



ANNUAL REPORT

(2021-2022)

GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



FOREWORD

With immense pleasure, I submit the Annual Report of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) for the year 2021-22.

The Office is thankful to the Government of Nagaland for establishing this Office with an independent full time State Commissioner. The present Commissioner was appointed on 21st January, 2019, for a period of 3 years. Her tenure was extended for a second term w.e.f. 22nd January, 2022.

The primary responsibility of the Office of the SCPD is to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities. It plays a pivotal role in the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and ensuring an environment that provides people with disabilities equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

This Annual Report is being submitted as required under Section 83 (1)/(2) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

83. (1) The State Commissioner shall submit an annual report to the State Government and may at any time submit special reports on any matter, which, in its opinion, is of such urgency or importance that it shall not be deferred till submission of the annual report.

(2) The State Government shall cause the annual and the special reports of the State Commissioner for persons with disabilities to be laid before each House of State Legislature where it consists of two Houses or where such Legislature consist of one House, before that House along with a memorandum of action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendation of the State Commissioner and the reasons for non-acceptance the recommendations, if any.

DIETHONO NAKHRO

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

The **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act 2016)** was enacted in December 2016 and came into force in April 2017. The Act was passed to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) which India ratified in 2007.

The UNCRPD lays down the following principles for empowerment of persons with disabilities:

- a. respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- b. non-discrimination;
- c. full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- d. respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- e. equality of opportunity;
- f. accessibility;
- g. equality between men and women;
- h. respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities;

DISABILITIES SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE RPWD ACT 2016

1. PHYSICAL DISABILITY:

A. **LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY** (a person's inability to execute distinctive activities associated with movement of self and objects resulting from affliction of musculo skeletal or nervous system or both), including:

- a) "**leprosy cured person**" means a person who has been cured of leprosy but is suffering from –
 - i. loss of sensation in hands or feet as well as loss of sensation and paresis in the eye and eye-lid but with no manifest deformity;
 - ii. manifest deformity and paresis but having sufficient mobility in their hands and feet to enable them to engage in normal economic activity;
 - iii. extreme physical deformity as well as advanced age which prevents him/her from undertaking any gainful occupation, and the expression "leprosy cured" shall be construed accordingly;
- b) "**cerebral palsy**" means a Group of non-progressive neurological condition affecting body movements and muscle coordination, caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain, usually occurring before, during or shortly after birth;

- c) **"dwarfism"** means a medical or genetic condition resulting in an adult height of 4 feet 10 inches (147 centimetres) or less;
- d) **"muscular dystrophy"** means a group of hereditary genetic muscle disease that weakens the muscles that move the human body and persons with multiple dystrophy have incorrect and missing information in their genes, which prevents them from making the proteins they need for healthy muscles. It is characterised by progressive skeletal muscle weakness, defects in muscle proteins, and the death of muscle cells and tissue;
- e) **"acid attack victims"** means a person disfigured due to violent assaults by throwing of acid or similar corrosive substance.

B. VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

- a) **"blindness"** means a condition where a person has any of the following conditions, after best correction:
- i. total absence of sight; or
 - ii. visual acuity less than 3/60 or less than 10/200 (Snellen) in the better eye with best possible correction; or
 - iii. limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of less than 10 degree.
- b) **"low-vision"** means a condition where a person has any of the following conditions, namely:
- i. visual acuity not exceeding 6/18 or less than 20/60 upto 3/60 or upto 10/200 (Snellen) in the better eye with best possible corrections; or
 - ii. limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of less than 40 degree up to 10 degrees.

C. HEARING IMPAIRMENT

- a) **"deaf"** means persons having 70 DB hearing loss in speech frequencies in both ears;
- b) **"hard of hearing"** means person having 60 DB to 70 DB hearing loss in speech frequencies in both ears;

D. **"SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISABILITY"** means a permanent disability arising out of conditions such as laryngectomy or aphasia affecting one or more components of speech and language due to organic or neurological causes.

2. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, a condition characterised by significant limitation both in intellectual functioning (reasoning, learning, problem solving) and in adaptive behaviour which covers a range of every day, social and practical skills, including

- a) **"specific learning disabilities"** means a heterogeneous group of conditions wherein there is a deficit in processing language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself as a difficulty to comprehend, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations and includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and developmental aphasia;
- b) **"autism spectrum disorder"** means a neuro-developmental condition typically

appearing in the first three years of life that significantly affects a person's ability to communicate, understand relationships and relate to others, and is frequently associated with unusual or stereotypical rituals or behaviours.

3. MENTAL BEHAVIOUR

"Mental illness" means a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life, but does not include retardation which is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person, specially characterised by sub-normality of intelligence.

4. DISABILITY CAUSED DUE TO -

a) **chronic neurological conditions**, such as

- i. "multiple sclerosis" means an inflammatory, nervous system disease in which the myelin sheaths around the axons of nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord are damaged, leading to demyelination and affecting the ability of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord to communicate with each other;
- ii. "Parkinson's disease" means a progressive disease of the nervous system marked by tremor, muscular rigidity, and slow, imprecise movement, chiefly affecting middle-aged and elderly people associated with degeneration of the basal ganglia of the brain and a deficiency of the neurotransmitter dopamine.

b) **Blood disorder:**

- i. "**haemophilia**" means an inheritable disease, usually affecting only male but transmitted by women to their male children, characterised by loss or impairment of the normal clotting ability of blood so that a minor wound may result in fatal bleeding;
- ii. "**thalassaemia**" means a group of inherited disorders characterised by reduced or absent amounts of haemoglobin.
- iii. "**sickle cell disease**" means a haemolytic disorder characterised by chronic anaemia, painful events, and various complications due to associated tissue and organ damage; "haemolytic" refers to the destruction of the cell membrane of red blood cells resulting in the release of haemoglobin.

5. MULTIPLE DISABILITIES: (more than one of the above specified disabilities) including deaf blindness which means a condition in which a person may have combination of hearing and visual impairments causing severe communication, developmental, and educational problems.

6. Any other category as may be notified by the Central Government.

PERSON WITH BENCHMARK DISABILITY

RPwD Act Section 2(r): "Person with benchmark disability" means a person with not less than forty percent of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority.

OTHER LAWS/ACTS FOR PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

THE REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA ACT, 1992

The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) was set up as registered society in 1986. In September 1992 the RCI Act was enacted by parliament and it became a statutory body on 22 June 1993. The Act was amended by Parliament in 2000. the mandate given to RCI is to regulate and monitor services given to persons with disabilities, to standardise syllabi and to maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of all qualified professionals and personnel working in the field of rehabilitation and social education. the Act also prescribes punitive action against unqualified persons delivering services to person with disability.

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, MENTAL RETARDATION AND MULTIPLE DISABILITIES ACT, 1999

The Act provides for the setting up of the National Trust, a statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The objectives of the National Trust are:

- to enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to their community as possible;
- to facilitate the realisation of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability;
- to extend support to its registered organisations to provide need based services; and
- to evolve procedures for appointments of guardians and trustees for persons with disabilities.

THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT, 2017

This Act provides for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services.

NAGALAND DISABILITY STATISTICS - CENSUS 2011

Total no. of persons with disabilities : 29631

Percentage of disabled persons to total population : 1.5%

DISABLED PEOPLE BY TYPE OF DISABILITY AND SEX (CENSUS 2011):

Type of Disability	Persons	Male	Female
Total	29631	16148	13483
Seeing	4150	2130	2020
Hearing	8940	5007	3933
Speech	2294	1261	1033
Movement	3828	2235	1593
Intellectual Disability (MR)	1250	666	584
Mental illness	995	547	488
Multiple disability	3336	1773	1563
Any other	4838	2529	3336

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF DISABLED PERSONS (CENSUS 2011):

Educational level	Total	Male	Female
Total	29631	16148	13483
Illiterate	16727	8164	8563
Literate	12904	7984	4920
Literate but below primary	2965	1708	1257
Primary but below middle	3288	1996	1292
Middle but below matric/secondary	2471	1586	885
Matric/secondary but below graduate	2105	1328	777
Graduate and above	596	411	185

DISABLED PERSONS BY AGE GROUP (CENSUS 2011):

Age group	Total	Male	Female
0-4	1172	622	550
5-9	1937	1053	884
10-19	4631	2529	2102
20-29	4291	2319	1972
30-39	3575	1980	1595
40-49	3719	2125	1594
50-59	3113	1763	1350
60-69	2862	1503	1359
70-79	2387	1195	1192
80-89	1367	726	647
90+	529	297	232
Age not stated	48	36	12

OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) is appointed by the State Government in compliance with Sub-Section (1) of Section 79 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and Section 79 of the Nagaland Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules 2019. The State Commissioner is mandated to discharge duties according to Section 80 of the Act. The authority and powers of the State Commissioner are as prescribed under Sections 81 and 82 of the Act.

PRESENT COMMISSIONER : Ms Diethono Nakhro
Tenure extended for a second term w.e.f. 22-01-2022

ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP: The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities functions with the following staff on attached and contractual basis:

1.	Programme Officer	1 (One) -	Contractual
2.	Programme Coordinator	1 (One) -	Contractual
3.	LDA	1 (One) -	Attached from SW Directorate
4.	MTS	1 (One) -	Attached from SW Directorate
5.	MTS	1 (One) -	Contractual
6.	Driver	1 (One) -	Contractual
7.	Legal Consultant	1 (One) -	Contractual

ADDRESS : New Secretariat Road
(Opp Nagaland State Civil Secretariat complex)
Kohima – 797004
Nagaland

WEBSITE : <https://scpd.nagaland.gov.in/>
EMAIL : scpdnagaland@gmail.com
PHONE : +91 8258953837
+91 6033993903

FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (SCPD)

Under the following sections of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, the State Commissioner shall:

Section 80:

- a) identify, suo motu or otherwise, provision of any law or policy, programme and procedures, which are in consistent with this Act, and recommend necessary corrective steps;
- b) inquire, suo motu or otherwise deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities and safeguards available to them in respect of matters for which the State Government is the appropriate Government and take up the matter with appropriate authorities for corrective action; being in force for the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
- c) review the factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
- d) undertake and promote research in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- e) promote awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the safeguards available for their protection;
- f) monitor implementation of the provisions of this Act and schemes, programmes meant for persons with disabilities;
- g) monitor utilisation of funds disbursed by the State Government for the benefits of persons with disabilities; and
- h) perform such other functions as the State Government may assign.

Section 81:

Whenever the State Commissioner makes a recommendation to an authority in pursuance of clause (b) of section 80, that authority shall take necessary action on it, and inform the State Commissioner of the action taken within three months from the date of receipt of the recommendation:

Provided that where an authority does not accept a recommendation, it shall convey reasons for non-acceptance to the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities within the period of three months, and shall also inform the aggrieved person.

POWERS OF THE SCPD

Section 82:

1) The State Commissioner shall, for the purpose of discharging their functions under this Act, have the same powers of a civil court as are vested in a court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:

- a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses;
- b) requiring the discovery and production of any documents;
- c) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;

- d) receiving evidence on affidavits; and
- e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

2) Every proceeding before the State Commissioner shall be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code and the State Commissioners shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

BRIEF SUMMARY ON AREAS OF INTERVENTION BY THE OFFICE OF SCPD

1. The Court of the SCPD takes up cases of persons with disabilities based on complaints made to the Court concerning the deprivation of their rights
2. The Court of the SCPD also takes Suo-Motu cognisance of non-implementation of various provisions of the RPwD Act and takes up with the concerned authorities. Such proactive initiatives have not only protected the rights of Persons with Disabilities, but also sensitised all stakeholders and created better awareness about disability rights and issues.
3. The Office of the SCPD inspects the organisations that are given grant-in-aid by Central and State Governments under various schemes with a view to monitoring the utilisation of funds.
4. The Office of the SCPD takes initiative to audit and inspect public buildings and spaces such as Government office buildings, hospitals, stadiums, market places, railway stations, airports, bus stops, religious places, etc. for their accessibility to PwDs and ensures that the required modifications are carried out.
5. Workshops, programmes, and campaigns are carried out to promote awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the safeguards available for their protection

CASES TAKEN UP BY THE COURT OF THE SCPD IN 2021-22

NO OF COMPLAINTS	-	3
SUO MOTU CASES	-	1
TOTAL	-	4
CASES DISPOSED	-	4

STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 2016 IN THE STATE

1. **ADOPTION OF THE ACT**

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPwD Act 2016) was adopted by the Nagaland State Government on 27th September, 2018

2. **NAGALAND RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES RULES 2019**

3. The **Nagaland Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules 2019** was notified on 21st February 2020 as per Section 101(1) of the RPwD Act 2016: *The State Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act, not later than six months from the date of commencement of this Act.*

4. **ACCESSIBILITY**

- a) Notification was issued by PWD (Housing) vide order NO.CE(H)/TB/AIC/2019-2A dated 5th February 2019 for all Public/Govt buildings to be made accessible to persons with disabilities and to create a barrier free environment in all the buildings
- b) OM was issued by Dept of Information, Technology & Communication vide order NO. IT&C/13-19/08 dated 5th February 2019 directing all Government Departments to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.
- c) Notification was issued by Transport Department vide order NO.TPT/MY]17:20 dated 5th February 2019 for compliance of Section 41 of RPwD Act 2016
5. Notification for designation of **Grievance Redressal-cum-Nodal Officer** (Disability Affairs) was issued on 29th March, 2019

6. **RESERVATION OF POSTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

- a) 4 % reservation of posts for Persons with Disabilities in government jobs was notified on 13th August 2019 as per Section 34(1) of the RPwD Act 2016.
- b) Expert Committee was constituted for the task of identification of posts for disability reservation.
- c) The provisions for Reservation of Identified Posts for Persons with Benchmark Disability were notified by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on 13th August 2020
- d) Identified posts for disability categories A, B and C were notified and published on 13th August 2020
7. The Director, Social Welfare Department, was notified as the competent authority for registration of Institutions and Organisations on 13th August, 2019, as per Section 49 of the RPwD Act 2016.
8. The Sessions Courts in each district of the State of Nagaland were designated as Special Court for the purpose of providing speedy trial for offences committed against Persons with Disabilities on 28th October 2019 as per Section 84 of the RPwD Act 2016. Public Prosecutors, Additional Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors in Nagaland

were designated as Special Prosecutor for the purpose of conducting cases in these Special Courts on 11th October 2019 as per Section 85.

9. Re-constitution of the District-Level Committees under Section 72 of the RPwD Act 2016 was notified on 20th February, 2020.
10. Sections 16 & 31 of the RPwD Act was notified by Department of School Education on 30th March, 2020
11. Nagaland Parasports Committee was constituted on 17th December, 2020, to promote and provide opportunities for disabled athletes
12. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Advisory Committee to assist State Commissioner constituted on 19th March, 2021.
13. **STATE ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY**
The State Advisory Board on Disability was re-constituted by the State Government on 21st April, 2021 to exercise the powers conferred on and to perform the function assigned to it under the provisions of Section 66 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
14. Revised Guidelines and Rules for Exemptions in Examinations and Curriculum for students with disabilities were notified by the Nagaland Board of School Education on 21st March, 2022

DISTRICT LEVEL COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONSTITUTED IN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS
1. Mon
2. Kiphire
3. Noklak
4. Phek
5. Tuensang
6. Peren
7. Niuland
8. Longleng

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL-CUM-NODAL OFFICER APPOINTED
46 departments

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

SI No.	Scheme	No of Beneficiaries	Amount
1.	NSAP	1276	Rs 300/- pm
2.	State Disability Pension Scheme	3166	Rs 300/- pm
3.	State Pension To Blind	1706	Rs 300/- pm
4.	Scholarship to Disabled Students	229	Rs 300/- pm

GRANT-IN-AID TO NGOs IN THE DISABILITY SECTOR

No of NGOs	7 (Seven)
Total amount disbursed	Rs 10.00 lakhs

SI.No	Name of NGOs/ Institution	Amount Released
1.	Baseleia Mission Organization, Dimapur	1.00
2.	Development Association for Disabilities, Dimapur	1.50
3.	Jo Foundation, Kohima	2.00
4.	Tabitha Enabling Society, Kohima	1.50
5.	Cherry Blossom, Kohima	1.50
6.	Grace Society, Mokokchung	1.00
7.	Care and Support Society, Mokokchung	1.50

NUMBER OF NGOS/DPOS/INSTITUTIONS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 52 (2) OF THE NAGALAND RPWD RULES 2019

23 NGOs/DPOs/Institutions registered

STATUS OF UDID CARDS

2162 UDID Cards have been generated till date

ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

29 Government buildings have been made accessible under the Campaign

DISTRICT DISABILITY REHABILITATION CENTRES (DDRC)

There are three DDRCs sanctioned by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in Dimapur, Mon and Tuensang. Mon and Tuensang are yet to become functional. Dimapur DDRC is currently being managed with assistance from the Health & Family Welfare Department and Social Welfare Department.

DDRC DIMAPUR

SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Early Detection and Intervention of pre-disabling conditions
2. Medical Treatment
3. Rehabilitation Intervention
4. ADIP Services in collaboration with National Institutes under MSJE
5. Disability Assessment and Certification
6. Education and Training of Community Health Officers/Nurses & GNMs

NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVED REHABILITATION SERVICES AT THE CENTRE: 2021-22

1.	PwD Rehabilitation	-	348
2.	Early Intervention	-	774

ASSISTIVE AIDS/APPLIANCES DISTRIBUTED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH DDRC DIMAPUR – 2021-22

Sl.no	AIDS AND APPLIANCES	TOTAL
1	TRICYCLE (MANUAL)	4
2	WHEELCHAIR (L)	13
3	WHEELCHAIR (S)	12
4	CP CHAIR	16
5	ROLLATER	2
6	AXILLARY CRUTCH	28
7	ELBOW CRUTCH	42
8	SMARTCANE	6
9	BRAILLE KIT	6
10	HEARING AID	125
11	MSIED KIT	11
12	TLM KIT	57
TOTAL		322

HOMES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND ADULTS

NIL

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**Notification of Medical Authorities for issuance of Disability Certificate in each District**

Proposal sent to the Government for re-notification

Constitution of District-Level Assessment Boards for persons with disabilities with High Support Needs in all the districts

District-Level Assessment Boards for persons with disabilities with High Support Needs have not been constituted in all the districts

Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation programmes being carried out by the department

Record not available

State Mental Health Authority

State Mental Health Authority constituted vide Notification No.HFW-21/B-1/Mental/2014/435 dated 29th April, 2022

District Mental Health Review Boards

District Mental Health Review Boards constituted at Kohima and Tuensang districts vide Notification HFW-47/B-1/NSMHA/2021 dated 19th September, 2022

Measures taken to provide free healthcare in the vicinity, especially in rural areas, as per RPwD Act 2016 Section 25 (1)(a)

No specific free healthcare for persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas, is available as yet. However, once District Level Assessment Boards are constituted, it shall be taken up

Measures taken to provided barrier-free access in all parts of Government and private hospitals and other healthcare institutions and centres as per RPwD Act 2016 Section 25 (1)(b)

Barrier-free provisions are being considered in most of the healthcare institutions for easy and free access of persons with disabilities

Measures to provide priority in attendance and treatment as per RPwD Act 2016 Section 25 (1)l

Yes, it is an ongoing process and can be strengthened further to ensure special attention be given in all the health sectors for persons with disabilities

Any other surveys or programmes being carried out for persons with disabilities by your department

No such survey has been conducted by the department

Number of District Early Intervention Centres in the state

1 (One)

Number of Disability Certificates issued in 2021-22

218

Total Number of Disability Certificates issued in the State

Available data is 9616

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

1. No of students with disabilities enrolled in Government Schools-	1359
2. No of students with disabilities enrolled in Private Schools	- 917
3. No of students with disabilities in Home Based Education	- 612

Number of trained Special Education/Resource Teachers appointed by the Department

Nil

Number of trained Special Education/Resource Teachers appointed under SamagraShiksha

38 IE Resource Persons are contractually employed under Samagra Shiksha

Survey of school going children conducted to identify children with disabilities to ascertain their special needs and the extent to which these are being met

As per the survey conducted for identifying children with disabilities in the year 2020-21, there are 2280 persons enrolled under Children with Special Needs

FACILITIES BEING PROVIDED TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

S. No	Facilities being provided	No of Beneficiaries
1.	Free Textbooks	All children in Govt Schools up to Class VIII
2.	Uniforms	All children in Govt Schools up to Class VIII
3.	Braille Textbooks	45 (CwSN)
4.	Learning Materials & Appliances	848 (CwSN)
5.	Escort Allowance	107 (CwSN)
6.	Reader Allowance (Visually Impaired Children)	13 (CwSN)
7.	Stipend for Girls	186 (CwSN)

EXAMINATION GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Nagaland Board of School Education has reviewed and made suitable modifications in the curriculum and examination system to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The Revised Guidelines and Rules for Exemptions in Examinations and Curriculum for students with disabilities were notified by the Nagaland Board of School Education on 21st March, 2022.

MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT NOTIFICATION NO.DSE/SAMAGRA/PWD/18-46/2019 DATED 30-03-2020

The activities and programmes were performed/conducted as per the instruction and guidelines of the Government Notification. The facilities available and teaching materials as per the requirement of persons with disabilities have been provided and the escort allowances and stipends have been provided as per the sanction available

TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS AND STAFF TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

S. No	Training/Workshop Conducted	Date & Venue
1.	Workshop on Creating Inclusive Classrooms for students with specific learning disabilities. Conducted by Changeinkk Foundation New Delhi.	25 - 26 th July 2022 at Samagra Hall Directorate of School Education Nagaland, Kohima.
2.	District Level Community Awareness and Sensitization on IE (Inclusive Education), VE (Vocational Education), OoSC (Out of School Children) and NIPUN Bharat.	24 - 29 th January 2022
3.	Block Level SMC and SMDC Training on Community Awareness and Sensitization on IE (Inclusive Education), VE (Vocational Education), OoSC (Out of School Children) and NIPUN Bharat.	28 Feb – 12 th March 2022

ASSISTIVE AIDS&APPLIANCES/DEVICES DISTRIBUTED UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA IN 2021-22

S. No	Assistive aids provided	No of Beneficiaries
1.	Hearing Aids	278
2.	Aids/Appliances for Locomotor Disabilities	664
3.	Powered spectacles for Low Vision	531

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION

Department of Information, Technology & Communication issued an Office Memorandum vide order NO. IT&C/13-19/08 dated 5th February 2019 directing all Government Departments to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.

No of Government Department websites made WCAG compliant		
Websites developed by Dept of IT&C	-	40
Websites under staging	-	14
Websites developed by user department	-	23

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1. Number of persons with disabilities seeking employment through the Disability Cell of the District Employment Exchanges	-	1017
2. Number of placements made	-	Nil
3. Unemployment allowance provided to registered persons with disabilities who have not been able to find employment for a period of time	-	Nil
4. Whether persons with disabilities are being included in all mainstream formal and non-formal vocational and skill training schemes and programmes	-	Nil
5. Exclusive skill training programmes for persons with disabilities	-	Nil
6. Number of persons with disabilities who have received skill training under the department during the financial year 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022	-	Nil
7. Any other data regarding persons with disabilities, or schemes/programmes for persons with disabilities being implemented by your department	-	Nil

NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE CENTRE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED (NCSC-DA), DIMAPUR

Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, has established one NCSC-DA in Dimapur. Vocational rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities and those from weak social, economic and educational background remained a challenge especially for those that could not pursue formal technical or vocational education. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (presently renamed as NCSC-DA) play a unique role in the process. These centres evaluate the residual capacities of persons with disabilities, assist them in the process of planning their career, preparing for obtaining and retaining the employment commensurate with their socio-psychological, physical and educational abilities. They also impart non-formal training in the trades best suited to their strengths and weaknesses in selected trades. The rehabilitation services are also provided to disabled people living in rural areas at their doorsteps through outreach services, viz Mobile Camps and Job Fairs. Partnership with State Government agencies, leading NGOs, Financial Institutions, Corporate Sectors etc, are done to facilitate vocational rehabilitation services to PwDs.

To make the centre functional in Nagaland, an MoU for temporary utilisation of the I.T.I building at Kuchiabill was signed with the Ministry on 29.01.2022. Presently the office of NCSC-DA, Nagaland, is functional at the District Employment Exchange, Dimapur, Labour Commissioner's Building, Purana Bazar, Dimapur.

Contact Details of Head Office, NCSC-DA, Dimapur:

1. Name : Dr. T. Mohan
2. Designation : Assistant Director
3. Contact No : 9080375003
4. E-mail : mohan.t222@gmail.com
5. Address : Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment,
Director General of Employment, National Career Service
Centre for Differently Abled, Assistant Labour Commissioner
Building, Purana Bazaar, Dimapur-797115

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN 2021-22

1. Covid-19 impact on Persons with Disabilities in Nagaland state – A Study Objectives of the study:
 - a) To assess the response of the Government, Community-based organizations, Church, NGOs and family supports;
 - b) To assess access to existing Social Welfare Schemes meant for PwDs in both urban and rural areas and
 - c) To suggest ways for resilient and sustainable support systems and mechanisms for PwDs for future emergency situations.
2. **Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Disaster Management in Nagaland (Ongoing)**

SOME MAJOR ACTIVITIES/INITIATIVES OF THE OFFICE OF STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ACCESS AUDIT OF AIC PROJECTS

Access Audit was conducted on 24th and 25th February, 2021 on the projects being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare under Accessible India Campaign. The physical progress of the projects, based on the status of implementation, was reviewed and a detailed report for future course of action for successful completion of the projects was submitted to the Department



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE INAUGURATED

An Occupational Therapy Centre was inaugurated by State Commissioner Diethono Nakhro at the Christian institute of Health sciences and research (CIHSR) on 25th March, 2021



LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Nagaland, conducted 'Leadership Training for Youth with Disabilities' on 24th September, 2021, in Kohima



MENTAL HEALTH DAY

A programme was held on 9th October, 2021, to commemorate Mental Health Day. It was organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Dimapur District Legal Services Authority and Community Mental Health Programme (Prodigal's Home)



WORKSHOP ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

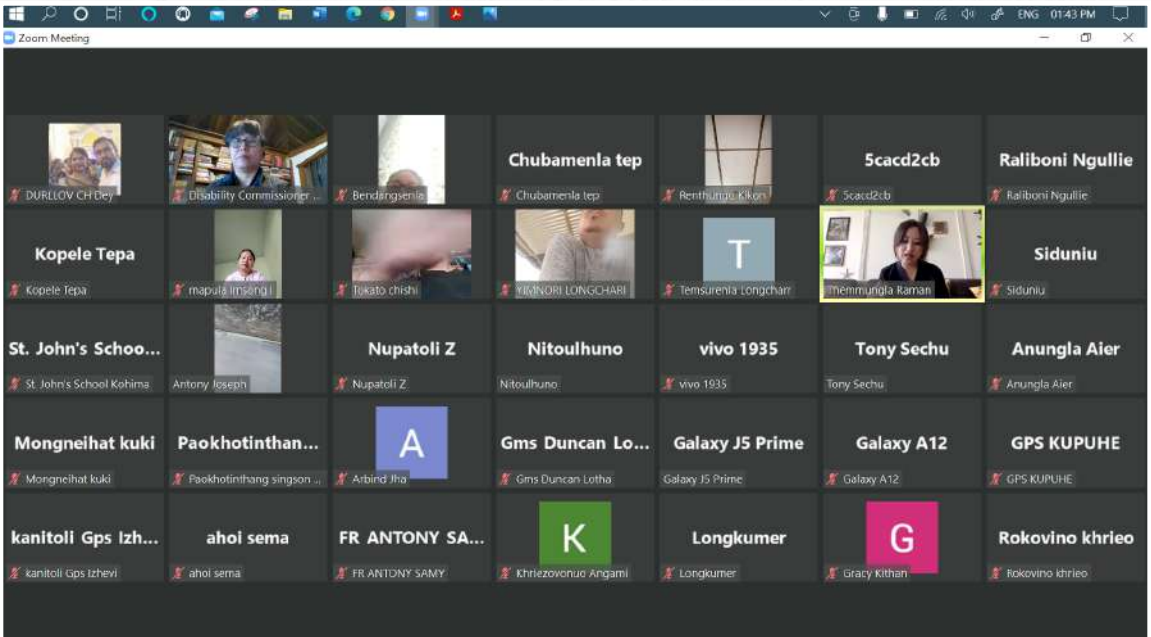
'A Step into Inclusion', a one-day workshop on Inclusive Education was held on 26th October, 2021, organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Bumblebee Inclusive School



SENSITISATION OF GOVT OFFICIALS

Sensitisation and Awareness Campaign on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 was conducted by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities together with the Mission Mode Team (AIC) in Zunheboto, Longleng and Mon Districts from 28th to 30th October, 2021, and Mokokchung & Phek Districts on 11th and 16th November, 2021





WEBINAR ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

A webinar to create more 'Awareness on Inclusive Education' was held on 22nd November, 2021, organised by the Nagaland Board of School Education in collaboration with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. Participants included Heads of registered educational institutions.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: A programme was organised to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December, 2021. The day was observed under the theme "Leadership and Participation of Persons with Disabilities Toward an Inclusive, Accessible, and Sustainable post-COVID-19 World". Survey Report, IEC Video, and Pamphlet were released on the occasion.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee to assist the State Commissioner was held on 28th February, 2022



SUPPORT WAS ALSO EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES:

1. Awareness Video brought out by Prodigal's Home, Dimapur
2. Observation of Deaf Awareness Week by Deaf Biblical Ministry, Dimapur and Tabitha Enabling Academy, Kohima
3. Disability Awareness Programme conducted by Nagaland State Disability Forum in Zunheboto District
4. First ever inclusive youth camp organised by the Gospel Riders

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: 2ND WAVE (2021)

Measures undertaken by the Office of the SCPD

1. The O/o the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities coordinated closely with the State Executive Committee, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, the Department of Health and Family, and the District Administrations during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic
2. The state-wide COVID-19 support helpline for Persons with Disabilities was reactivated. In addition, help-lines were also set up in the districts for more localised support. Separate WhatsApp numbers were also made available for persons who are deaf/hard of hearing for Sign Language support. Email ID was also provided for people to write in with their queries or problems
3. State COVID-19 SOPs were brought out in video in local language (Nagamese) and sign language to ensure that persons who are deaf or blind are kept informed.
4. Due to lack of specific directives/plan for vaccination of persons with disabilities, the Court of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities issued a Notice on 3rd June, 2021, directing the Department of Health and Family Welfare to take action within 7 days.
5. A letter was sent to the Deputy Commissioners/Chairpersons of the District Level Committees on Disability on 9th June, 2021, directing them to undertake immediate measures for Special Vaccination Drives for PwDs, Vaccination Information/Awareness Programmes targeting the disability community and their families to dispel vaccine hesitancy and to distribute food and other essential items to disability families in need.
6. Following the directives of the O/o the State Commissioner, necessary measures were initiated and Vaccination Drives/Home Vaccinations for PwDs were conducted in all the districts of the State. Vaccine Information and Awareness Programmes were also held.



7. A survey was conducted by the O/o the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the North East Institute Of Social Sciences & Research to assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the lives and livelihood of persons with disabilities. The report was released on International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December, 2021.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

INDUS TOWERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A CSR initiative of Indus Towers Ltd (formerly Bharti Infratel Ltd), this Educational Scholarship Programme for Students with Disabilities for Higher Education is implemented by Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training for Multiple Disability based in Assam. It has already supported 464 scholars across 8 states of NE India since its inception in 2016. The Nagaland State Disability Forum is the partner organisation coordinating implementation of the programme in Nagaland. The programme is fully supported by the Office of the SCPD. 11 (eleven) students with disabilities from Nagaland pursuing higher education received financial support towards academic fees under this programme in 2021-22.



RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Some steps have been taken to construct ramps/lifts and accessible toilets in existing public/government buildings and other public spaces. However, accessibility in the built environment continues to be very poor. Department of PWD (Housing) should strictly monitor compliance of its Notification NO.CE(H)/TB/AIC/2019-20 dated 05-02-2019 which states that: *“Henceforth, all public/government buildings in the state of Nagaland should be made accessible to persons with disabilities and to create a barrier-free environment in all the buildings”*.

For new constructions, the PWD Department should strictly implement Section 44 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 - (1) No establishment shall be granted permission to build any structure if the building plan does not adhere to the rules formulated by the Central Government under section 40. (2) No establishment shall be issued a certificate of completion or allowed to take occupation of a building unless it has adhered to the rules formulated by the Central Government.

Accessibility standards should be as per the ‘*Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021*’ published by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

2. Department of Transport should strictly comply with its Notification NO.TPT/MV/17/2017 dated 05-02-2019: *“(a) The concerned Department/Agencies must provide facilities for persons with disabilities at bus stops, railway stations and airports conforming to accessibility standards relating to parking spaces, toilets, ticketing counters and ticketing machines; and, (b) All public transport vehicles must maintain design standards, including retrofitting old modes of transport, wherever technically feasible and safe for persons with disabilities, economically viable and without entailing major structural changes in design; and, (c) The forementioned requirements must be fulfilled within a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette; and, (d) No new vehicle meant for public transport must be registered if such vehicle does not conform to the minimum standards to enable persons with disabilities to access and travel comfortably.”* All steps should be taken to ensure that the requirements are fulfilled within a period of three years from the date of publication of the notification.
3. Department of Information Technology & Communication, through Notification NO. IT&C/13-19/08 dated 05-02-2019, has directed all Government departments for *“Compliance of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) and uploading of Accessible Public Documents including Publications such as laws, regulations, reports, forms and informational brochures digitally signed so as to enable persons with disabilities to easily view information”*. Departments yet to comply with the Notification should be directed to do so at the earliest.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

1. Department of School Education has notified Section 16 (to be read with Section 17) and Section 31 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 NO.DSE/SAMAGRA/PwD/18-46/2019 dated 30th March, 2020. As notified, the department should take all necessary measures to ensure that the right to education of children with different types of disabilities is not violated.
2. In compliance with Section 11 of the Nagaland Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules 2019, Nodal Education Officer should be appointed in every District Education Office to deal with all matters relating to admission of children with disabilities and the facilities to be provided to them in schools in accordance with the provisions of sections 16 and 31 of the Act.

IDENTIFICATION OF POSTS FOR 4% RESERVATION IN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Posts have been identified for categories A, B and C. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms should expedite the identification of posts for categories D and E.
2. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms should ensure that all government departments strictly comply with Point 19 of its notification No. AR-3/Gen-9/97 dated 13th Aug, 2020: *“Submission of Annual Compliance Report: All the Departments shall prepare Annual Compliance Report stating the number of Persons with Benchmark Disabilities who were appointed in each Category of posts/services under their respective department as on 1st January of every year. The figures in respect of Persons with Benchmark Disabilities shall include persons appointed by reservation as well as appointed otherwise. The attached/subordinate offices shall send data to their administrative Department. All Departments shall consolidate information in respect of all attached and subordinate offices under its administrative control and submit by 1st April of every year, 1) the Annual Compliance Report along with a copy of 2) the Roster Register for Reservation of Persons with Disabilities given at Annexure-B of this Notification, addressed to: (i) The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Nagaland, Kohima and copy endorsed to; (ii) The Commissioner & Secretary, P&AR Department and; (iii) upload the same on the respective Departmental Website.”*

PARASPORTS

The Department of Youth Resources and Sports and other sport authorities should take measures to ensure effective participation in sporting activities of the persons with disabilities. It should accord due recognition to the right of persons with disabilities to participate in sports and make provisions for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their schemes and programmes for the promotion and development of sporting talents.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The COVID pandemic situation has underlined the need to ensure disability-inclusion in disaster management plans. The State Disaster Management Authority should

take urgent measures to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in its disaster management programme and activities.

DISTRICT-LEVEL COMMITTEES ON DISABILITY

1. As per notification NO.SW/5/35//2013/V0L-II dated 20th February, 2020, issued by the Department of Social Welfare, Districts yet to constitute and activate the District-Level Committee on Disability should do so immediately. A copy of the order should be submitted to the O/o the SCPD.

Functions of the Committee: The District-Level Committee on disability shall perform the following functions, namely:

- a) Advise the District authorities on matters relating to rehabilitation and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- b) Monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the rules made there under by the district authorities.
- c) Assist the District authorities in implementation of schemes and programmes of the Government for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- d) Look into the complaints relating to non-implementation of the provisions of the Act by the District authorities and recommend suitable remedial measures to the concerned authority to redress such complaints.
- e) Look into appeals made by the employees of Government establishments aggrieved with action taken by the district-level establishments under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Act and recommend appropriate measures.
- f) Any other functions as may be assigned by the State Government.

INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

These are some general guidelines for interacting with Persons with Disabilities

- Talk to persons with disabilities in the same way and with a normal tone of voice (not shouting) as you would talk to anyone else
- Talk directly to the person rather than to a person accompanying them
- Never speak about the person as if they can't understand or respond
- Never assume a person can't do something
- Ask the person with a disability if assistance is needed; do not assume that help is needed until you ask
- Treat persons with disabilities who are adults as adults. Do not patronise or condescend when communicating with them.
- Do not make decisions for persons with disabilities or assume that you know their preferences
- Don't pat or talk to a guide dog or service animal – these animals are working so shouldn't be distracted
- If you are having a long conversation with a person seated in a wheelchair or scooter, sit so that you and the person are at the same eye level
- Do not push or move a person's wheelchair or grab a person's arm to provide assistance without asking first.
- When giving directions to people with mobility limitations, consider distance, weather conditions, and physical obstacles such as stairs, curbs, and steep hills.
- Shake hands when introduced to a person with a disability. People who have limited hand use or who wear an artificial limb do shake hands.
- Identify yourself when you approach a person who has low vision or blindness. Introduce anyone with you to the person with vision loss.
- When you offer to assist someone with vision loss, allow the person to take your arm. When assisting the person to a chair, place the person's hand on the back or arm of the seat
- Ask the person who is hard of hearing, deaf or deaf-blind how he or she prefers to communicate and eliminate or minimise background noise and distractions.
- If you are speaking through a sign language interpreter, pause occasionally to allow the interpreter time to translate completely and accurately.
- Talk directly to the person who is assisted by a sign interpreter, not to the interpreter, even if the person is looking at the interpreter and does not make eye contact with you.
- When talking with a person who has difficulty speaking, be patient and wait for the person to finish rather than correcting or speaking for the person
- Remember there are visible disabilities as well as invisible disabilities, meaning not all disabilities are apparent. A person may make a request or act in a way that seems strange to you. That request or behaviour may be disability-related. Even though some disabilities are not visible, they are real.



“Disability only becomes a tragedy when society fails to provide the things needed to lead one’s daily life.”

- Judith Heumann