

Odisha-A brief overview

7. Persons with Disabilities

- State statistics and data available on disability¹

In the 2011 Census, the information on PwDs was collected on eight types of disability. These are (1) in Seeing, (2) in Hearing, (3) in Speech, (4) in Movement, (5) Mental Retardation, (6) Mental Illness, (7) Any Other and (8) Multiple Disability.

As per the 2011 Census, the total disabled population is 12,44,402, registering a growth of 21.84 per cent during the decade. Out of the total disabled persons in the State, 6,74,775 are males and 5,69,627 are females. The sex ratio of disabled persons has been increased from 795 to 844 during the decade.

The percentage of the State's disabled population to total population has increased from 2.78 in the 2001 Census to 2.96 in the 2011 Census. Among Scheduled Castes, 3.32 per cent are disabled whereas amongst scheduled tribes 2.65 percent are disabled. Out of the 12,44,402 disabled population of the state, 2,38,357 are Scheduled Castes (19.15 per cent) and 2,53,779 are Scheduled Tribes (20.39 per cent). The sex ratio of SC disabled persons is 836 and for STs, it is 943.

A total of 21.20 per cent of the disabled persons are reported in the category of Seeing, 19.11 per cent in Hearing, 5.51 per cent in Speech, 20.89 per cent in Movement, 5.82 per cent in Mental Retardation, 13.9 per cent are in Any Other category and 10.14 per cent are Multiple Disability.

It is revealed from the disabled data that the highest percentage of disabled persons in Odisha is found in the age group 10-19 years (15.09 per cent) followed by the age group 20-29 (13.34) while 4.03 per cent of the disabled persons are reported in the age group 0-4, 6.69 per cent in the age group of 5-9, 12.22 per cent in the age group 30-39, 11.75 per cent in the age group 50-59, 12.69 per cent in the age group 60-69, 9.28 per cent in the age group 70-79, 3.54 per cent in the age group 80-89 and 0.88 per cent in the age group of 90+.

The highest percentage of disabled population is in the category of seeing and reported in the age group 60-69 (16.16%); the highest percentage of disability in hearing (15.23%), in speech (22.52%), in mental retardation (25.42%), in any other category (17.04%) and multiple disability category (16.41%) is reported in the age group of 10-19. The highest percentage of disability in movement (16.27%) is reported in the age group of 60-69 and under the mental illness category and the highest percentage (22.24%) is reported in the age group of 30-39.

- General situation of people with disabilities in Orissa

1) SSEPD Department²

- The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department was created as a separate Department during 2015-16 being bifurcated from W&CD Dept. Swabhiman and OSDN played a key role and were responsible for this journey. Their advocacy and sustained campaign led to the appointment of independent Disability commissioner – 2010, designation of Minister as “Minister Disability in 2014,” formation of the “Disability Directorate 2014-15” and establishment of separate department for disability i.e. SSEPD 2015-16.

¹ The Pioneer, July 18, 2018 – Attachment 11

² <http://ssepd.gov.in>

Since inception, it has been working for the overall development of Persons with disabilities in providing pension and support to person with disabilities through a host of specially designed schemes and programmes. It also deals with schemes for the Senior Citizens, and Transgenders. and entitlements of persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

- The Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has an elaborate field formation with the District Social Security Officer (DSSO) to assist the Collector in each District and a Sub-divisional Social Security Officer (SSSO) in every sub-division. Besides this, there are Block Social Security Officer (BSSO) at the Block level who assist the Block Administration in implementing the social security programmes. The Department has a statutory body known as State Commissioner for Persons Disability (SCPD). State institute for Disability Rehabilitation (SIDR) a state level nodal agency is currently functioning at Bhubaneswar. 8 District Disability Rehabilitation Center (DDRC) are functioning in 8 district head quarter to undertake disability rehabilitation activities. Old age homes are running to facilitate the older persons.

2) Legislations³ / Policies

- The Constitution of India applies uniformly to every legal citizen of India, whether they are healthy or persons with disabilities in any way. The Constitution secures to the citizens including the disabled, a right of justice, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity and for the promotion of fraternity. There are some more legislations passed by Govt. of India for the betterment of PwDs, the following are some of those Acts.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 101 of RPwD Act, 2016 (49 of 2016), the State Government has enacted Odisha Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 to carry out basic objectives of RPwD Act, 2016.
- National Trust - State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC) is the institutional arrangements of the National Trust at the State/UT levels to support and take forward its activities. One SNAC in every State/UT is appointed from amongst the reputed and well established NGOs registered with the National Trust. Institute of Health Sciences in Bhubaneswar is SNAC Odisha.
- Odisha State Disability Policy has not been formulated.

3) Schemes - There are schemes under each of the disability legislations. The NT schemes are only for the categories of disabilities the NT deals with. The schemes for PwDs can be broadly defined as

- General Entitlements – such as disability certificates, pension, free assistive devices for the poor, public transport concessions, income tax benefits etc.
- Education – Free education in schools, 5% reservation in government colleges/universities/technical and professional institutions, scholarships and fellowships, scribes, books in alternate format, assistive technology etc.
- Employment – 4% reservation, special employment exchange, promotion rosters, loans at low rates of interest, subsidies, incentives to employers in private sector, accessibility across all work environments etc.
- Social Security, Health, Rehabilitation and Recreation - The Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme for high support need PwDs, Composite

³ All available in <http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in/>

Regional Centres for rehabilitation, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres to provide rehabilitation services in unreached and unserved districts of the country, Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase /Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme), Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme where financial assistance is provided through NGOs for various projects for providing education, vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Indira Awaas Yojna for providing dwelling units free of cost to the rural poor living below the poverty line. 5% percent of its funds are reserved for the benefit of disabled persons living below the poverty line in rural areas. Biju Pucca Ghar and Mo Kudia also have 5%, presently 3% as notification has not been out to change, reservation for PwDs. Scheme of National and State Awards to recognise their effort and encourage others to strive to achieve excellence. The State Government has introduced the Marriage Incentive Scheme from, where an incentive of Rs. 50,000/- is to be given to a married couple, one of whom is a person with disability.

- National Trust⁴ ongoing schemes include
 1. DISHA (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme)
 2. BADHTE KADAM (Awareness and Community Interaction)
 3. GHARAUNDA (Group Home for Adults)
 4. NIRAMAYA (Health Insurance Scheme)
 5. SAMBHAV (Aids and Assisted Devices)
 6. SAHYOGI (Caregiver training scheme)
 7. GYAN PRABHA (Educational support)
 8. PRERNA (Marketing Assistance)
 9. SAMARTH (Respite Care)
 10. VIKAAS (Day Care)

- 4) Extensive infrastructure has been developed on Teachers Training in Special Education by establishing Teachers Training Institutions in collaboration with National Institutions. The following three training institutions are functioning for development of manpower in different areas of special education namely;
- Training Centre for the Teachers of Visually Handicapped, Bhubaneswar
 - Training Centre for the Teachers of Deaf, Bhubaneswar
 - Training Centre for the Teachers of Mentally Retarded, Bhubaneswar

Besides, State Government has recognized institutions running courses like Bachelor in Audiology Speech Language Pathology, and Bachelor in Physiotherapy. In order to assess infrastructure, faculties, land and building of institutions running Bachelor in Physiotherapy course, for their recognition and institutions applied for issue of No Objection Certificate to start the course, an Expert Committee has been constituted.

Ali Yavar Jung National Institute For The Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH) has a Training Center for Teachers of the Deaf near Bhubaneswar at Janla. It offers two diploma programs in Bhubaneswar - Diploma in Special Education (Hearing Impairment) [D.SE(HI)] and Diploma in Hearing, Language and Speech (DHLS).

- 5) National Institute in Odisha – Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR) located in Olatpur, Katak is an Autonomous body under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

⁴ <http://www.thenationaltrust.gov.in/content/>

- It provides total medical rehabilitation for the Persons with Locomotor Disabilities.
- It also conducts three Bachelor Degree courses in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Prosthetics and Orthotics, three Postgraduate courses of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Prosthetics and Orthotics affiliated to Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.
- It also has an accreditation for DNB in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of National Board of Examination (NBE), New Delhi.

- 6) State Institute for Disability Rehabilitation, Bhubaneswar and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres at Khurda, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Koraput, Ganjam and Kandhamal provide various kinds of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.
- 7) Mahila Vikas Samabaya Nigam (MVSAN), State channelising agency of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) has been providing loans on concessional terms for undertaking self-employment ventures by the persons with disabilities.
- 8) With a view to forming SHGs of persons with disabilities for taking up group economic activities and wider coverage of identified population, Mission Kshyamata functions in the state.
- 9) A quarterly news letter 'Kshyamata Samachar' is being published to make aware on concessions and facilities for persons with disabilities and excellent achievements of persons with disabilities, remarkable contribution of organizations in the sector and new initiatives to aware public in general and persons with disabilities in particular.

- Signature/ratification and reporting on the UNCRPD
No progress.

With respect to SDG, the SSEPD department of Odisha has come out with a document to ensure the inclusive approach of disability development in convergence with all other department in Govt. of Odisha.

- State disability laws or policies that foster disability inclusion

Odisha became one of the few states in the country to finalize the state RPD Rules for implementation of the RPwD Act 2016. After the Act was notified on Dec 28, 2016 with the nod from the President, Government of Odisha started the process of developing the State Rule. Following a series of consultations from various PWD networks in the state, the State Government came up with the final version of the State Rules on June 26, 2018, which is referred as "Odisha Rights of Persons with Disability Rules 2018".

- State disability plans or policies that resource disability inclusion

State Disability Policy not drafted.

SSA & RTE –Odisha is one of the leading States in India to initiate the process of implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 considering it as a landmark act in the history of education. The Department of School and Mass Education, being the nodal Department to implement the Act, has taken proactive steps towards it's grounding at all crucial levels, while reaching out to as many stakeholders as

possible. SSA is the principal vehicle for the implementation of the RTE Act in the state. The RTE Act, 2009 was implemented in Odisha on 1st April, 2010.

- State budget allocations that resource disability inclusion
 - National Leprosy Eradication Program⁵: With the reduction in the leprosy burden in the state, currently the mandates of the program are:
 - 1) Provision of high quality leprosy services for all persons affected by leprosy, through General Health Care System including referral services for complicated cases.
Enhanced Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) services for deformity in leprosy affected persons.
 - 2) Enhanced advocacy in order to reduce stigma and stop discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their families.
 - 3) Capacity building among Health Service personal in integrated manner both in Rural and Urban areas. Some of the new initiatives that have been taken up in this regard in Odisha are:
 - i. Training and motivation of ASHA
 - ii. Block Leprosy Awareness Campaign-V and Urban Leprosy
 - iii. Sensitization & Awareness Campaign in identified (24 Rural & 14 urban areas).
 - iv. Disability Prevention & Medical Rehabilitation Clinic at Block PHC (Block PHC 314 & District Headquarters Hospital-32).
 - v. Reconstructive Surgery Unit at District Headquarters Hospital (5).
 - vi. Reconstructive Surgery Unit in 3 Medical Colleges
- State umbrella organisations of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), council, steering group, or other coordination body on disability related issues

OSDN – Odisha State Disability Network

It is the first and the most successful and well organized networks in Odisha which was established by Swabhiman's facilitation. Established in the year 2003, Odisha State Disability Network (OSDN) with its regional and district level structures, has been instrumental in conceptualising the "Single Window Approach" and conduct in Rourkela in 2003, for ease of accessing entitlements at Rourkela which later on became the "Bhima Bhoi Scheme" of government. OSDN facilitated the 1st Political convention in 2004-2014 for inclusion of disability issues in respective party manifestos. It initiated CBR intervention in 2004, appointment of independent Disability commissioner – 2010, designation of Minister as "Minister Disability," formation of the "Disability Directorate" and establishment of separate department for disability i.e. SSEPD 2014-15. The network conducted a successful "Census Campaign" in 2011 leading to Odisha having higher disability percentage (2.9%) as compared to national average of (2.21%). Sashakt Campaign for awareness of RPwD Act 2016 has not only touched all 30 districts of Odisha but left footprints at the national level.

OVM – Odisha Vikalanga Mancha

Is a state level body which raises various issues. It has state and district chapters.

ODPN - Odisha Disabled People's Network (ODPN)

It is a conglomeration of persons with disabilities, disabled people's network, parents association, NGOs working on disability issues and other like-minded people who have long been advocating for the rights and development of the PwDs. It is not active any more.

Founder and facilitator Sneha Mishra of Aaina informed that she has dissociated from the network.

- Role and capacities of local DPOs

In Odisha there are a wide variety of different types of DPO, ranging from 'impairment specific' groups, whose members share (or are concerned by) a particular impairment, to few cross-disability organisations with members with a wide variety of impairments. They exist at different levels, from grassroots to global and can sometimes be concerned with specific issues such as education, livelihood, rehabilitation, gender, youth, sport, etc.

These disability-specific NGOs and DPOs can play an important role in anchoring the implementation of the CRPD in general development practice and also leading towards disaggregated data collection in 2030 as per SDGs. They can reinforce the embedding of the CRPD, by facilitating disability mainstreaming in development. Some DPOs, like OSDN, are advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. They can convince other organisations of the importance of disability mainstreaming and thereby contribute to a broad base of commitment. Furthermore, they can be consulted regarding the representation of persons with disabilities. Apart from this, being experts in the implementation of programmes for persons with disabilities, they can give practical advice to other development organisations regarding the needs and abilities of persons with disabilities in inclusive development. As role models in the provision of services for persons with disabilities, they can stimulate others to make their programmes accessible.

However, most DPOs in Odisha rural districts lack awareness of national, global even their state level policy changes and directions. Their capacity building is needed in following areas:

- Financial strengthening – planning for sustainability and a strong financial plan.
 - Advocacy and awareness raising on disability rights - of their own rights and the legal frameworks, the capacity to fully engage in policy dialogue processes and to hold duty bearers accountable. To fully understand CRPD and SDGs; and to increase DPO participation in decision-making.
 - Organisational development - to run effective organizations and mobilize resources for development work to gain capability to empower themselves in their local, national, regional and global level. Focus on understanding and developing organizational chart, various policies like equal employment opportunities, human resource management, procurement, communications, HR policies transparency in accounts, good practices in finances etc.
- Local and international organisations active in the State that specifically focus on people with disabilities in their activities

Sightsavers – They work to eliminate avoidable blindness and help bring about equality for people with disabilities. In other words, they

- Help blind people to see
- Prevent others from going blind unnecessarily
- Support people to live independently if their sight loss can't be undone – by education, employment and rights based awareness.

Recently (July, 2018), Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), Government of Odisha signed the MoU with Sightsavers to promote socio-economic development of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and inclusive eye health services for the economically weaker sections in 13 districts of Odisha. Odisha Primary

Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) also signed the MoU with Sightsavers for strengthening Inclusive Education for visually impaired students in Odisha in July. UN Agencies (Do not have disability focus in Odisha). UNDP, UNWFP, UNICEF, other UN Agencies UNIDO, UN Women, UNFPA and WFP have no disability accent.

- Status on Health

Department of Health and Family Welfare of GoO issues disability certificates which are necessary for different purposes such as availing benefits related to education, employment or various Government scheme applicable for persons with disabilities.

Majorly Five types of disabilities are considered under this application:

- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Mental Retardation
- Mental Illness

Number of certificates issued⁶

Gender	Applied	Issued
Male	183272	84850
Female	103870	48300
Total	287142	133150

As per new law, certification is in the preliminary stage of guideline issuance for the new disabilities.

UDID Cards⁷ - As the disability certificates issued by the State Government are not valid in other States, the Centre has started the process to issue UDID cards which will be valid in all departments across the country. The UDID card, to be linked with Aadhaar number, will do away with the need to maintain and carry multiple documents or cards by the differently-abled people. The card will have all the necessary details that can be decoded with the help of a scanner.

Odisha is among 15 States where the UDID project is being implemented in the first phase. The project aims at creating a National database of PwDs and issuing unique disability identity card to each PwD. The project will also help in streamlining the process of tracking physical and financial progress of beneficiary at all levels of implementation - from village to block and district levels to State and National level. Sources said, the UDID cards have not been issued as the authorities are yet to get detailed information on the applicants. The card can only be issued after proper assessment of disability of the applicants by the medical authorities concerned at district headquarters and other hospitals.

⁶ <http://disabilityportal.odisha.gov.in>

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<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2017/sep/29/persons-with-disabilities-face-raw-deal-as-odisha-government-sleeps-on-udid-cards-1664410.html> - Attachment 13

Odisha is implementing both National Leprosy Eradication Programme⁸ (NLEP) and National Programme for Control of Blindness⁹ (NPCB).

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana¹⁰ (RSBY) is a Health Insurance Scheme for the Below Poverty Line families with the objectives to reduce OOP expenditure on health and increase access to health care. As RSBY targeted only the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and now has been expanded to cover other defined categories of unorganised workers, it automatically covers a major chunk of PwDs, as they belong to both BPL and unorganised sectors.

In Odisha¹¹ the Active Smart Cards issued is 36,332,475 and total hospitalisation of cases, by 31/3/2017 is 14,084,587.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram¹² is an initiative to improve child Survival & Quality of life. Here also many CwDs are getting benefits. Highlights are:

- Systemic approach to early identification of 4Ds: Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Developmental delays including Disabilities in children 0 to 18 years of age.
 - Existing School health programme under NRHM is now expanded to include comprehensive screening for all children: Scheme is expected to cover more than 27 crore children in a phased manner.
 - This initiative ensures free management and treatment including surgical interventions at tertiary level through NHM.
- Habilitation and Rehabilitation
 - Assistive devices—state government shall ensure budget provision for supply of aids and appliances and coordinate with organisations under the ADIP scheme. Corporate bodies as well as philanthropic organisations will also be involved to increase coverage.
 - Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), a national scheme providing grant-in-aid to NGOs that work with services of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, such as Community- Based Rehabilitation (CBR), early intervention for children, developing man power, support for research on technical aids and assistive technologies, among others²⁴
 - There is also State Institute of Disability Rehabilitation (SIDR) in Bhubaneswar under the SSEPD which is responsible to support and monitor the network of DDRCs. Until now the SIDR has had a low profile and not yet assuming its full function. Adequate resource allocation in each district with a nodal officer like a district Disability officer should be appointed like a district evacuation officer.
 - Education

⁸ http://dhsodisha.nic.in/sites/default/files/NLEP_Website%20.pdf – Attachment 14

⁹ <https://archive.india.gov.in/citizen/health/viewscheme.php?schemeid=1220> – Attachment 15

¹⁰ <http://www.rsby.gov.in/Statewise.aspx?state=24> – Attachment 16

¹¹ <http://www.rsby.gov.in/Statewise.aspx?state=24> – Refer to Attachment 16

¹² <http://www.nrhmorissa.gov.in/frmrbsk.aspx> - Attachment 17

In Odisha there are 35,928 Primary and 20,427 Upper Primary schools to provide education at elementary level. More 491 New Primary and 490 New Upper Primary schools opened under S.S.A. to provide schooling in unserved areas. There are 6193 Govt. and aided Secondary Schools, 849 Recognized High Schools and 151 permitted High Schools in the State¹³.

SSA (OPEPA) has identified 60152 CwDS¹⁴ (CWSN) of whom the following are in various categories:

VI - 31389

LV - 14339

HI - 1216

SI - 1507

Locomotor - 2397

OH - 2312

MR - 2364

MI - 522

LD - 1791

CP - 1171

Autism - 154

MD - 570

Leprosy - 352

DB - 68

Others - 653151

There are existing 92 functioning special schools in the State. Of the existing schools, 51 are being financed by the State Government while the remaining 41 are getting Central assistance. The State Government has decided in principle to open 137 more special schools for children with special needs¹⁵.

After two decades of implementation of the PWD Act, only about two per cent of seats in general and stand-alone institutions go to handicapped girls in the State. Worse, many among the girls who enrol for higher studies drop out due to lack of facilities and the absence of a congenial learning environment. Their representation in STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Management) subjects is also negligible¹⁶.

As per an order of the Department of School and Mass Education of Odisha dated May 25, 2018, 'all academic fees, except mess charges, will be waived in respect of students with disabilities of 40% or more'. But due to ignorance of authorities of some higher secondary schools, physically challenged students are being pressed to pay up admission fee during admission to +2 courses.

Odisha State has made Govt Higher Education Free for Differently Abled Students (VI, HI & SI) and those with a disability level of more than 75 percent will be exempted from tuition, examination and certificate fees.

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Odisha - Attachment 18

¹⁴ Report on Child with special needs (CWSN) Children – Attachment 19

¹⁵

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2016/sep/20/137-more-schools-for-special-children-1521681.html> - Attachment 20 - TNE 29/09/16

¹⁶

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/education/edex/2016/nov/28/indias-different-daughters-why-odishas-disabled-girls-arent-going-to-college-1542622.html> - Attachment 21 - TNE – 28/11/2016

- Work and Employment

In a study Swabhiman (2012)¹⁷ found that The situation is grim in Odisha with only 22.2% earning a living and the rest 77.8% surviving as dependents. The earning cannot be termed as a 'earning' rather can be regarded as a supplement to family income as the average income of a PWD is between 2000 to 3000 rupees per month. Looking at the sectors of employment one finds an aggregation in small business and daily wage earning. 45% (291) run small business and 29% (191) are daily wage earners. 13% are employed in various establishments. Of these only 29.7% were employed in regular sectors with credibility, 14% were engaged in NGOs and for 45% tuitions were source of income. Small business included both individual proprietors and members of self-help groups. Of them 52.6% were owners of paan (betel leaf) shop. Grocery shops came next (13.4%) followed by 'others' which included self- help group activities.

The State Government is putting efforts to the best of its ability to empower PwDs with appropriate skills, acumen and entitlements so that they can be productive economically by engaging themselves in self-employment. For recruiting PwDs, employer's contribution towards ESI and EPF for five years will be borne by the State Government as per the provision in Industrial Policy Resolution, 2015.

The State Employment Exchange, Employment Directorate of Odisha's District Employment Exchange, social security and empowerment of persons with disabilities department and the Centre's National Career Service Centre for Differently-abled are hosting job fairs for disabled.

National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled (NCSCDA) , Bhubaneswar, Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is imparting various skill development training, including pre-recruitment coaching to PwDs placement drives and inclusive job fairs.

In Odisha, GINGER Hotels, Reliance Industries (Retail) Ltd, KARVY Data Management Services Pvt Ltd, Future Group (Big Bazaar) and Computer LAB Pvt Ltd are notable for recruiting PwDs and engaging them with diversified roles in the industry.

There is a Special Employment Exchange for PwDs is in Bhubaneswar.

In a recent MoU with GoO, Sightsavers¹⁸ will provide technical support to the SSEPD department in and other government agencies like the Odisha Livelihood Mission, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (VRC) and the Odisha Rural Livelihood Mission to create livelihood and employability opportunities for PWDs in the state.

Vocational Training Centres for PwDs are run by Orissa Association for the Blind (OAB), Orissa Association for the Deaf (OAD) and All Orissa Orthopedically Handicapped Welfare Association (AOOHWA). The State Government provides grant-in-aid towards training cost & stipend. A special ITI exclusively for PwDs has been set up at Jatni in Khurda District. There is 3% reservation in all ITIs/ ITCs/ Polytechnics for PwDs in the State. Further, in convergence with State Employment Mission & Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped (VRCH), the Skill Development training for the PwDs has commenced from 1st September- 2014 at VRCH, Bhubaneswar. There are 4 trades – i. Dress Making ii. Computer Fundamentals iii. Home Appliances Repairing iv. Soft Skill

¹⁷ Profile of Disability in Odisha (2012) – Attachment 22

¹⁸ <https://www.sightsaversindia.in/sightsavers-signs-an-mou-with-ssepd-government-of-odisha/> Attachment 23

DRI scheme provides bank loan at a concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum for productive / self employment ventures. SC/ST, minorities and physically handicapped persons are targeted under this scheme to boost financial inclusion. Very popular in Odisha.

Odisha government is providing loan at one per cent interest to Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the state.

- Poverty

Findings from a study by Swabhimani¹⁹ (2012) note rampant poverty among the PWD households which is amply demonstrated by a measly 22.2% eking out a living and earning a very the poor income (on an average about 2-3000 rupees per month). Non-profitability of businesses is a potent indicator of vicious hands of poverty on its way to gripping more PWD households. When enquired about having enough money to take care of family only 9.9% replied in the positive. 44.1% refrained from giving any answer, kept quiet, made a joke or looked away. There is no or meagre saving. Only 17.9% save. Mostly saving was utilized for health related activities or for repayment of loan.

- Accessibility

It was in 1996 when Mr Chinmay Basu was the Secretary of WCD Department, GoO that the first ramp was built in India. I was informed to be carried up in the venue for International day for disability celebrations in Bhubaneswar. I refused and during this discussion the secretary arrived. Upon my insistence to not to be lifted up rather go inside in a dignified manner, he requested me to return after 30 minutes. The first ramp of Odisha awaited me in Soochana Bhawan.

In 2001 for Stephen Hawking's visit Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), after enough lobbying and government's intervention made temporary ramps. Around the same time we lobbied extensively in Odisha and got few measly ramps in secretariat.

In 2004, after the April 19 circular had come - an interim order for the State governments to provide wooden ramps in all polling booths across the country for the second phase of elections, and without fail in the last two phases on May 5 and May 10 - few schools had ramps - rather slopes with no gradient or handbars.

2015 Accessible India Campaign saw some spurt in accessibility - some cultural places like Rabindra Mandap, Utkal Mandap and Jaydev Bhawan have well constructed ramps and toilets.

2015-16 - OPEPA has recorded that out of 58296 primary and upper primary schools only 34805²⁰ have ramps. However, beyond this there is no thinking or action on school accessibility.

- Political participation

2014 General Elections saw the use of Braille ballot in Katak by the initiative of an officer. Rest of Odisha remained inaccessible. There were ramps. But not as per specifications. We did an observation of about 100 booths.

¹⁹ Profile of Disability in Odisha (2012) – Refer to Attachment 22

²⁰ OPEPA CWSN Infrastructure 2015-16 – Attachment 24

Report - The findings showed that most wheelchair ramps were ill-placed, too steep or punctuated with bumps and uneven surfaces that made movement tortuous. Toilets at polling stations could hardly be reached – even with ramps. Short statured people pointed out that voting machines at most polling stations were placed on tables that were too high for them to reach. Those with locomotor disabilities were unable to press the buttons on the machine. Often, the polling staff were unaware, unconcerned or insensitive to these problems, which could be fixed by simply changing the position and incline of the voting machine and stretching out its 5-metre long cable. The cable is typically taped up at polling stations, which clearly are not geared to address the needs of the differently abled. While there are Braille ballot reference sheets at few polling stations on political parties, candidates and party symbols, they were not available in regional languages and this left the visually disabled very disoriented at voting time.

Still other persons with disabilities did not even want to be enrolled as voters because they thought the process of polling would be long and difficult to navigate. Add to that the general sense of nervousness and pressure that they felt when the polling staff hurried them up and it is an experience that many of them would rather avoid. Then there were persons with disabilities who hadn't even been touched by the electoral process, especially those with mental disabilities but not of unsound mind.

The BJP²¹ carried a section for PwDs in its manifesto.

Specially Abled

About 70 million people are suffering from disability, and BJP considers it a serious neglect. The welfare and rehabilitation of disabled people is integral to our vision of a caring society and that of a responsive government. The BJP commits to:

- Enact the 'Rights of the Persons with Disabilities bill' (RPWD).
- Use technology to deliver low cost quality education to specially-abled students 'in-home' - through **E-learning**.
- Identify each and every special needs person across the country - establishing a web based disability registration system to issue **universal ID** for all applicable government benefits (healthcare, transportation, jobs, education etc).
- Ensure disabled friendly access to public facilities, public buildings and transport.
- Ensure maximum economic independence of the disabled by creating more income generation models for them.
- Support and aid voluntary organizations working for the care of the disabled.
- Provide a higher tax relief for the family member taking care of the disabled.

CPIM²² was the other party which talked about disability.

Persons with Disabilities The CPI(M) stands for:

- Amending and passing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill and other laws in consonance with the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities taking into consideration various concerns expressed by the disability sector. Reviewing and amending the National Disability Policy
- Simplifying the process of certification. Providing a universally valid Identity Card for the disabled that would be valid across states and departments.
- Clearing backlog in vacancies in all government departments in a time bound manner.
- Making all buildings, public places, transport, information and other avenues fully accessible and barrier free for people with disabilities; provision of sign language

²¹ BJP Manifesto – Attachment 25

²² CPIM Manifesto – Attachment 26

- interpreters; making TV accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing through same language captioning
 - Enhancing the pension to at least Rs. 4000/- for the disabled
 - Free provision of aids and appliances
 - Making education at all levels inclusive
 - Making Health facilities accessible and free for persons with disabilities.
 - Extending the assistance under the MPLADS fund to other assistive devices and facilities for the disabled and not restricting it only to the purchase of tricycles, wheelchairs and artificial limbs for the disabled.
- Cultural, recreation leisure and sports
 - Blind Cricket and Blind Chess Tournament is hosted by NGOs.
 - On 3rd December special sporting events are done by GoO.
 - On 3rd December GoO organises cultural programs.
 - Swabhiman organizes a unique Children's festival – Anjali. It has reached international level and is unique in India. (www.childrenfestival.org)
 - Swabhiman organizes “Youth conclave” and Youth Leadership programs
 - Aaina organises film festival - Kalol
 - Swabhiman organises film festival – Biscope

Attachments

11. The Pioneer, July 18, 2018 – Attachment 11
12. <http://www.nrhmorissa.gov.in/writereaddata/Upload/Documents/An%20analysis%20of%20health%20status%20of%20Orissa%20in%20specific%20reference%20to%20health%20equity.pdf> – Attachment 12
13. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2017/sep/29/persons-with-disabilities-face-raw-deal-as-odisha-government-sleeps-on-udid-cards-1664410.html>- Attachment 13
14. http://dhsodisha.nic.in/sites/default/files/NLEP_Website%20.pdf – Attachment 14
15. <https://archive.india.gov.in/citizen/health/viewscheme.php?schemeid=1220> – Attachment 15
16. <http://www.rsby.gov.in/Statewise.aspx?state=24> – Attachment 16
17. <http://www.rsby.gov.in/Statewise.aspx?state=24> – Refer to Attachment 16
18. <http://www.nrhmorissa.gov.in/frmrbsk.aspx> - Attachment 17
19. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Odisha - Attachment 18
20. Report on Child with special needs (CWSN) Children – Attachment 19
21. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2016/sep/20/137-more-schools-for-special-children-1521681.html> - Attachment 20 - TNE 29/09/16
22. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/education/edex/2016/nov/28/indias-different-daughters-why-odishas-disabled-girls-arent-going-to-college-1542622.html> - Attachment 21 - TNE – 28/11/2016
23. Profile of Disability in Odisha (2012) – Attachment 22
24. Sightsavers signs an MoU with SSEPD, Government of Odisha – Attachment 23
25. OPEPA CWSN Infrastructure 2015-16 – Attachment 24
26. BJP Manifesto 2014 – Attachment 25
27. CPIM Manifesto 2014 – Attachment 26