that have been taken by the State Government to implement provisions in respect of Prevention and Early Detection.

- All the children in the age group of 0-6 years are given with immunization.
- A sum of Rs. 60 Lakhs has been spent to create awareness on disability.
- Training programmes were conducted for 10,040 Anganwadi workers, supervisors and VHN's in early detection and intervention of disabilities at a cost of Rs. 2.81 Crores during the year 2003-04.
- All Community Based Rehabilitation Workers and Multi purpose Rehabilitation Workers and Village Volunteers were trained in prevention and early detection of disabilities.
- Government has introduced a new scheme namely "Vazhikattum Thittam". Under this scheme 17053 Welfare Workers for the Differently Abled persons have been appointed from 14.02.2011 at the village panchayat levels and 629 Welfare Workers for the Differently Abled Persons have been appointed at the block level and these workers will be trained in prevention, early identification and intervention of disabilities.
- Health department is implementing National Blindness Control Programme and National Programme for Prevention Control of Deafness. Under these two programmes training is given at various level for field workers/ PHC doctors/ School teachers etc.
- Early Identification Centers for Hearing Impairment have been established in two regions namely Chennai and Tuticorin. These centers under take newborn screening in near by Government and Corporation Hospitals.
- Government have established 31 Early Intervention Centers for Hearing Impaired and 32 Early Intervention Centers for Mentally Retarded and 5 Early Intervention center for Visually Impaired in Tamil Nadu.

- Under State Mental Health Programme and District Mental Health Program the Persons with Mental illness were assisted.
- The differently abled children are provided with highly nutritious diet under Nutritious Meals Programme and Integrated Child Development Scheme etc.,
- "High Risk" children are provided with at most care by the health department

4. Education

Differently Abled children in the state are given with Formal Education, Special Education, Inclusive Education and Integrated Education based on their need and vulnerability. Inclusive education is provided to the differently abled children for creating right atmosphere. Those who cannot undergo inclusive education are provided with special education.

In order to mainstream the differently abled children a concept of Early Intervention Centers are introduced in the State of Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme Early Intervention Centers for Hearing Impaired/ Mentally Retarded / Visually Impaired were started in all the Districts. After completion attempts are made to admit the children in to regular schools.

The schools are provided with barrier free environment. It is planned to install Braille Boards, Tactile Floors and public address systems for the benefit of Visually Impaired Children.

Number of Disabled Children studying in Special Schools:

Number	Blind / Low Vision	Locomotor Disabled	Mentally Retarded	Speech and Hearing Impaired.	Total
Government Special School	662	37	80	993	1772
Government aided school	984	1036	1316	3210	6546
Other NGO run School	283	1082	9718	4111	15194
TOTAL	1929	2155	11114	8314	23512

❖ 4161 severely affected children are benefitted through 333 day care centers of SSA.

- ❖ Free education is available in this state for all children with disabilities.
- ❖ Admission to children with disabilities is carried out in normal schools.
- ❖ In almost all the Schools physically disabled children are studying along with able bodied children.
- ❖ Number of Special Schools in the State
Government: 23 Government Aided: 54 Private: 152
- ❖ One Special School for Mentally Retarded was set up with Govt. Aid in Kattumannarkoil of Cuddalore District.
- ❖ All 32 districts in Tamil Nadu have at least one special school
- ❖ 55 Special Schools Including special schools run by NGOs are providing vocational training to the special children.
- ❖ Most of the normal schools especially special schools are having barrier free environment.
- ❖ 2528 schools and 45 Government colleges/professional institutes are constructed with barrier free environment.
- ❖ Scholarship is given to all kinds of disabled students studying in normal schools as follows

for 1-5 th std	:	Rs.500/- p.a.
for 6-8 th std	:	Rs.1500/- p.a.
9-12 th std	:	Rs.2000/- p.a.
Graduation	:	Rs.3000/- p.a.
Post Graduation & Professional course:	:	Rs.3500/-p.a.

- ❖ Besides Readers allowance is also given to Visually Impaired students at the following rates.

9 th to 12 th std	=	Rs.1500/- p.a
U.G	=	Rs.2500/- p.a
P.G& Professional	=	Rs.3000/- p.a

24,025 students are receiving scholarship.

- ❖ Teachers training institutions for specialized training in management of disabilities.

Hearing Impaired:	Little Flower Convent, Chennai-6.
Mentally Retarded:	Balavihar, Chennai-4.
Visually Handicapped:	Government Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Poonamallee, Chennai-56.

- ❖ Other than these 36 institutions are conducting B.Ed. Special Education, Diploma in Special Education with the approval of RCI.

Number of special teachers available in the State

Mentally Retarded	- 925
Hearing Impaired	- 341
Visually Impaired	- 90

- ❖ Every year Special Teachers are given training in special education.
- ❖ Children with disabilities are provided with free text books and equipments.
- ❖ 1,767 Visually Impaired Students are benefited under free distribution of Braille books, lesson recorded CD's , CD players, Scribe Assistance and Readers Allowance.
- ❖ 1,819 number of children are getting free text books, free uniforms from the Government.

- ❖ Scribes are assisting the Visually Impaired students to write their public examinations for which a sum of Rs. 100/- per paper is given to the scribe.
- ❖ All possible support is being provided to the children with disabilities to learn the subjects on par with the normal students.

Extra one hour time for writing examination,

Scribe assistance for Visually Handicapped,

Reader allowance for Visually Handicapped,

Scholarship for all disabled students is being provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

One language has been exempted for hearing impaired children.

- ❖ All students studying in the Government, Government aided and unaided schools are provided free concession for their to and fro travel from their residence to school.
- ❖ As many as 235 schools in Tamil Nadu are covered under this Scheme. Children with disabilities in inclusive education in regular schools are also covered under this scheme.
- ❖ All the visually impaired students and severely disabled (accident victims/paralytic/neurologically affected) are provided with scribe and the scribe allowances are also being paid by the Government as Rs.100/- per paper.

5. Employment

- ❖ One Special Employment Exchange is functioning for assisting the differently abled persons for their employment opportunities.
- ❖ All live registers of the Differently Abled persons are Computerized.
- ❖ With regard to the Identification of post certain post were Partially adopted for "A" and "B" Posts and action is being taken to adopt the notification of Government of India in 2007.

'A' }
'B' } Group- 117 posts (G.O. Ms. No.53, Social Welfare and NMP
Department, Dated: 11.4.2005).

'C' }
'D' } Group- All posts (G.O. No.99, Personnel and Administrative
Reforms Department, Dated: 26.2.1988).

No. of posts identified for each disability in Group

'A' = 9
'B' = 108

'C' } = All posts
'D' }

The procedures have been prescribed and circulated all HODs, University Registrars and District Collectors.

- ❖ In the period of 2006-2010, 4145 differently abled persons were employed through employment exchange. Around 780 persons were employed through Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.
- ❖ Special sections are functioning in the District Employment Offices in the following Districts namely, (1) Kanchipuram, (2) Cuddalore, (3) Thanjavur, (4) Trichy, (5) Madurai, (6) The Nilgiris, (7) Salem, (8) Coimbatore, (9) Tirunelveli, (10) Kanyakumari, (11) Erode, (12) Tuticorin, (13) Nagapattinam.

- ❖ Number of Physically Handicapped persons registered with each Special Employment Exchange and their serial number and year up to which they have been given placement:

Year	No. of Physically challenged Registrants waiting on the live register				No. of Physically challenged Registrants placed in Employment			
	Blind	Deaf	Ortho	Total	Blind	Deaf	Ortho	Total
As on 31.12.2007	9224	7781	65406	82411	104	23	895	1022
As on 31.12.2008	8964	8397	69955	87316	25	5	948	978
As on 31.12.2009	9093	8336	71963	89392	51	9	907	967
As on 31.12.2010	10695	9283	78419	98407	204	20	954	1178

- ❖ Number of vacancies notified to Special Employment Exchanges and filled in the last three years.

Year	No. of Physically challenged Registrants placed in Employment			
	Blind	Deaf	Ortho	Total
As on 31.12.2007	104	23	895	1022
As on 31.12.2008	25	5	948	978
As on 31.12.2009	51	9	907	967
As on 31.12.2010	204	20	954	1178
Total	384	57	3704	4145

- ❖ Government has ordered and around 158 backlog vacancies have been arrived at, and notification was issued on 24.02.2010
- ❖ The Government is organizing Training Programs for the Differently Abled persons

- ❖ District Collectors have arranged for Special Job Fairs and loan mela at district level for the differently abled persons in the Districts in co-ordination with the private employers and nationalized banks, as a result of these camps, number of differently abled persons got placed in private sector.
- ❖ The details of differently abled persons who got placement in private sector through job fairs are given below.

Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. of Differently Abled persons got placement
1.	Dindugul	102
2.	Thiruchirapalli	173
3.	Tirunelveli	160
4.	Cuddalore	42
5.	Sivagangai	47
6.	Madurai	80
7.	Chennai	108
8.	Kancheepuram	434
9.	Namakkal	126
	Total	1282

- ❖ The Department for the Welfare of the Differently Abled persons, Government of Tamil Nadu is providing various structured training courses which facilitates differently abled persons to get immediate employment. Two year diploma course in Medical Laboratory Technician Course is conducted in 12 Government Medical Colleges. Six Months Computer training course is provided for the visually

Impaired Persons at the Regional Centre of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Poonamalle, Chennai – 600 056. Cell phone servicing training is provided to Differently Abled persons in the Polytechnic colleges affiliated to the Commissionerate for Technical Education.

Sl.No.	Name of the Course	Nature of the Differently Abled Admitted	No. of Persons trained
1	DMLT	Ortho and Hearing Impaired	33
2	Cell Phone Servicing	Ortho and Hearing Impaired	328
3	Computer Training	Visually Impaired.	10

- ❖ Apart from these, the Department for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons is providing skill training programmes with boarding and lodging facilities in 15 training centres. The details of training programme for the differently abled persons are given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Course	Nature of the Differently Abled Admitted	No. of Persons trained
1	Computer Training, desk top publishing, call centre	Orthopaedically handicapped	30
2	Silver Polishing and Silver Article manufacturing	Orthopaedically handicapped and hearing Handicapped	20
3	Light Engineering Project, Computer Training	Visually Handicapped	20
4	Desk Top Publishing	Orthopaedically handicapped	20
5	Light Engineering Project, Card Board making	Hearing Impaired and Mentally Retarded	20
6	Type writing and Weaving	Orthopaedically handicapped and Mentally Retarded	20
7	Screen Printing, Acra leaf plate making, Secretarial project	Orthopaedically handicapped, Hearing Handicapped and Visually handicapped	10 each

8	Printing, Composing and Book binding	Orthopaedically handicapped, Hearing Handicapped and Visually handicapped	30
9	Card board box making, File making, Paper cup making	Cerebral Palsied and Mentally Retarded	20
10	Envelope making/ Cotton / Coir making, tailoring and Computer training	Orthopaedically handicapped Hearing Handicapped and Mentally Retarded	20
11	Dairy farms and Emu Birds	Orthopaedically handicapped and Hearing Handicapped	20
12	Electronic and Home Appliances repairing course	Orthopaedically handicapped and Hearing Handicapped	20
13	Beautician Course	Hearing Impaired – Ladies only	10
14	Computer/ Cell Phone service Mixie and Wet Grinder servicing Fridge servicing tailoring	Orthopaedically handicapped and Mentally Retarded	20
15	candle making / Terracota/ Bathi manufacturing	Orthopaedically handicapped	30

- ❖ All District Collectors are providing assistance to Differently Abled persons under SGSY, MGNREGS and other Rural Development Schemes and ensure that a minimum of 3% of the benefits reaches them.
- ❖ A joint meeting with the departments concerned was conducted by the Government and is in the process of notifying the type and design for buildings. Proposals have been sent to GOI under SIPDA Scheme by the various agencies to make the buildings accessible to PWDs. (Anna University, University of Madras, Corporation of Chennai, State Resource cum Training Centre and Royapettai Government Hospital)
- ❖ The Best Employer State Award is being given to the Private Employers by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during the Independence Day Celebration. Also, recently Government has instructed that the clause of minimum of 5% of the work force should consist of disabled persons by the private

employers who enters MOU with state government by availing preferential allotment of land and other infrastructure facilities.

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu have created additional posts in Secondary Grade Teacher, B.T. Assistant P.G. Assistant , College Lecturer and Book binder posts for visually impaired persons.

6. NON-DISCRIMINATION

- ❖ The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has redesigned 2 buses with low floors for easy access of wheel Chair bound persons. Besides the above, 100 low floor buses have been introduced by the Transport Corporation.
- ❖ Funds had been provided to Director General of Police, Traffic, Tamilnadu for which auditory signals have been installed in 12 traffic intersections.
- ❖ Staff have been trained to conduct access audit in public buildings and to suggest suitable remedies in providing barrier free environment for all categories of the persons with disabilities.
- ❖ An access audit has been conducted by the State Commissioner at All India Tourism and Industrial Trade Fair held at Island grounds, Chennai and based on the report necessary modifications were undertaken by the State /Central Govt. departments.
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu have issued orders to allot lands to the NGO's which takes care of differently Abled persons. As per this order District Collectors are empowered to allot land value of which is less than Rs. Five lakhs.
- ❖ House site pattas were given to the differently abled persons on priority basis and we ensure at least 3 % of the total beneficiaries are persons with disabilities.
- ❖ In order to create a conducive atmosphere among the various caste people the Government of Tamil Nadu is constructing "Samathuvapuram" Group houses in villages. People belonging to various caste, religions are provided with independent houses in this area. The Differently abled persons are also provided houses along with other people to create a main stream society.

7. NEW SCHEMES INTRODUCED IN THE YEAR 2010-2011

1. Vazhi Kattum Thittam (Guidance Scheme)

- A Community Based Rehabilitation programme in all Districts through NGO's .
- Providing all services to the differently abled persons at their door step.
- 1 Welfare Worker for Differently Abled Persons per village panchayat with honorarium of Rs.750/- per month
- 1 Welfare Organiser for Differently Abled Persons per 1 lakh general population with honorarium of Rs.2000/- per month
- Total Annual Budget : 17.83 Crores

2. Free travel concession

- 75% fare concession is extended to escorts accompanying Differently Abled persons who cannot travel without an escort
- Beneficiaries - 526243
- 2010-11 - Rs.43.00 Crores paid to State Transport Corporations to clear the pending arrears

3. Additional block guarantee to provide loan under NHFDC

- Rs. 4.00 Crores will be given to TNSC BANK as additional block guarantee to provide loan under NHFDC
- The total Block Guarantee will be Rs. 8.00 Crores

4. Honorarium is increased to Special Educators and Physiotherapist

- Monthly honorarium to Special Educators and Physiotherapists working in the NGOs run Special School for the mentally retarded has been increased from Rs.3000/- to Rs.5000/-.
- Budget- Rs.3.60 crores

5. Organising Educational Tour to Students of Government Special Schools

- Two day tour programme has been arranged for students studying in 9th Std and 12th Std of Government special Schools
- 489 Students will be benefited.
- Budget -Rs.97,800/-.

6. MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE INCREASED FROM Rs.20,000/- to Rs. 25,000/-

- Marriage assistance scheme hitherto given to normal persons marrying differently abled person, has been extended to Differently Abled persons who marry another Differently Abled person.
- Rs.12,500/- as cheque and NSC Certificate for Rs.12,500/-
- 490 couples will benefit out of this scheme.
- Budget- Rs. 122.50 Lakhs.

7. Cash Award has been increased 3 times to Visually Challenged Students who secure 1st three ranks in Government Public Examination

- Budget- Rs.40.02 lakhs

8. Tamil Nadu Victim Assistance Fund for Differently Abled persons

- Formation of "District Victims Assistance Committee for Persons with Disabilities" headed by the District Collector as Chair-person with District Superintendent of Police / Commissioner of Police as Member and District Differently Abled Welfare Officer as Member-Secretary.
- To pay the amount of assistance to the Differently Abled victims in the case of grievous injury and rape /legal heir of the victim in the case of murder

Sl.No	Event	Amount of cash to be paid not exceeding	To whom it should be paid
1	Murder	Rs.10,000/-	To the legal heir
2	Grievous injuries	Rs. 5,000/-	To the victim
3	Rape	Rs. 5,000/-	To the victim

- In addition to the above assistance, irrespective of the judicial outcome of the trial, an assistance of Rs. 200/- per day paid from this Fund to meet out the expenditure during the trial of the case limiting the total amount to Rs.2,000/- per victim per case.
- To pay Conveyance Allowance of Rs. 500/- and a sitting allowance of Rs.300/- per sitting to advocates who provide free legal services to persons with disabilities.
- To pay interpretation allowance of Rs.300/- (apart from T.A and D.A) per sitting to the Teacher (interpreter) who assist (Person with Speech disability due to hard of hearing) the victims to enable enquiries to be held in the Police Station / Court, etc.,
- Budget – Rs.32 lakhs

9. Formation of 1000 Self Help Group to improve the Socio Economic Conditions of Differently Abled Persons

- 1000 Self help groups have been formed by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

10. Day Care Centre for the persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy

- 6 Day care centre established through NGOs in Chennai, Tirichirapalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Vellore
- Persons affected with muscular dystrophy will be provided with physiotherapy and other required treatment along with Vocational Training.
- 50 Beneficiaries per Centre
- Budget Rs.48.96 lakhs

11. Supply of Electric Scooter

- Eco friendly Electric Scooter supplied to both legs affected differently abled students studying in Schools and colleges.
- 385 Beneficiaries
- Budget Rs.100.10 Lakhs.

12. Supply of Foldable Wheel chairs to severely affected persons and persons with multiple disabilities

- As a special case 1500 foldable wheelchairs have been provided to severely affected persons and persons with multiple disabilities
- Budget- Rs.90 lakhs

13. CP Chairs

- Providing Specially designed CP Chairs for the first time
- Proposed to provide 500 Beneficiaries
- Budget : Rs. 35.00 lakhs

14. Early Intervention Centres for children with Visual Impairment

- EIC – VI in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Vellore and Tiruvannmalai
- EIC –VI functioning from 1.11.2010
- Uniform Guidelines , Syllabus and Curriculum has been framed in consultation with NIVH and NIEPMD
- Budget- Rs.10.15 lakhs

15. Meetpu Thittam- Rescue Scheme for mentally ill persons:

- Rescue Scheme- Scheme of rescuing the wandering mentally ill persons in all districts and providing them rehabilitation services through NGOs.
- NGOs registered under Section 52 of PWD Act, 1995 are selected in all districts.
- NGOs will identify the wandering mentally ill persons by following the procedure envisaged in Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre for Mentally Ill persons Rules, 2002 and Mental Health Act, 1987 and admit them in homes.

- Rs.1500/- will be paid to NGO per rescued person with mental illness.

16. Supply of Teaching and Learning Materials to EIC- HI and MR:

- Teaching and Learning materials will be supplied to EICs for HI and MR
- Funds allotted- Rs.69.70 lakhs

17. Establishment of Early Diagnostic Centre for Hearing Impaired

- Early Diagnostic Centre for Hearing Impaired in the Office of the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer, Thoothukudi
- Funds allotted- Rs. 18.10 lakhs

18. Supply of Siemens hearing aids to children with Hearing Impairment in EICS for H.I

- Siemens Hearing Aids-(Binaural) will be provided to children with Hearing Impairment in EICs- HI.
- Funds Allotted- Rs.58.59 lakhs

19. Refresher Course to Special Educators working in 30 EICs for MR:

- Refresher Course has been conducted for 150 Special Educators working in 30 EICs for MR

20. Inclusive Education to all Differently Abled students:

- Special drive have been initiated under the Chairmanship of District Collectors to identify differently abled children in the age group of 6-14 years not going to school and to admit them in normal school (Inclusive education)

21. Ensure all welfare scheme benefits reach all eligible differently abled persons:

- A Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of District Collector to ensure that all welfare scheme benefits reach all eligible differently abled persons

22. Establishment of 10 Homes for Mentally Ill Persons

- To provide rehabilitation services to persons with mental illness through NGOs
- Rs. 10.00 lakhs per home towards feeding charges, boarding, vocational training and medicines
- The home will be registered under Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre for Mentally ill persons rules 2002. Procedure envisaged in the above rules will be followed.
- Budget - Rs.1 Crore.

23. Income ceiling removed for availing benefits under Government Schemes

- No income ceiling for availing welfare schemes.
- Additional allotment of Rs.8.00 Crores

24. Tuition fees and Special fees in Educational Institutions have been waived

- Tuition fees and Special fees have been waived to differently abled students studying in Government and Government Aided Colleges.

25. M.L.A CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND

- Government of Tamilnadu have ordered in G.O.(1D) No.405 Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department Dated 17.8.2010 allowing Rs.5.00 Lakhs from the M.L.A Constituency Development Fund towards purchase and supply of Aids and Appliances for Differently Abled Persons.
- No. of M.L.A Constituencies : 234
- Total funds allotted : Rs. 1170.00 Lakhs

S.No.	Type of Aids and Appliances	Nos.
1	Tricycle	6843
2	Wheel Chair	4980
3	Crutches	3352
4	Caliper	1630
5	Folding Stick and goggles	3985
6	Braille Watch/ Electronic talking watch	4392
7	Hearing aid and solar rechargeable Batteries	7197
8	Artificial limbs	2252
	Total	34631

26. ARAI APPROVAL FOR RETRO FITMENT

- TVS Motor Co. Ltd., Hosur have got the approval of ARAI for the two types of retro fitment kits for TVS Scooty Pep/Streak and Wego Motor cycles.
- Tamil Nadu State have approved the Retro fitment kits and the list of workshops identified by the manufacturer.
- G.O(2D)No.6 Home(Transport – 1) Department Dated 10.1.2011.

8.LAND MARK DECISIONS

- ❖ Awareness creation on disabilities.
- ❖ Separate Chapter on disabilities in the education department policy note.
- ❖ 3% reservation in Indra Awaz Yojana Housing Scheme for differently abled persons.
- ❖ Formation of 1000 Self Help group for differently abled persons.
- ❖ Simplifying and streamlining the procedures for issuing disability certificates. – Amendment to Tamil Nadu Persons with Disabilities rules 2002 is under active consideration of the Government.
- ❖ Details on free travel and concession were made in to single booklet and sent to all Managing Directors of State Transport Corporations by the Chief Secretary to Government with clear-cut instructions to follow the provisions scrupulously.
- ❖ Separate seats are being provided in all buses for the benefit of differently abled persons.
- ❖ Separate pavilion was installed at the All India Industrial and Tourism Fair highlighting achievements made for the welfare of the differently abled persons in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Establishment of Early Diagnostic centers for hearing impaired in Chennai and Thoothukudi.
- ❖ Convergence with SSA, school education Corporation of Chennai, Health and Family Welfare. Public Works, Highways, National Institute for the Empowerment of the Persons with Multiple Disabilities, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped. Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Employment and Training, Directorate of Technical Education, Directorate of Medical Education, Directorate of Medical Services are being done at State/District Level.
- ❖ Experts Committees are constituted for procurement of various aids and appliances

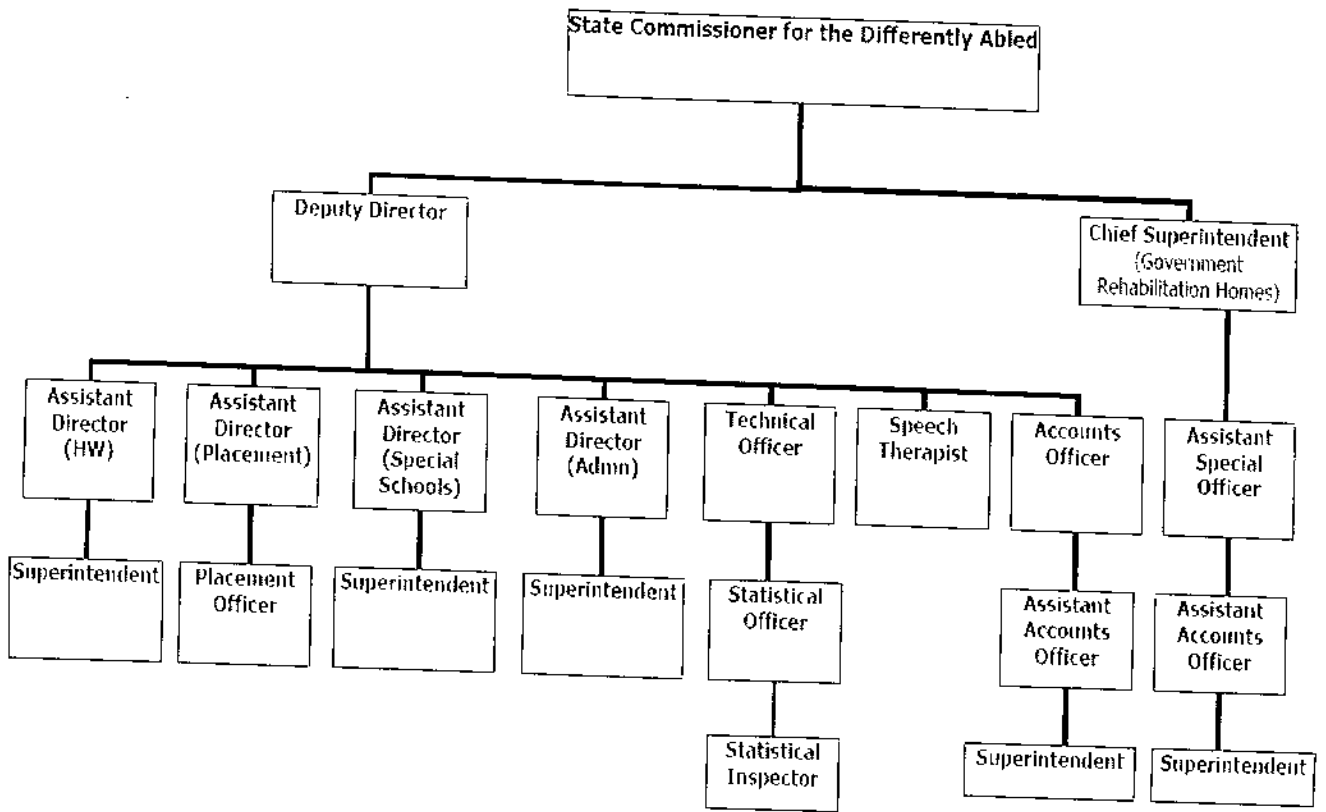
- ❖ Latest available gadgets and equipments in the market are assessed ascertained and schemes are formulated. Example : provision of CD players with lessons recorded CD's, to Hearing Aids for children studying in Early Identification centers, Eco friendly Electric Scooters CP Chairs, Modular Limbs extra.
- ❖ Regular interactions with National Institutes, NIMANS, Avinashilingam deemed university and Vivekananda university.

9. SUGGESTIONS

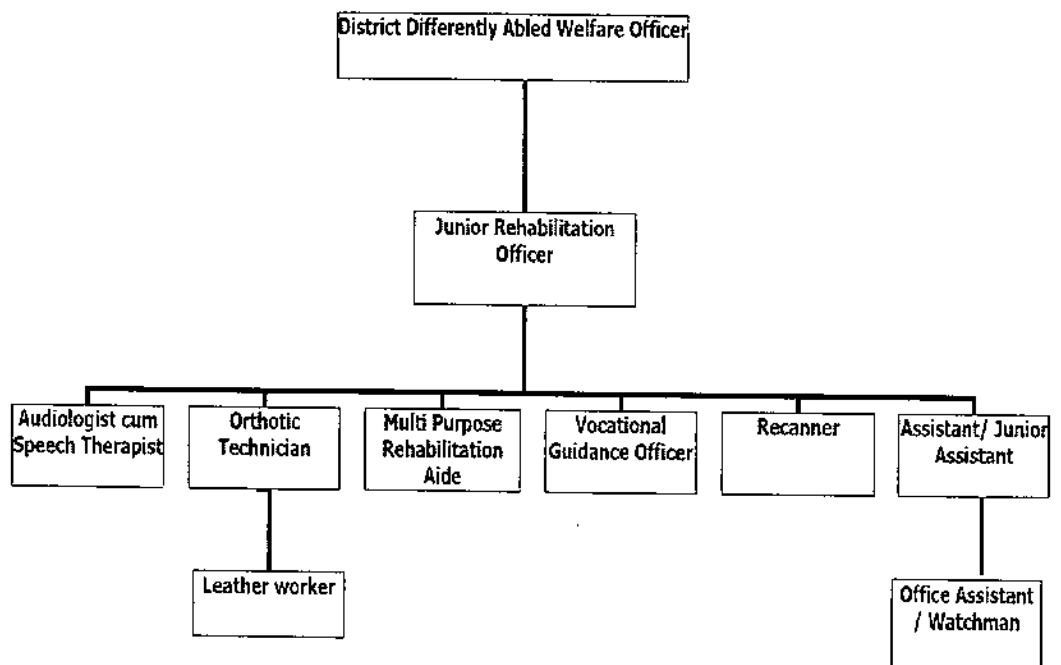
- ❖ For implementations of the provisions of persons with disabilities act, at least 50% of funds are to be provided by the Government. of India.
- ❖ For creation posts 100% grant may be given by Government of India.
- ❖ A legal Cell is very much needed in which a legal expert may be included.
- ❖ Awareness materials may be published by indicating the various categories of disabilities and role of the society in Rehabilitation of differently abled persons. The Government of India may sanction a sum of Rs. 5.00 cores for the above purpose.


ORGANISATIONAL CHART

Commissionerate for the Welfare of the Differently Abled



District Differently Abled Welfare Office






Format:

Prepare a comprehensive note/presentation on the functioning of the office of Commissioner (persons with disabilities) in your state listing out its major achievements, failures, best practices, difficulties faced and suggestions for improvement in its efficiency and effectiveness. The note/presentation should, inter alia, include the following -

1. Date of inception of the office of Commissioner (persons with disabilities) in your state.
2. Name of the present incumbent/Commissioner.
3. Is she/he holding full-time and independent charge? If yes, what is the duration of such independent charge?
4. Year-wise total number of complaints received during the last two years under the relevant provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of rights, and Full Participation) Act 1995 (PWD Act).
5. Year-wise details of total number of complaints disposed of during the last two years.
6. Procedure followed in respect of complaints/grievances.
7. Year-wise details of cases/instances where suo motto cognizance was taken during the last two years in respect of deprivation of rights suffered by persons with disabilities.
8. As required under the relevant provisions of the PWD Act, what procedures/methods are followed for monitoring disbursement and utilization of funds on disability by various departments? Are these methods/procedures satisfactory? Any suggestions/ideas for further improvement?
9. Furnish annual reports of last two years. Have these annual reports been tabled before the concerned State Legislature as mandated by the PWD Act? :
10. Has the office of the Commissioner undertaken, from time to time, capacity building and awareness raising measures in respect of the PWD Act amongst the primary stakeholders and other stakeholders, and also among the general public?
11. Does the office of the Commissioner hold mobile courts in different places in the state, from time to time, to ensure expeditious disposal of complaints/grievances? If yes, how many mobile courts have been held so far? Please specify the total number of persons with disabilities who attended such mobile courts giving disability and gender-wise breakup. Also furnish details of number of complaints received and disposed of on the spot during the course of such mobile courts.
12. How many persons have faced action as a result of decisions by the Commissioner for violation of rights of persons with disabilities?
13. Please cite some landmark decisions by the Commissioner? If necessary, enclose a separate sheet of paper containing details.
14. Is the budgetary allocation for the office of Commissioner adequate? What is the additional requirement?
15. Is the staff strength of the office of the Commissioner satisfactory? What is the existing staff strength?

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16. How do you rate the overall status of implementation of the PWD Act in your state: A. average; B. good; C. very good; and, D. excellent.
 17. Do the state coordination committee and the state executive committee constituted under the PWD Act meet at regular intervals to transact its statutory business? Please furnish the minutes of last three meetings of both these committees.
 18. Does the your state have a state policy on disability in place?
 19. Narrate the steps taken by the state Govt. to implement provisions relating to education as envisaged in the PWD Act.
 20. Narrate the measures adopted by the state Govt. to implement provisions relating to employment as envisaged in the PWD Act. What is the status relating to backlog of vacancies? Is the provision in respect of reservation under Sec. 33 of the PWD Act implemented in relation to all categories of jobs? Has the identification of posts for persons with disabilities done? If yes, is the list of posts so identified reviewed and updated in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 32 of the PWD Act?
 21. narrate the measures adopted by the state Govt. to implement provisions relating to Barrier free access/accessibility as envisaged in the relevant sections of the PWD Act.
 22. Enumerate the steps taken by the state Govt. relating to the implementation of three percent reservation quota in poverty alleviation schemes as envisaged in the PWD Act.
 23. What is the status of implementation of provision relating to preferential allotment of land at concessional rates as envisaged in the relevant section of the PWD Act in your state?
 24. Specify measures that have been taken by the state Govt. to implement provisions in respect of prevention and early detection.
 25. Comment on the status of implementation of social security related provisions in your state as specified in the PWD Act.
 26. Please list out the difficulties and hindering factors encountered by the commissioner in the discharge of his functions/duties.
 27. Inumerate the best practices followed by the office of the Commissioner.
 28. Any suggestions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the office of the Commissioner?
 29. Any other relevant information?