

APPENDIX VII

FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE
DISABLED IN GUJARAT STATE

Research and developments in medical science, social sciences and technology have made it possible to educate and prepare the disabled people to be productive member of the society. The disabled people include, deaf and mute, blind, orthopaedically handicapped and mentally retarded. No scientific study has been made to assess the number of disabled in India. A rough estimate made by social welfare department, Gujarat State, however indicates that there are 2.5 lakhs blind, 1.5 lakh deaf and mute, 3.5 lakh orthopaedically handicapped. In India, it is estimated to be 45 lakh blind, 15 lakh deaf and mute 40 lakh orthopaedically handicapped and mentally retarded are estimated to be 2-4 percent of the total population.

The year 1981 had been declared as International year for disabled persons so that education, training and rehabilitation programmes could benefit maximum number of disabled persons to be self-reliant.

Since 1960 when Gujarat became a separate state, the facilities provided for the benefit of disabled have increased. The various programmes include :

1. Development of Educational and Training Institution.

These institutions has increased from 11 - 62 during the past twenty years.

Institutions for Education and Training for disabled
in Gujarat State 1981.

S.No.	Type of Institution	Gover- nment.	Volun- tary.	Total
1)	Institutions for blind.	3	19	22
2)	Institutions for deaf-mute.	2	18	20
3)	Orthopaedically handicapped.	2	5	7
4)	Mentally retarded	2	11	13
Total		9	53	62

The above table shows that voluntary organizations still play a major part in education and training of disabled in India. The institutions however receive grants from the government.

2. Scholarships.

The central and the state government give scholarships to disabled from 1st to 3th class for those whose parent's income is below Rs.7,200 per year. The scholarship is Rs.300 per year. The central government gives scholarship and stipend to disabled to study further than 9th class and it is given to only those parent's income is below Rs.9000 per year. They get Rs.400 to 1800 as scholarship per year.

3. Integrated Educational Scheme.

The scheme was planned with the aim to provide integrated education to disabled person in normal schools. The institution who admits per 10 disabled person gets grant for one class room and one special teacher. They also get help in getting teaching materials and text books.

4. Employment.

Since 1963 a special employment exchange for the disabled people has been started and even in other employment exchanges the names of disabled are separately entered. A medical board is attached to the employment exchange which assesses the capacity of the disabled person to take up certain jobs.

Apart from this four percent of clerical posts in all government offices are reserved for disabled person depending upon his qualification and experience. Relaxation in age limits is upto 10 years in grade II, III and IV.

5. Unemployment Benefit.

The educated unemployed disabled person became eligible to unemployment benefit since November 1979. The benefit is Rs.50 per month to unemployed secondary school people and Rs.75 per month for graduates.

6. Purchase of Artificial Limbs and Equipments.

Under this scheme a financial grant of Rs.600 is provided to those disabled whose income is below Rs.6000 per year. It can be used to buy artificial limbs, calipers, tricycle, crutches, hearing aid, sewing machine, amber charkha, musical instruments etc.

Artificial limbs are being made at following institutions:

- 1) Artificial limb production centre, C/o. Vaidilal Hospital, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad.
- 2) Handicapped artificial limbs centre (run by Indian Red Cross), Ashram Road, Near New Vadaaj Bridge, Ahmedabad.
- 3) Artificial limb centre, C/o S.S.G. Hospital, Vadodara.

7.Oldage and Disabled Pension Scheme.

This scheme started in 1978. Under this scheme a disabled person who is more than 45 years old and is 75 percent disabled with his personal income not exceeding Rs.300 per year and family income Rs.1200 per year would be eligible for a pension of Rs.30 per month.

8.Award for Employed Disabled and Their Employers.

Outstanding employed disabled and his employer are given award every year by central and state government.

9.Award for Best Teacher.

The central and state government give an award every year to best teacher and disabled are also included in this scheme.

10.Facilities for Allotment of Land and Houses.

Gujarat housing Board has set aside two percent houses in their housing colony for blind for those who do not have any place to live and have income below Rs.5000 per year would be given land to build houses.

11.Travel Facilities for the Disabled.

The municipal corporation buses the blind are given 100 percent concession and deaf and mute fifty percent concession in the fare. With ten paise ticket an orthopaedically handicapped can travel in the buses. The state transport corporation gives 75 percent concession to blind and his attendant. Blind are given concession to travel anywhere in India. Orthopaedically handicapped are given concession on travel as well as can carrying of their wheel chair.

12.Vehicle Allowance to Disabled Workers.

The disabled in the government service and organizations who have hundred percent grant from department of social welfare give Rs.50 as vehicle allowance.

13.Central Government Aid to the Institutions for Disabled.

Government of India give grant to voluntary organizations for buildings, furniture, equipment, staff salaries and research upto 90 percent. The building grant is given upto Rs.2.5 lakhs.

14.Vocational cum-production Centres for Disabled.

Two centres at Ahmedabad and one at Jamnagar have been started for vocational-cum-production centres for the disabled.

- a) Vocational cum production centres for the disabled
C/o. B.M.Institute, Nehru Bridge corner, Ellis Bridge,
Ahmedabad.
- b) Vocational cum production centre run by Blind association,
Vastrapur Road, Ahmedabad.
- c) Vocational cum production centre for disabled C/o.Multi-
purpose Blind training centre, Aerodrome Road, Jamnagar.

15.Self-employment and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled.

The scheme was started in 1978 with the aim of training jobs and self-employment of the disabled in the society.

16.Loan for self-employment of Disabled Through Nationalized Banks.

A vocationally trained person is given a loan at four percent interest for buying necessary equipment for self-employment.

17. Fifty-percent Concession in Petrol and Diesel prices.

Under this scheme collector's offices gives 50 percent concession to disabled owning vehicles.

18. Post-Office Benefits for Blind. Benefits include:

- 1) Braille literature parcels can be posted free of charge.
- 2) Blind are given relief from payments on Radio licences.

19. Customs duty Concession.

Institutions for blind and deaf and mute, who receive gifts of educational and training materials and equipment from other countries are exempted from customs duty.

20. Income-tax Relief.

Parents of the mentally retarded children are given income tax relief upto Rs. 2400 for the education and training of mentally retarded children.