



Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women
Coimbatore - 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India
(Deemed to be University under Category 'A' by MHRD)
Re-accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC
Recognised by UGC under Section 12B



S. K. Srinivasan

Registrar
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women
(University Estd. u/s. 3 of UGC Act. 1956)
Coimbatore - 641 043

DIVYANGJAN POLICY STATEMENT

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Approved in 114th BOM held on 16-04-2021 - Item No.: 4.6

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Coimbatore**

Divyangjan Policy Statement

Preamble

Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, established by the great patriot and philanthropist Dr. T. S. Avinashilingam in the year 1957, aims to provide education on par with global standards for women candidates. The major objective of the institute is to extend its arms to the downtrodden, weaker sections and empower women through education as a nation building activity. Including students with disabilities in the mainstream is one of the inclusive objectives of the institute. The institute has inclusive provision for education of children with disabilities from Early Childhood Care and Education to Ph.D.

The institute is one of the pioneers in the country that offers Teacher Preparation programme for the students with disabilities as early as 1986. The institute offers various programmes Teacher Preparation Programme in Special Education from 1986 (M.Ed from 1986, B.Ed from 1987 and Integrated B.Sc.,B.Ed., M.Ed (First of its kind in India) from 1992 and has prepared on an average of 30 Special Educators per annum , working across the globe.

With this premise, we have the Policy Statement for empowering Persons with Disabilities

The Statement

To empower the Divyangjan with Inclusive, Barrier free and Right Based education in the Human Rights Perspective enshrined in the National and International Policies and Legislations

Objectives

The Policy document serves to outline guidelines to be followed to provide equal opportunity to persons with disabilities and make them realize their potential and thereby leading them to be independent in their education and career

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities (PwD). The Government of India signed UNCRPD and enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 that recognizes that persons with disability are entitled to equal opportunities & rights to participate in the political, social, and economic and self-development activities in all walks of life. In keeping with the developments at the National and International level, the Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore Tamil Nadu, is committed to provide facilities and support to make the *Divyangjan* equitable and independent. Keeping this in view, the institute takes all necessary measures to make the infrastructure and the programmes accessible to all without distinction, providing special measures for those who fall under the category of *Divyangjan*.



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Reservation

As per this provision in RPWD Act 2016, (Section 16) and revised in 2018, the institute has reserve 5% seats in admission to students with benchmark disabilities. To facilitate admission, appointment of a special Coordinator from the Department of Special Education is ensured.

Provision for Accessibility Provisions and Facilities (under section 40 of RPWD Act 2016)

Rule 15 of RPWD Act 2016 deals with accessibility standards for Buildings for barrier-free built environment for persons with disabilities. As per legal provision, the Institute is set to create disabled friendly environment in all major buildings which includes ramp, ramps with rail, accessible toilet, lift, signage, wheel chair and battery car for in campus movement.

To solve academic difficulties, and facilitate equity in education, provisions of reading software for print access such speech synthesizer (JAWS, NVDA etc), electronic reading machine, refreshable Braille display, accessible library facilities, audio/digital books, electronic Braille embosser, and sign language interpreter.

Web Accessibility

Institute create accessible website of its own following WCA.2.1. guidelines in order to facilitate web accessibility to different categories of persons with disabilities

Access Audit

To review the accessibility provisions in terms of infrastructure and communication, an access audit to be conducted once in two years with a team of experts

Examination Policy: Divyangjan guidelines O.M.No.34-2/2015-DD.III(pt), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

In case of persons with benchmark disabilities in the category of blindness, locomotor disability (both arm affected) and cerebral palsy, provision of scribe facility. An extra time of 20 minutes for each one hour answer paper. Apart from extension of time, permission to use computer/laptop for test/examination if the person so desired is permitted and encouraged.

Appointment of Scribes

Subject to the norms fixed by the Avinashilingam Institute, candidates who are eligible to avail services of scribe, the Chief Superintendent for Examination is authorized to appoint scribe according to the following conditions:

1. The person appointed as scribe shall not be an employee of the college at the

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- institute
2. She shall not be a relative of the candidates who is appearing for the examination
 3. The educational qualifications of the scribe shall be less than those of the candidate
 4. A proforma having name and the qualification of the scribe with declaration shall be obtained from the scribe
 5. The proforma signed by the scribe shall be forwarded to the office of the CE along with the voucher for payment, obtained from the scribe
 6. She shall be paid remuneration at the rates fixed by the Institute from the amount allotted for conduct of the examinations.

For benchmark disability scribe/ reader/ lab assistant if so desired by the person.

Facilitating the availability of Scholarship/Fellowship

The information on the availability of financial assistance from State /Central Governments/Non Governmental organizations, Corporate/ Philanthropists for education and rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities to be disseminated and support extended in availing the same.

Recruitment Policy

As per RPWD Act 2016 under section 34, not less than 4% reservation in the appointment for persons with disabilities. The institute to reserve as per provision.

Disability Coordination Committee

A committee called Disability Coordination Committee with representation per faculty from the Department of Special Education, Equal Opportunity Cell, Officer from District Differently Abled Welfare Officer (DDAWO), Persons with Disabilities, and Parents of Persons with disabilities to promote educational and rehabilitative facilities for persons with disabilities.

Placement

The Department of Special Education to facilitate/ refer placement to the outgoing students of the institute. Department of Special Education and Equal Opportunity Cell to collaborate for placement services. For placement, skill training as per requirement to be provided by the Department of Special Education.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3rd December) be observed every year to promote and empower persons with disabilities.

Sensitization

The Department of Special Education to create awareness on promotion of Higher Education for PWD as per UGC Scheme namely Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN) twice a year to the Higher Education Institutions(HEIs)

S. Kousalya

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Sensitization among the public in identification of differently abled in the community and on the concessions, programmes, policies and schemes available at Center and State for education and rehabilitation of PWD with focus on fine-tuning the attitude to facilitate. The Divyangjan enjoy equal participation and Rights.

Capacity building programmes to various professions at various levels as and when required with the funding support from National, International and Corporate bodies to facilitate education and rehabilitation of Divyangjan is planned.

Revision of the policy

The policy may be revised once in 3 years to comply with new norms.

Conclusion

The Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women is committed to uphold the philosophy of inclusion in principle and practice. To make the three pillars: *inclusive, barrier free and right based education* achievable, all stakeholders to join in this mission.



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