

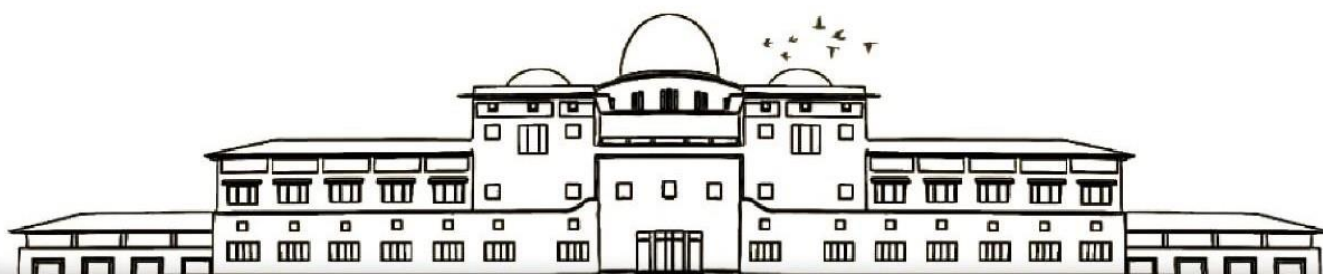


SAFI INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY (SIAS)



DIVYANGJAN POLICY

**INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL
(IQAC)**



POLICY FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

Introduction

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. In the recent years, there have been vast and positive changes in the perception of the society towards persons with disabilities. It has been realized that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

According to the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in India who constitute 2.13 percent of the total population. This includes persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotor and mental disabilities. Seventy-five per cent of persons with disabilities live in rural areas, 49 per cent of disabled population is literate and only 34 per cent are employed. The earlier emphasis on medical rehabilitation has now been replaced by an emphasis on social rehabilitation. There has been an increasing recognition of abilities of persons with disabilities and emphasis on mainstreaming them in the society based on their capabilities.

The Government of India has enacted three legislations for persons with disabilities *viz.*

- i. Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, which provides for education, employment, creation of barrier free environment, social security, etc.
- ii. National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999 has provisions for legal guardianship of the four categories and creation of enabling environment for as much independent living as possible.
- iii. Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 deals with the development of manpower for providing rehabilitation services.
- iii. In addition to the legal framework, extensive infrastructure has been developed. The following seven national Institutes are working for development of manpower in different areas, namely,

- Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
 - National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
 - National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata
 - National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.
 - National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai
 - National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Cuttack.
 - National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai.
- iv. There are five Composite Rehabilitation Centres, four Regional Rehabilitation Centres and 120 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) providing various kinds of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. There are also several national institutions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare working in the field of rehabilitation, like National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mumbai; All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore; Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, etc. In addition, certain State Government institutions also provide rehabilitation services. Besides, 250 private institutions conduct training courses for rehabilitation professionals.
- v. National Handicapped and Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been providing loans on concessional terms for undertaking self-employment ventures by the persons with disabilities through State Channelizing Agencies.
- vi. Panchayat Raj Institutions at Village level, Intermediary level and District level have been entrusted with the welfare of persons with disabilities.
- vii. India is a signatory to the Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific Region. India is also a signatory to the Biwako Millennium Framework for action towards an inclusive, barrier free and rights based society. India is currently participating in the negotiations on the UN Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Education for Persons with Disabilities

Education is the most effective vehicle of social and economic empowerment. In keeping with the spirit of the Article 21A of the Constitution guaranteeing education as a fundamental right and Section 26 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, free and compulsory education has to be provided to all children with disabilities up to the minimum age of 18 years.

According to the Census, 2001, fifty-one percent persons with disabilities are illiterate. This is a very large percentage. There is a need for mainstreaming of the persons with disabilities in the general education system through Inclusive education.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched by the Government has the goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children including children with disabilities in the age group of 6-14 years by 2010. Children with disabilities in the age group of 15-18 years are provided free education under Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) Scheme.

Under SSA, a continuum of educational options, learning aids and tools, mobility assistance, support services etc. are being made available to students with disabilities. This includes education through an open learning system and open schools, alternative schooling, distance education, special schools, wherever necessary home-based education, itinerant teacher model, remedial teaching, part time classes, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and vocational education.

IEDC Scheme implemented through the State Governments, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organizations provides hundred percent financial assistance for various facilities like special teachers, books and stationery, uniform, transport, readers allowance for the visually handicapped, hostel allowance, equipment cost, removal/ modification of architectural barriers, financial assistance for purchase/ production of instructional material, training of general teachers and equipment for resource rooms.

There will be concerted effort on the part of the Government to improve identification of children with disabilities through regular surveys, their enrolment in appropriate schools and their

continuation till they successfully complete their education. The Government will endeavor to provide right kind of learning material and books to the children with disabilities, suitably trained and sensitized teachers and schools which are accessible and disabled friendly.

Government of India is providing scholarships to students with disabilities for pursuing studies at post school level. Government will continue to support the scholarships and expand its coverage.

Facilities for technical and vocational education designed to inculcate and bolster skill development suited to various types of productive activities by adaptation of the existing institutes or accelerated setting up of institutes in un-served / underserved areas will be encouraged. NGOs will also be encouraged to provide vocational training. Persons with disabilities will be provided access to the Universities, technical institutions and other institutions of higher learning to pursue higher and professional courses.

SAFI Institute of Advanced Study (SIAS) aims at the overall holistic development of students without any discrimination in terms of caste, creed, gender, and physical disability.

The main objectives of the policies are

- Facilitate admission for differently-abled persons in all academic programs.
- Provide counseling to the differently-abled students on the availability of scholarships, and types of courses, they could choose at the Higher Education Institutions.
- Provide scholarships and fee concessions for meritorious differently-abled students.
- Provide a friendly and caring atmosphere for differently-abled.
- Provide equal educational opportunities for differently-abled.
- Provide special devices to augment the learning experience of differently-abled students such as computers with screen reading software.
- Provide facilities such as ramps, rails, and special toilets to suit their needs.
- Provide necessary scribes for exam support.