

Budhera, Gurugram-Badli Road, Gurugram (Haryana) - 122505 Ph.: 0124-2278183, 2278184, 2278185

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# POLICY DOCUMENT FOR BARRIER FREE & DIVYANGJAN FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT





### **PREAMBLE**

The main objectives of the "Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1996 enacted by the Government of India on January 1, 1996, are to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities and to make special provisions for the integration of persons with disabilities into the social mainstream. It enjoins upon the institution to ensure within their economic capacity provision for installation of facilities for the benefit of persons with visual handicaps, kerbs and slopes to be made in pavements for the easy access of wheelchair users, devising appropriate symbols of disability and warning signals at appropriate places. In regard to non-discrimination in the built environment, provisions have been made for ramps in Academic buildings, an adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, Braille symbols and proper signage and elevators.

# THE MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF THE ENABLING UNIT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- To provide counselling to differently-abled students on the types of courses they could study at higher education institutions.
- To ensure admission of as many differently-abled students as possible through the open quota and the reservation meant for them.
- To gather orders dealing with fee concessions, examination procedures, reservations, policies, etc., pertaining to differently-abled persons.
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- To assess the educational needs of differently-abled persons enrolled in higher education institutes to determine the types of assistive devices to be procured.
- To conduct awareness programmes for teachers of the institute about the approaches to teaching, evaluation procedures, etc, which they should address in the case of differently-abled students.
- To study the aptitude of differently-abled students and assist them in getting appropriate employment when desired by them after their studies.
- To celebrate important days pertaining to disability such as World Disabled Day, White Cane Day, etc., in the institute and the

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- neighbourhood to create awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled persons.
- To ensure maintenance of special assistive devices procured by the higher education institute under the HEPSN scheme and encourage differently-abled persons to use them to enrich their learning experiences.
- To prepare annual reports with case histories of differently-abled persons who are benefited from the HEPSN scheme sanctioned to the higher education institute.

## **Providing Access to Differently-abled Persons:**

It has been felt that differently-abled persons need special arrangements in the environment for their mobility and independent functioning. It is also a fact that many institutes have architectural barriers that disabled persons find difficult for their day-to-day functioning. The colleges are expected to address accessibility-related issues as per the stipulations of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and ensure that all existing structures as well as future construction projects in their campuses are made disabled-friendly. The institutes should create special facilities such as ramps, rails and special toilets, and make other necessary changes to suit the special needs of differently-abled persons. The construction plans should clearly address the accessibility issues pertaining to disability. Guidelines on accessibility are laid out by the office of the Chief Commissioner of Disabilities.

# Providing Special Equipment to Augment Educational Services for Differently Abled Persons

Differently-abled persons require special aids and appliances for their daily functioning. These aids are available through various schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition to procuring assistive devices through these schemes, higher education institutions may also need special learning and assessment devices to help differently-abled students enrolled on higher education. In addition, visually challenged students need Readers. Availability of devices such as computers with screen reading software, low-vision aids, scanners, mobility devices, etc., in the institutes, would enrich the educational experiences of differently-abled persons.



Therefore, colleges are encouraged to procure such devices and provide the facility of Readers for visually challenged students.

Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/

Construction and making the environment disability-friendly (<u>Details</u>)

Scholarships for Differently Abled Students (Details)

The Disabilities Act (Details)

