

The cover features a light yellow background with a decorative border. A large blue circle at the top contains the text 'ANNUAL REPORT' in orange. A smaller light blue circle below it contains '2014 -15'. At the bottom, a large orange circle contains the text 'WOMEN DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL WELFARE DEPT', 'Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities', and 'West Bengal'.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2014 -15**

**WOMEN DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL WELFARE DEPT**

**Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities**

**West Bengal**

## INTRODUCTION :

In pursuance of provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 & West Bengal Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1999, (Notification No. 2101-SW/1A-14/97 dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1999) Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare set up the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at 45, Ganesh Chandra Avenue (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Kolkata- 700 013.

### Details of officers and staff provided to assist State Commissioner :

Name of the Post	Posts sanctioned	Status
Assistant Commissioner	2	Filled
Clinical Psychologist	1	Filled
Officer on Special Duty	1	Filled
Prosthetist & Orthotist	1	Filled
Office Superintendent	1	Vacant
Cashier	1	Vacant
Clerk-cum-typist	1	Vacant
Driver	2	1 filled & 1 on deputation
UDC	2	On deputation
Group-D	2	filled

Department has been moved to fill up the vacant posts.

### Following services are provided through the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

#### 1. Issuance of Disability Certificate:-

One of the important functions of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is to coordinate with the Health & Family Welfare Department Govt. of West Bengal for holding Regular Medical Boards, Out reach Special Medical camps for issuance of Disability Certificate to Persons with Disabilities and to issue Identity Cards as well. Health & Family Welfare Department has constituted the Medical Boards in all District Hospitals, Sub-Divisional Hospitals and four teaching hospitals of Kolkata.

West Bengal Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1999 has been amended and Notified vide No. 9835-SW/1A-14/97Part-I-27th December, 2011, Published in the Kolkata Gazette on 2nd January, 2012.

In terms of Rule 3 **“Medical authority.** - (1) Every Primary Health Centre, Block Primary Health Centre, State General Hospital, Rural Hospital, Sub-Divisional Hospital or the District Hospital run by the State Government or any hospital run by a Statutory body or authority, shall be the medical authority for the purposes of the Act.

(2) Every Officer-in-Charge or Medical Head of the Institution, by whatever name it is called, of the concerned medical authority mentioned in sub-rule (1) shall be authorized to sign the disability certificate on behalf of that medical authority.

The Govt. in the Department of Health and Family Welfare has implement the amended rules. The latest position of the certification Status is given below.

### 1.1 NUMBER OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATE & IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED AS ON 31.03.2015 :

Out of **20,17,406** (Census 2011) persons **13,62,958** persons have been certified by the Medical Authority out of which **9,84,410** persons with disabilities (whose disability is 40% and above) have been issued Disability Identity Cards for availing benefits/concessions. Remaining **3,78,548** persons (whose disability is below 40%) are not issued Disability Identity cards. **Total coverage is 67.56%**. During reporting year 186 outreach Special Medical Camps at Block/GP/Ward level were held.

### 1.2 NUMBER OF DISABILITY IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED AS ON 31.03.2015 (CATEGORY WISE) :

YEAR	OH	VH	HH	MR	MI	TOTAL
From 1981 - 31.03.14	4,24,484	1,48,505	1,71,848	1,54,051	125	<b>8,99,013</b>
2014 -2015	38,164	17,682	15,463	14,029	59	<b>85,397</b>
Total as 31.03.2015	4,62,648	1,66,187	1,87,311	1,68,080	184	<b>9,84,410</b>

### 1.3 Glimpse of Special Medical Camp at Kolkata, North 24 Parganas and Nadia districts :



## 2. Education :

- \* Free education is provided to children with Special Needs.
- \* 3% seats are reserved in all educational Institutions for persons with disabilities.
- \* Physically Challenged persons are provided with a relaxation of 5% marks for admission
- \* Physically Challenged persons are provided with a grant of 20 minutes extra time per hour in examinations/entrance test/recruitment test. Visually Challenged person is also provided with scribe
- \* Provision of option of Single Language for Students with Hearing Impairment, alternate question for Visually Impaired in exams, printing of books in large characters is implemented by School Education Department.

## 3. Scholarship :

Women Development & Social Welfare Department provides scholarship to 5000 students with disabilities below Class IX at the rate as detailed below :

ITEM	Rate
Scholarship below class IX	Rs. 300/- pm
Readers Allowance (VH)	Rs. 100/- pm
Transport Allowance to LH & MR/Autism	Rs. 150/- pm
Learning Teaching Material	Rs. 500/- pa

Office of the State Commissioner co-ordinates with other line Departments providing scholarships to the Students with Disabilities such as Mass Education Extension Department and Sarva Siksha Mission.

## 4. Prosthetic Aids & Appliances

Women Development & Social Welfare Department allotted Rs. 40.50 lakh for the year 2014-15. Under this scheme. 1245 persons with disabilities were provided with Aids and appliances such as wheel chair, tri-cycle, hearing aid, sewing machine, musical instruments, DVD player, iPod, Multimedia Print Reader etc. centrally through the office of the State Commissioner (Disabilities) in Kolkata Municipal Corporation Area and in Districts on the basis on requisition received from the districts. Distribution Camps were held in most of the districts.

## 5. Registration of Organizations

In terms of Section 52 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 read with Rule 43 of West Bengal Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1999 Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities registers organisations working for the persons with Disabilities. 520 organizations are so far registered under PWD Act, 1995. 18 new and 95 registrations are renewed in 2014-15. District & Category-wise directory of Registered NGOs is prepared and inserted in the compendium 'SPHURAN' published by the Department every year & released on International Day of Persons with Disabilities. For proper monitoring of the activities of the NGOs monitoring Committees at the District, Sub-division and Block Levels are set up.

## 6. Employment :

- In terms of Section 33 of PwD Act, 1995 3% seats are reserved for Persons with Disabilities in 100 point roster :
  - i) Blindness & Low Vision : 1% (12<sup>th</sup> Vacancy)
  - ii) Hearing Impairment : 1% (42<sup>nd</sup> Vacancy)
  - iii) Locomotor disability or CP : 1% (72<sup>nd</sup> Vacancy)
- Age relaxation of 5 years to Physically Challenged persons for recruitment in State Govt.
- Relaxation of 5% marks in admission & recruitment
- Physically Challenged persons are exempted from payment of exam and application fees @ 40% of total fees, prescribed in respect of competitive exams.
- 6450 Persons with Disabilities are working as Asstt. Teachers in Govt. & Govt. aided schools.
- Placement of 02 Persons with Disabilities has been made by Employment Exchanges during 2014-15
- Two Meetings under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal were held for identification the posts/update the list of posts identified for Persons with Disabilities by all the Departments and also to undertake special drive for recruitment of Persons with Disabilities. High Power Committee, headed by Secretary, Department of Backward Classes Welfare, is constituted to review the reservation Policy for Persons with Disabilities.

### 6.1 Employment Bank :

Govt. of West Bengal launched Employment Bank portal which is an interactive platform among three parties namely the "**job-seekers**", the "**employers**" and the "**placement agencies**" enabling them to enrol online. It will help the job-seekers to search for suitable employment as per their qualification. ([www.employmentbankwb.gov.in](http://www.employmentbankwb.gov.in)). 13560 Persons with Disabilities have registered their names un Employment Bank as on 31.03.2015 out of which 1530 PwDs have been sanctioned Unemployment assistance @ Rs. 1500/- pm.

### 6.2 Job Fair :

Govt. of West Bengal, Department of WCD & SW organised 'ROJGAR MELA' on observance of International Day of the Persons with Disabilities, 2014. Job Fair was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 at Rabindra Sadan Campus for qualified persons with disabilities in which 530 candidates appeared out of which 100 were short listed. 10 Corporate Sectors participated.

### 6.3 Glimpses of Job Fair :





## **7. Self Employment :**

### **Economic Rehabilitation Grant to Persons with Disabilities :**

Department of WD & SW allotted Rs. 68.90 lakh under the Scheme. Account payee Cheques of Rs. 10,000/- each in favour of 689 beneficiaries have been disbursed. The ERG Scheme is being implemented Centrally by the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on the basis of applications received from the Districts, recommendation of the State Screening Committee and finally approval of the State Sanctioning Committee.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India trained 517 PwDs during 2014-15 out of which 243 are wage employed and 163 are self employed.

## **8. Social Security :**

### **8.1 Disability Pension :**

Department of Women Development & Social Welfare provides Disability Pension to 40,276 PwDs. who are unable to earn livelihood and below poverty line @ Rs. 750/- pm.

National Indira Gandhi Disability Pension Scheme implemented through the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development 42,798 Persons with severe Disability receive Pension @ Rs. 600/- pm (Rs. 300/- Central share and Rs. 300/- State share).

In total 83,074 Persons with Disabilities are covered under Disability Pension Scheme of State & Central Govt.

### **8.2 Poverty Alleviation Schemes :**

3919 persons with disabilities are allotted houses under Indira Awaas Yojana during 2014-15

79,350 persons with disabilities are provided employment under MNREGA

## **9. Appointment of Legal Guardian under National Trust Act, 1999**

Legal guardians are appointed for the Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. Local Level Committees under National Trust Act have been constituted in all the districts to receive and approve the applications for legal guardians. 256 Legal guardians are appointed in the year 2014-2015. Since inception 7621 Legal Guardians have been appointed by the LLCs. Office of the Commissioner conducted eight workshop/Seminar in Bankura, Kolkata, Malda, North and South 24 Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah for orientation of LLC members and Legal Guardians.

## 10. Grievance Redressal :

In terms Section 62 Commissioner is to look into complaints with respect to matters relating to :-

(a) deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities;  
(c) non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions made or issued by the appropriate Governments and the local authorities for the welfare and protection of rights of persons with disabilities, and take up the matter with the appropriate authorities.

Nature of cases dealt at the Court of the Commissioner

- a) Non-implementation of 3% reservation in appointment and admission in the school.
- b) Non implementation of 3% reservation in other appointments
- c) Transfer of Parents of child with special need and employees with disabilities.
- d) Denial of free travel in transports.
- e) Denial of other facilities to persons with disabilities.
- f) Denial of facilities to government employees and their wards with disabilities.

No. of cases filed before the court of Commissioner for persons with disabilities in the year 2014-15	425
No. of cases taken up by the Commissioner on his own motion	05
Total cases	430
No. of cases disposed off	412
No. of cases pending	18

## 11. Awareness Generation Programme/Workshops etc.

Office of the Commissioner (Disabilities) in collaboration with leading NGOs organized Seminars, Workshops and Awareness Generation Programs in all the Districts on various provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 & National Trust Act, 1999. Legal Guardians' meet is organized by Kolkata LLC quarterly..

- Twenty Awareness programmes were organized in collaboration with NGOs at district level.
- Awareness Programme was organized at Administrative Training Institute, Salt Lake on Kanyashree Prakalpa, Economic Rehabilitation Grant and NHFDC schemes in August, 2014 to sensitize the Govt. officials, NGOs and PwDs.
- Exhibition and Awareness programme was organized in collaboration with Awnesha, Kolkata on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014 at Mohar Kunja.. Fund of Rs. 50,000/- was provided by the Department of Women Development and Social welfare for the purpose

### 11.1 Glimpse of Awareness programmes held in districts and Kolkata :







## 12. Recreation of Persons with disabilities and elderly persons :

A program for taking Persons with Disabilities and elderly persons for Pandals hopping during Durga Puja Festival 2014 was organized in collaboration with NGOs. Fund of Rs. 1,26,045/- was provided by the Department of Women Development and Social welfare for the purpose. A Braille Guide on Durga Puja was released by Dr. Shashi Panja, HMOS (IC) Department of WD & SW and CD Deptt.



### 12.1 Educational Adventure Trek by Students with Disabilities of Voice of World and Educational tour by Students with Hearing Impairment of West Bengal Association of Deaf :

100 students with disabilities of Voice of World were taken for Educational Adventure Tour to North Bengal Hills.





### 13. Creation of Barrier Free Environment

- Barrier free environment has been created at important public buildings like-Writers' Buildings, Nandan (Govt. Auditorium), Purta Bhawan, Commissioner (Disabilities) Office, Administrative Training Institute, Bikash Bhawan, University of Calcutta, Kolkata Medical College & Hospital, Jadavpur University, Rabindra Bharati Main Campus, South 24 Parganas Collectorate, VRC, Kolkata Station, Kolkata Corporation and Heritage buildings of Kolkata are in the process of being made Barrier Free. Kolkata Book Fair-2014 was made accessible for Persons with Disabilities. Two proposals have already been submitted to the Ministry of social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India for making office of District Magistrate (Collectorate) of Howrah and Birbhum districts accessible to PWDs.
- School education department & Sarva Siksha Mission have created barrier free environment in 72,733 schools by constructing Ramps with Handrail through out the State.
- 8852 schools have been provided with Barrier Free Toilets under Inclusive Education of Disabled of SSA, PBSSM.

### 14. Observance of International Days :

#### 14.1 Special Awareness Programme on Deafblind Day on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 :

. A Special Awareness Programme, on Deafblind Day, was organized by the Department of Women Development & Social Welfare on 27th June, 2014 at Sisir Mancha, Kolkata. Rallies were organized from five places Viz. Shyam Bazar, Sealdah, Howrah, Gorla and Behala with Tableaux. About 1000 PwDs and general public participated in the Rallies. Dr. (Smt.) Shashi Panja, Hon'ble MOS (IC), WD & SW Deptt. Smt. Roshni Sen, Ssecretary, WD & SW Deptt; Shri Dipak Ghosh, OSD and EO. Secretary, CD Deptt. and Smt. Mita Banerjee, Commissioner (Disabilities), WB attended the Programme. Seven eminent employers from Corporate Sector for providing employment to PwDs and Special Educators were felicitated. Two Deaf-blind persons established in life were also felicitated. 16 Deaf-blind students were given away teaching learning material. Various Aids and Appliances were distributed to 67 PwDs such as Wheel Chair, Digital Hearing Aids, DVD players, ipods etc. Economic Rehabilitation Grant was distributed to 26 PwDs for self employment. There was an attractive Cultural Program by PwDs at the end.





## 15. International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 :

International Day of the Persons with Disabilities was observed in all the 18 districts and State Awards were conferred by observing the Day in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013. HE Governor of West Bengal and Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, West Bengal gave away the State Awards. State Awards were given for outstanding achievements in the respective fields in the following categories:

Self-Employed, Outstanding Employee with disability, Role Model, Best Academic Institution for inclusive education, Creation of Barrier free environment, Best Organization working for the cause of disability, Parent organization, Best District, Best Local level Committee under National trust Act, 1999 and Best Placement Officer etc.

Fund of Rs. 18,000/- each was provided to all the Districts for observing the International Day of the Persons with Disabilities in the District.

### 15.1 Glimpses of State Awards 2014 :





## 15.2 Glimpses of Cultural Programme on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014



## 15.3 Rojgar Mela, 2014 :

To increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability by the Civil Society and celebrate the achievements and contributions of PwD, the Department of Women Development & Social Welfare decided to extend the usual one day observance of IDPD to 3 days – from 3<sup>rd</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> December, with much more grandeur.

Rojgar Mela rally was flagged off by Smt. Nilima Nag Mallick, Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare. Around 1600 persons took part in the rally.

Rojgar Mela was inaugurated by Smt. Nilima Nag Mallick, Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 at Rabindra Sadan Campus.

## 15.4 : Glimpses of Rally & Inauguration of Rojgar Mela :



## 15.5 : Panel Discussion on various aspects of Disability in Rojgar Mela :

Panel Discussion on various aspects of Disability Affairs was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December professionals from premier institutes like IIT Kharagpur, Central & State Govt. Department, leading NGOs and PwDs participated in Panel Discussion.



## 15.6 : Central & State Govt. Pavilion and NGO stalls displaying products of PwDs in Rojgar Mela :



## 15.7 : Cultural Programme by PwDs in Rojgar Mela :



## 16. World Braille Day on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 :

The Day was observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2015 simultaneously at Rotary Sadan and Natmandir, Shyam bazar, Kolkata by organizing Panel Discussion on Importance of Braille in present era, Essay Competition in Bengali Braille in four groups, Cultural Programme by Persons with Visual Impairment. Educational kit along with White Cane was distributed to 200 students with disabilities by NIVH (Regional Centre), Kolkata under ADIP Scheme and Govt. of West Bengal

under Prosthetic aid Scheme. Prizes were given away by Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Department of Women Development and Social Welfare and Department of Child Development.

### 16.1 Glimpses of World Braille Day-2015 :



### 17. World Autism Awareness Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> April :

World Autism Awareness day was observed on 2nd April, 2015. As a prelude to this on 1st April a press Brief was held at Press Club, Kolkata wherein Hon'ble MOS, Dr. Shashi Panja briefed the media regarding importance and purpose of observance of this day followed by a Torch Rally (Pada Jatra) from Press Club, Kolkata to Metro Channel Kolkata. About 550 persons with disabilities, parents from 35 NGOs participated in the rally. A Mobile Van was decorated and moved around Kolkata for generating awareness on Autism. Awareness generation information was also aired through 92.7 BIG FM for three days. On 2nd April 2015 an Awareness Programme along with Exhibition of products made by persons with Autism and a cultural Programme by persons with Autism was organized at Rabindra Sadan campus. About 700 Parents, teachers, representatives of NGOs and PwDs attended the programme. Dr. Shashi Panja, HMOS, Deptt. Of WD & SW and CD Deptt. and Shri Dipak Ghosh, OSD and EO Secretary, CD Deptt. Witnessed the programme. In front of Nandan side gate of Rabindra Sadan some Audio-videos clippings for generating awareness were displayed throughout the day on LED screen.

## 17.1 Glimpses of World Autism Awareness Day :



## 18. Miscellaneous Activities :

- i) Proposal for Disability Mapping is submitted to the Department of WD & SW for covering other districts.
- ii) Psychological Evaluation is done in the office of the Commissioner (Disabilities) & in the Districts by Clinical Psychologist of O/o Commissioner (Disabilities)
- iii) Clinical Psychologist of O/o Commissioner (Disabilities) is co-opted as member of Medical Board at R.G.Kar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata
- iv) Impart training to AWWs at CINI by officials of this office on disability
- v) Appellate Medical Board is reconstituted for verification of degree of disability. AMB sits in the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities every month.



## 19. Publications :

- i) An Awareness Booklet on various schemes of Central & State Govt. and FAQs is published and was released by Dr. Shashi Panja, HMOS (IC), Department of WD & SW on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. The booklet is distributed to all Gram Panchayats, Block/Sub-Division/District level Officers, NGOs. This booklet is also being distributed among general public and PwDs.
- ii) A Compendium named “SPHURAN” is published every year on various aspects of disability, concessions & benefits for PwDs and Govt. Orders & circulars issued by different state & central Govt. departments time to time relating to empowerment of Persons With Disabilities. HE the Governor of West Bengal released “SPHURAN” on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.



## 17. Plan of Action for the Year 2015-16 :

<b>REGULAR PROGRAMMES :</b>	
1.	To co-ordinate and assist Health Deptt. in issuance of Disability Certificates and holding Special Medical Camps.
2.	To assess IQ of Persons IDD/MR by our Clinical Psychologist.
3.	Holding of Mobile Courts in the Districts for speedy disposal of complains of PwDs
4.	Disbursement of scholarship directly to the bank account of the students.
5.	Sanction & disburse of Economic Rehabilitation Grant to PwDs for self-employment
6.	Distribution of Aids and Appliances under Prosthetic Aid Scheme
7.	Monitoring the activities of various Departments and reviewing whether 3% reservation policy of the Govt. in favour of PwDs is being implemented
8.	Monitoring and orientation of AWW at districts level on early identification and early intervention
9.	Acting as Resource Person(s) at CINI/SIPRD etc.
10.	Organising Legal Guardians meet in the Districts on Management of Persons with Mental Retardation, Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disability

11.	Observance of following International Days as directed by Govt. of India : i) International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December ii) World Braille Day on 4 <sup>th</sup> January on birth anniversary of Louis Braille iii) World Autism Awareness day on 2 <sup>nd</sup> April iv) Helen Keller's Day 27 <sup>th</sup> June on birth anniversary.
12.	Felicitating Sports personalities with Disabilities for their outstanding achievements in National/International sports event.
13.	Felicitating students with Disability scoring more than 80% marks in Secondary/Higher Secondary/ICSE/ISE/CBSE exams.
14.	Organizing recreation of Persons with Disabilities and elderly during Durga Puja Festival, 2015
15.	Monitoring Job Fairs

Sl. No.	NEW INITIATIVES :
1.	To monitor implementation of Reservation Policy for PwDs to be adopted by the High Power Committee.
2.	To assist the Department in Special Recruitment Drives
3.	To launch accessible website of Commissioner ate for PwDs
4.	To prepare Draft State Disability Policy
5.	To Strengthen the infrastructure of indoor and out door existing Medical units of NGOs providing services to CWSNs
6.	To set-up Home for Mentally Retarded on Pilot basis
7.	Disability Mapping of the Districts through DDRCs
8.	Setting up of Hostel for Working Women with Disability. Issuance of Notification for 3% reservation for PWDs in existing Hostels.
9.	To monitor the work of launching disabled friendly website by all the Departments
10.	To orgnise Orientation Programme for Medical Officers and other related officials in collaboration with H & FW Deptt, and National Institute for Orthopaedically handicapped in all the Districts with regard to simplification of issuance of disability certificate from June 2014.
11.	To provide Legal Assistance to Persons with Disabilities through State Legal Aid Authority
12.	To organise Awareness programme for Councillors of Municipal Corporations and Municipalities on various Schemes of State & the Central Govt. and concessions and facilities extended to Persons with Disabilities.
13.	To prepare data base of all schemes of State Govt.
14.	Disbursement of ERG directly to the bank account of the beneficiaries.
15.	To organize Special Tutorials for Students with Disabilities of class IX to XII – 'Live of Doordarshan'

Sd/-  
State Commissioner (Disabilities)  
West Bengal