



# KALINDI COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

## **POLICY FOR DIVYANGJAN**

### **Introduction**

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice, and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. In 2006, the National Policy for Persons and Disabilities was released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. One of the several focuses of the policy is educational rehabilitation including vocational education and economic rehabilitation for dignified life in society. Equal Opportunity Cell, Kalindi College has taken up these two as its primary objectives and is working towards their completion. We believe that Persons with Disabilities are valuable human resources provided that capabilities are built up and opportunities are provided for.

### **Policy Statement:**

#### **Objectives of the Policy**

- To review the accessibility provisions in terms of infrastructure and communication.
- To prepare barrier free formalities/procedures for admission/ registration/academics and extracurricular activities for PWD students.
- To provide counseling to differently abled students on the types of courses they could study in the college.
- To ensure admission of as many differently abled students in various courses.
- To organize periodic meetings with PWD students to monitor the progress of programs, dissemination of the information and grievances redressal.
- To establish coordination with the Government and other agencies/organizations to mobilize academic and financial resources to provide assistance to PWD students.
- To sensitize college and community on the problems of PWD students.

- To celebrate important days pertaining to disability such as the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Braille Day etc. to create awareness about the capabilities of persons with disabilities.
- To organize Remedial Coaching Classes for persons with disabilities.
- To assess the ability of differently abled students and assist them in getting appropriate employment through training and placement.
- To ensure accessibility of academic scholarships (two scholarships are offered as institutional scholarships) to differently abled students.
- To ensure that differently abled students are receiving all the benefits such as exemption in fees etc. provided by the University of Delhi

The first step towards creation of an environment that provides equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation in society is constructing a barrier free environment with simultaneous educational and economic rehabilitation programs.

### **Barrier Free Environment: Infrastructure**

Barrier Free Environment enables people with disabilities to move about safely and freely and use the facility within the built environment. The goal is to provide an environment that supports independent functioning of individuals so that they can participate without assistance in everyday activities. Therefore, to the maximum extent possible, building / places / transportation systems for public use will be made barrier free. To reach our goals the following strategies will be adopted:

- To construct disabled friendly toilets with emergency alarms on each floor of the college building.
- The unit also proposes to fix handrails on all the staircases which would help the physically challenged persons to climb up and down the stairs. Along with the handrails, the staircases should be painted with yellow and blue colors so that the low vision persons may use them properly.
- To construct tactile paths on all floors of the college building to make all the places accessible to visually impaired persons.
- To arrange for appropriate numbers of wheelchairs and ensure their accessibility.

- To acquire portable wooden ramps to facilitate easy access in needed locations. To construct ramps in all the buildings for easy accessibility.
- To mark the college campus with appropriate signage and putting up visually impaired friendly sign boards.
- To construct in the building a lift and parking space reserved for the differently abled persons.
- The banking system will be encouraged to meet the requirements of the person with disability.
- To remove all pitfalls in the premises that can hamper their pathway.
- To make the website of Kalindi College accessible for visually impaired students.

### **Educational and Economic Rehabilitation**

Setting up a resource centre that would specialize in addressing the needs of PWDs especially visually impaired students. It must include a flatbed scanner on a dedicated desktops enabling scanning of all lengths of books. The OCR software for converting scanned text to readable texts must also be installed on these desktops. The centre must also have reading software for print access such as speech synthesizer (JAWS, NADA etc.), electronic reading machine, refreshable Braille display, electronic Braille embosser and sign language interpreter. The physical accessibility of this centre must be ensured. It should be barrier free with proper ramps, tactile tiles, strong railings, disabled friendly toilets and lift in case of more than one storey building.

Adoption of DAISY standards of talking books, following footsteps of EOC, University of Delhi. Purchase of talking assistive technology devices such as Angel Pro to play recorded lectures in MP3 and DAISY formats. This will also make listening to e-text, .doc, .txt and .html format files easier and users can also record lectures and listen to it later. They may also be provided with audio recording devices. Assess the educational needs of differently abled persons enrolled in the higher education institutes to determine the types of assistive devices to be procured.

Training Programs: Conducting training programs for students to use notebook computers provided by Equal Opportunity Cell, DU. This will include sessions on screen reading software, optical character recognition software and low vision reading software. Further designing training programs after identifying requirements of differently abled students

Sensitisation Programs: The teaching and non-teaching staff along with students from different disciplines and volunteers should be sensitized about disability, inclusive pedagogy, and

technologies that can assist students with disabilities. Conducting sensitization programme at various levels with the theme of prevention of disabilities, Rights of persons with disabilities, Breaking the Barriers of Inclusion, Human Rights for persons with disabilities etc. to the public and students in the form of Rally, Human Chain, Walkathon, signature Campaigns, Awareness Brochures etc., thus become imperative.

Short term certificate courses for PWDs (such as information and communication technology, communicative English etc.) as well as for others (such as sign language interpretation, and disability and human rights) to train former with job-oriented skills and sensitize later about disability issues.

Collaborate with NSS, Kalindi College to arrange for readers and scribes for visually impaired students. The departments may be requested to arrange for lecture audio recordings if EOC is contacted by a student for the same. A 'Buddy System' can be planned in which two or more NSS volunteers shall be assigned to one PWD student. They can be contacted during bank dealings or /and administrative/account office dealings. This system should be voluntary and only those who are sensitised about disability issues should be chosen as 'buddy'. Keeping completion of sensitization courses in disability as an essential requirement can fulfill the purpose.

Equal Opportunity Cell, Kalindi College will reach out to other college's Equal Opportunity Cells for exchange of resources and information. It will also collaborate with organisations working on disability issues such as Barrier Break. PWD students should be encouraged to participate in workshops, seminars and conferences held in the college round a year.

Accessibility to information regarding government policies, academic scholarships, social security, fee concessions, reservation policies et cetera to PWD students also come under the purview of Equal Opportunity cell, Kalindi College. It will act as an information dissemination centre.

Identifying talent amongst persons with disabilities in different sports and form sports organisations and cultural societies for persons with disabilities in the long run.

## **Conclusion**

The Preamble of the Constitution of India guarantees justice, liberty, and equality to every citizen of India. It implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. We, at Equal Opportunity Cell, Kalindi College are dedicated towards realising a goal of society where

everybody, irrespective of their physical abilities have equal opportunities to excel in their lives. Following directives suggested in National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2006) by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment we will connect with District Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi and National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun for assistance in building capacities and providing rehabilitation services to differently abled persons. We are also going to conduct an annual access audit of the college campus to build on our potential.