

Module 10

Government Schemes and Programmes for Person with Disability

Component IA

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Component IB

	Description of Module
Subject Name	Social Work Education
Paper Name	Social Work in the Field of Disability
Module Name	Government Schemes and Programmes for Person with Disability
Module ID	SWE/SWFD/10
Pre Requisites	Curiosity to know more about the government schemes and programmes for Person with Disability, Aspiration to work for the inclusion of young people with disabilities.
Objectives	To learn about the government institutional mechanisms that are promoting schemes and programmes that targets the welfare of the person with disabilities. To understand the major programmes and schemes initiated by the Indian government to promote welfare among the person with disability.
Key words	Disability, government schemes, welfare programmes.

Quadrant 1

1. Introduction:

Disability as a social concern is coming to acquire increasing public attention at the highest levels of government and policy-making in recent years, aided in no small measure by the efforts of grassroots groups and non-government organisations. Efforts since 2001 to canvass disabilities as part of India's decennial population census, correcting a post-independence era anomaly, and the steps to enable disabled people to participate in the electoral process are major milestones. The Union Government has also recently decided to establish a separate department for disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice. Raising awareness on the rights, entitlements and duties embodied in the law is the other critical task to ensure accountability among public authorities and bring about real and lasting transformation in the lives of the disabled.

India has a long experience of policy and practice with respect to disability, including collection of census information on disability from as early as 1872, and special schools and institutions operating since the 19th century. Like many countries, it also had specific provision for people with mental illness and retardation under the Indian Lunacy Act of 1912. The Constitution of India acknowledged also general state obligations to PWD in Article 41, and the State List under “Relief of the disabled and unemployable”. Subsequently, specific measures such as employment concessions were introduced from the 1960s. In this module the major schemes and programmes for the person with disability is discussed

At the end of this module, the learner will:

- Learn about the government institutional mechanisms that are promoting schemes and programmes that target the welfare of the person with disabilities.
- Understand the major programmes and schemes initiated by the Indian government to promote welfare among the person with disability.

2. Legal Rights of the Person with Disability in India:

India has one of the more developed national policy frameworks for disability of developing countries, though there remains scope for improvement, in particular at the sub-national level. However, as in many

areas of social policy, challenges of institutional capacity and coordination have contributed to implementation that frequently leaves much to be desired. As a democratic country, proper consideration and recognition is given to the people with disability in India. Various acts, laws and provisions were given to the disabled person to ensure their fundamental and basic rights. (i) the Mental Health Act, 1987; (ii) the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PWD Act); (iii) the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 and amended in 2000 (RCI Act); and (iv) the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (National Trust Act) are some of the major acts and legal frameworks initiated by GOI. There are ample evidence even in the Indian constitution to support the legal rights of the person with disability. Some of the major provisions are discussed below

2.1. The Indian Constitution

The Constitution of India applies uniformly to every legal citizen of India, whether they are healthy or disabled. Under the Constitution the disabled have been guaranteed the following fundamental rights:

- a) The Constitution secures to the citizens would be an offence punishable in accordance including the disabled, a right of justice, with law as provided by Article 17 of the liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and constitution, worship, equality of status and of opportunity and for the promotion of fraternity.
- b) Article 15(1) enjoins on the Government not Constitution to discriminate against any citizen of India (including disabled) on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- c) Article 15 (2) States that no citizen (including the disabled) shall be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition on any of the above grounds in the matter of their access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment or in the use of wells, tanks, bathing gates, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of government funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.
- d) Every person including the disabled has his life and liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- e) Every disabled person can move the Supreme Court of India to enforce his fundamental rights and the rights to move the Supreme Court is itself guaranteed by Article 32.

Beside these general articles, there are specific laws which promote and propagate rights of persons with disabilities, which are explained below.

2.2. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

The Act had come into enforcement on February 7, 1996. It is a significant step which ensures equal opportunities for the people with disabilities and their full participation in day to day life. The Act provides for both the preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like prevention, early intervention, education, employment and vocational training, reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier free environment, unemployment allowance, special insurance scheme for the disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability, etc.

The Act provides a mechanism to address grievances of persons with disabilities. In case of violation of the rights, as prescribed in this act, people with disabilities may move an application to the:

- Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the Centre and
- Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the State.

2.3 The Mental Health Act 1987

According to the WHO estimates, it's believed that more than 130 million people suffer from one or other mental disorder(s) in India.

The major objectives of the Act was to,

- ▶ To ensure availability and accessibility of minimum mental health care for all in the foreseeable future, particularly to the most vulnerable and under privileged sections of population.
- ▶ To encourage application of mental health knowledge in general health care and in the social development.
- ▶ To promote community participation in mental health services development, and to stimulate efforts towards self help in the community.

According to the Acts, provisions for the establishment of a central authority for mental health services under the central government and state authority for mental health services under the state government was mentioned in the Act.

2.4 The Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992

Persons with disabilities in India have been receiving rehabilitation services for more than 100 years. However, before establishment of RCI, there were hardly any planned efforts made in the field for developing trained manpower. Lack of appropriate trained manpower has been one of the major constraints in expansion of rehabilitation services in the country.

The Government of India in 1986 to set up a Rehabilitation Council to be responsible for:

- Training policies and programmes;
- To standardize the training courses for professionals dealing with persons with disabilities
- To grant recognition to the institutions running these training courses;
- To maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of rehabilitation professionals and
- To promote research in Rehabilitation and special education

RCI is the only institution which takes care of manpower development of different categories of professionals for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons with disability to meet the needs of their entire

life cycle, i.e., physical and medical rehabilitation; educational rehabilitation; vocational rehabilitation; and social rehabilitation.

The Council has identified different categories of Rehabilitation professionals to satisfy the varied needs of the field and the target population. These are listed under:

1. Audiologists and speech therapists
2. Clinical psychologists
3. Hearing aid and ear mould technicians
4. Rehabilitation engineers and technicians
5. Special teachers for education and training the handicapped
6. Vocational counselors, employment officers and placement officers dealing with the Handicapped
7. Multipurpose rehabilitation therapists and technicians
8. Speech pathologists
9. Rehabilitation psychologists
10. Rehabilitation social workers
11. Rehabilitation practitioners in mental retardation
12. Orientation and mobility specialists
13. Community based rehabilitation professionals
14. Rehabilitation counsellors/ administrators
15. Prosthetists and orthotists
16. Rehabilitation workshop managers

2.5. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999

The Central Government has the obligation to set up, in accordance with this Act and for the purpose of the benefit of the disabled, the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability at New Delhi.

This Act provides for the constitution of a national body for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. Such a national body will be a trust whose objects are as under:

- To enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong
- To strengthen facilities to provide support to persons with disability to live within their own families
- To extend support to registered organization to provide need based services during the period of crisis in the family of persons with disability
- To deal with problems of persons with disability who do not have family support;
- To promote measures for the care and protection of persons with disability in the event of death of their parent or guardian
- To evolve procedure for the appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disability requiring such protection
- To facilitate the realization of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability

- To do any other act, which is incidental to the aforesaid objects.

3. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR THE DISABLED

Government of India had initiated several welfare schemes for the disabled persons. Some of the major welfare schemes are discussed below.

3.1. Disability certificate and identity card

The respective Medical boards constituted at state or district level are the certifying authority to issue disability certificate. The board consists of a chief medical officer / sub divisional medical officer in the district and another expert in the specified field for example, an ophthalmic surgeon in case of visual handicaps; either an ENT surgeon or an audiologist in case of speech and hearing handicaps, an orthopaedic surgeon or a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation in case of locomotor handicaps and a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist in case of mental handicaps.

3.2. Education programmes for children with special needs

The community at large is often unaware of the potential of children with special needs. In the popular mind, special needs are usually identified with very low expectations. There are different provisions for education of children with disabilities. Inclusive education supports the idea of having all the children with special needs enrolled in mainstream schools with appropriate modifications as far as possible. After the assessment of their disabilities by a team of specialists (a doctor, a psychologist, and a special educator), the child will be placed in appropriate educational setting. Children with mild and moderate disabilities of any kind may be integrated in regular schools, severe in regular/ special schools after a thorough assessment; drop outs who have problems in availing benefits of normal schools can join open schools. Open and special schools also offer vocational courses for children with disabilities.

3.3. Assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP Scheme)

India has a very large number of persons with disabilities and many of them belong to low income groups. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to provide aids/ appliances at minimum costs to the disabled persons. The requirement for providing of aids/appliances, which are essential for the social, economic and vocational rehabilitation of the disabled persons, has come into sharp focus, particularly after the enactment of the PWD Act, 1995. The scheme aims at helping the disabled persons by bringing suitable, durable scientifically manufactured modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach.

3.4 Employment of the handicapped

Assistance to the disabled persons in getting gainful employment is available either through the special cells in normal employment exchanges or through special employment exchanges for physically handicapped. Up to 100% financial assistance is provided in case of special cells and 80% in case of special employment exchanges of state government and union territory administrations.

3.5. Reservation of jobs and other facilities for disabled persons

As per the order of government of India, reservation of 3% in jobs have been made in Grade 'C' and 'D' posts for the physically handicapped persons. The categories benefited are given below:

Category of Disability	Percentage of Reservation
The Blind	1%
The Deaf	1%
The Orthopedic Handicapped	1%

As per the provision, relaxation on age, qualification, and exemption of fees etc were provided for the persons with disability.

3.6. Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 1974 by the Department of Social Welfare and after transferred to Department of Education in 1982. Under the scheme handicapped children are sought to be integrated in normal school system. The Hearing Handicapped (mild and moderate impaired only) are provided allowance for purchase of Books, stationery, uniform, transport and disabled children residing in school hostels within the same institution where they are studying may also be paid boarding and lodging charges as admissible under Govt. rules/schemes.

3.7. Scholarships for the Disabled

The Scheme of Scholarship is operated by union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through State Governments to disabled persons from the 9th class onwards for general technical or professional education. The scholarship is awarded for all kinds of handicapped students subject to their obtaining of atleast 40% marks at the last annual examination.

3.8. Railway Travel Concession

The Ministry of Railway allows the disabled persons/patients to travel at concessional fares in Indian railways. Deaf persons are allowed 50% concession in single and return journey rail fares on production of Medical Certificate issued by the Govt. Medical Officer. After verifying the certificate concessional tickets will be issued by the station master. 50% concessions is also allowed in monthly seasonal (first and second class) ticket fares to the deaf. No concession will be allowed for the escort of the deaf person. Permission is also given to travel by 2tier-AC sleeper on payment of the concessional fare for first class and full surcharge leviable on 2 tier AC sleeper.

3.9. Economic Assistance

3.9.1. Public Sector Banks:

Physically Handicapped persons are eligible to take loans under the scheme, if they satisfy the following conditions:

- Should be pursuing a gainful occupation.
- Should not have hand holding exceeding 1 acre if irrigated, and 25 acres if un-irrigated.
- Should not incur liability to two sources of finance at the same time.
- Should work largely on their own and with such help as other members of their family or some joint partners may give them and should not employ paid employers on a regular basis.

The amount of loan will depend on the particular scheme proposed to be financed. It should be adequate to enable the borrower to finance his requirements without having to borrow from other sources. Keeping in view the social objective the interest will uniformly be charged 4% p.a. Physically Handicapped persons are eligible under DRI scheme for loan to purchase artificial limbs, hearing aids, wheelchairs etc., subject to maximum of Rs. 2500/- per borrower provided such assistance is given along with the advances for productive activities and self employment ventures and all other requirements under DRI scheme are fulfilled. Under the scheme of “Financing Small Scale Industries”, a special provision has been made to allow concession in the interest to the physically handicapped availing working capital limit above Rs.2500/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs.

3.10. Schemes and Programmes under the National Trust:

The National Trust was setup in the context of parents’ worries that what will happen to their children with special needs when they are no more. In order to provide a sustainable solution to this rather difficult problem the following programme was conceived and implemented by the National Trust.

3.10.1. GHARAUNDA:

It is a scheme of Lifelong Shelter and Care is conceived with the following objectives:

- To provide an assured minimum quality of care services throughout the life of the persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities
- To encourage assisted living with independence and dignity
- To facilitate establishment of requisite infrastructure for the assured care system throughout the country
- To provide the care services at an affordable price on a sustainable basis

Persons with disabilities in general face several barriers-physical, financial, psychological in leading a life with dignity and independence. The situation is worse in case of persons with the aforesaid four developmental disabilities who may require lifelong care and shelter services even long after their parents are no more. Unfortunately, such a reliable and affordable service at present is not available in the country even though there is a huge demand and need for it.

3.10.2. Sahyogi

A New Scheme of Caregivers Training and Deployment Scheme of Community Based Caregivers Training was launched with a view to provide good quality training to interested persons for becoming caregivers to the needy persons with disabilities. Subsequently, the training module was revised and another scheme for Deployment of Caregivers was launched.

3.10.3. Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme)

The sole objective of Niramaya scheme is to provide affordable Health Insurance to persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

3.10.4. Prerna (Marketing Scheme)

Prerna is the marketing scheme of National Trust with an objective to create viable and widespread channels for sale of products and services produced by Person with disability (PwD) covered under National Trust Act.

3.10.5. Samarth

The objective of Samarth scheme is to provide respite home for orphans or abandoned, families in crisis and also for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) from Below Poverty Line and Low Income Group families including destitutes with atleast one of the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act. It also aims at creating opportunities for family members to get respite time in order to fulfil other responsibilities. It would be the responsibility of the RO to bring in PwDs who are either Non-Low Income Groups or who are not covered in the above mentioned category, to ensure sustainability.

3.10.6. Vikaas (Day Care):

This is a Day care scheme, primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a person with disability for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age groups. The centre will also offer care giving support to Person with Disability (PwD) during the time the PwD is in the Vikaas centre. In addition it also helps in supporting family members of the PwDs with disabilities covered under the National Trust Act to get some time during the day to fulfill other responsibilities.

Registered Organisation (RO) should provide day-care facilities to PwDs for at least 6 hours in a day (between 8 am to 6 pm) along with age specific activities. Day care should be open for at least 21 days in a month. Expected batch size of a Vikaas centre is 30 PwDs. The minimum attendance required for a PwD in the Vikaas centre is 15

days per month for National Trust to fund the PwD. Batch size of a Vikaas centre is 30 PwDs with a maximum number of PwDs allowed is 30% extra of batch size i.e. 39 for Vikaas Centres. On reaching the maximum limit of 39 PwDs, Vikaas centre shall not allow anymore PwDs to enrol in the centre. ROs are encouraged to apply again if they have sufficient number of PwDs for the new Vikaas Centre. The ROs should also get in touch with paediatricians or experts in similar field to seek help in getting more PwD enrolled in the Vikaas centre.

3.10.7. Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme)

This is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years with the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act that aims at providing training (specifically school readiness) and counselling to both children and parents.

Registered Organization (RO) should provide minimum facilities in their Disha Centre. RO should provide day-care facilities to PwD for at least 4 hours in a day (between 8 am to 6 pm) along with age specific activities. Day care should be open for at least 21 days in a month. The minimum attendance required for a PwD in the Disha centre is 15 days per month for National Trust to fund the PwD. Batch size of a Disha centre is 20 PwDs with a maximum number of PwDs allowed is 30% extra of batch size i.e. 26 for Disha Centres. On reaching the maximum limit of 26 PwDs, Disha centre shall not allow any more PwDs to enrol in the centre. ROs are encouraged to apply again if they have sufficient number of PwDs for the new Disha Centre.

3.10.8. Gyan Prabha

Gyan Prabha scheme aims to encourage people with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for pursuing educational courses like graduation courses, professional courses and vocational training leading to employment or self-employment.

3.10.9. Sahyogi (Caregivers Training Scheme)

This scheme aims at setting up Caregiver Cells (CGCs) to provide training and create a skilled workforce of caregivers to provide adequate and nurturing care for Person with Disabilities (PwD) and their families who require it. It also seeks to provide parents an opportunity to get trained in care giving if they so desire. This scheme will provide a choice of training through two levels of courses to allow it to create caregivers suited to work both with People with Disabilities (PwDs) families and other institutions catering to the needs of the PwDs (NGOs, work centres etc.).

The primary training is a three month course expected to train candidates in basic caregiver skills. Primary compulsory modules need to cover orientation to areas such as autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, family needs, health, nutrition, basic management in activities of daily living, assistive devices and barrier free environment, orientation and mobility sensory motor stimulation. It will also include training in administering first aid care.

The advanced caregiver skill training course is a six month course expected to train candidates in advanced caregiver skills. Advanced care giving course will cover modules such as language and communication (including sign language), social interactions, socio emotional management, learning and understanding, behaviour management, managing sexuality, working with adults and administering advanced medical care including regular theoretical inputs.

3.10.10. Badhte Kadam:

Badhte Kadam aims at community awareness, sensitization, social integration and mainstreaming of persons with Disabilities. It has the mentioned objectives:

1. Raise awareness in the public regarding Person with Disability (PwD) covered under National Trust Act and encourage their inclusion in society, Social Integration and participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.
2. Disseminate information on preventive strategies for the disabilities under the National Trust Act, 1999
3. Sensitize community stakeholders
4. Publicize and maximize benefits of National Trust schemes for Registered Organization (RO), PwDs and for families of PwDs.
5. Increase representation in remote areas and in areas where National Trust is under represented
6. Spread awareness about Myths and misconceptions about disability, disability etiquette etc.

These schemes and programmes are accessed by the Persons with disabilities and inclusion is achieved. Social Workers have greater role in facilitating these resources to person with disabilities. Social Workers can also play the role of a coordinator or manager of these programmes using a multidisciplinary team of professionals and by availing all such available schemes.

Summary:

In this electronic text, an overview about the programmes and schemes initiated by the GOI was discussed. The various provisions ensure the rights of person with disability. The constitutional provisions and various schemes are supporting the socio economic development of the PWD. This electronic text is supported with electronic tutorial that consists of multimedia through use of innovative techniques and

this intends to give the learner a quick and easy understanding about the lesson delivered through this module. Besides glossary of terms, web resources and bibliography relating to this e-content is provided. Self simulation for assessment and evaluation is also provided to support the effective utility of this content by the learner. This helps the learner to quickly evaluate the understanding developed by the learner regarding the contents discussed in the module. The learner is encouraged to expand on this for achieving comprehensive knowledge base on this content.

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