

**POLICY FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED (DIVYANGJAN) STUDENTS**

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## CHAPTER – 1 BACKGROUND

There are more than 1 billion disabled persons in the world, which is about 15% of the world population, in other words, nearly 1 of every 7 people is born disabled. Of the total disabled population, more than 253 million are Visually Impaired (Blind), 200 million have Intellectual Disabilities, 466 million are Hearing & Speech Impaired (Deaf & Mute) and 200 million are Wheelchair bound.

In India out of the total population, more than 2.68 crores are disabled, which is 2.21 % of the total population. According to the World Bank, one in every 12 households in India has a person living with disability. Out of total male Indian population, more than 1.5 crores are disabled, with highest in the age group of 10-19 years which stands around 50 lacs. There are more than 1.18 crores disabled women in Indian female population. More than 20.3% of Indians with disabilities have movement disabilities, 18.9% have hearing disabilities, 18.8% are visually impaired and 8% have multiple disabilities.

To ensure a dignified life to the disabled persons, the Government of India passed a legislation called The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which provides that “the appropriate Government shall ensure that the PWD enjoy the right to equality, life with dignity, and respect for his or her own integrity equally with others”. The Act specifically refers to ease of access to public or private buildings, workplaces, commercial activities, public utilities, religious, cultural, leisure or recreational activities, medical or health services, law enforcement agencies, transport infrastructure, among others.

In Jammu & Kashmir there are more than 2 lacs male disabled persons among which more than 1 lac are literate, more than 1.5 lac disabled females with around 50 thousand literate and around 30000 disabled children. There are 8207 disabled male graduates and 3584 female disabled graduates in J&K (Ahmad, 2021).

At the Workplaces and Educational Institutions, Disabled people found it difficult to access the facilities. Some of the common problems faced by the disabled persons and students relate

to accessing the class room, laboratories, washrooms, upper floors of building, library, play grounds, hostel mess and cafeterias etc. Therefore, it becomes imperative to build a disabled friendly environment at the institute level itself. The following facilities can be helpful:

- Build environment with ramps/lifts for easy access to classrooms, laboratories, library etc.
- Signage facility.
- Assistive technology and facilities for persons with disabilities, accessible website, screen-reading software, mechanized equipment.
- Provision for enquiry and information: Human assistance, reader, soft copies, scribe, reading material, screen reading.
- Disabled-friendly washrooms.

## **CHAPTER - 2. POLICY FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED STUDENTS**

The policy is basically meant for creating an environment at the college to enrich higher education learning experiences for differently-abled persons. Differently-abled students should have access to education at all levels, according to the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

The Government Degree College Beerwah is committed to supporting equal educational opportunities for differently-abled students by assisting them in reaching their full potential through structured Students with Disability (SwD) Policy and Procedures in accordance with UGC norms. While the college complies with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and other legal provisions, the goal of this policy is to go above and beyond the legal requirements to provide a fully inclusive environment for students with disabilities.

For students with disabilities, the college offers a comprehensive support system. The college aims to provide total inclusion of all individuals, with full and equal access to academic programmes, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, to enrich the learning experiences of differently-abled students in higher education. None of the students will be subjected to discrimination under any programmes or activities offered by the College. The College will provide an opportunity to the students with disabilities to develop with dignity and equality by providing an

enabling atmosphere in which they can exercise, participate in equal opportunities, and interact with the rest of the student community.

### **I. Objectives of the Policy**

- To provide differently-abled students in higher education with equitable educational opportunities.
- To develop and cultivate an environment that supports positive, knowledgeable, and unprejudiced attitudes towards people with disabilities.
- To provide the college with the resources that differently-abled students require in terms of the physical environment of the campus and facilities, as well as to facilitate online access to educational resources.
- To encourage specially abled students at the institution to speak up for themselves and claim their rights, as well as to educate all relevant stakeholders about the needs and challenges of students with disabilities through workshops and campaigns.
- To implement all current and future legislation and policies pertaining to higher education for differently-abled students.

### **II. Scope of the Policy**

The policy should apply to all campus activities including admissions, academic programmes, financial aid, mentoring, counseling, student health, and placement opportunities, with the principle of individual rights and responsibilities as the primary goal for all pertinent activities involving the college students. When viewed in its totality, each programme or activity must be accessible to otherwise eligible students with disabilities.

### **III. Barrier Free Facility for Differently-abled Persons**

The College aims to provide an inclusive educational framework for all and so strives to create a barrier free and Differently-abled friendly environment in the College. The College works for lifts, ramps, special toilets/bathrooms, Audio Books and other specific facilities for the Differently-abled persons. Efforts are being made for construction of separate reading room facility for Specially-abled students, with adequate availability of Braille books and assistive software (screen reading) and other requisite equipments.'

#### **IV. Enabling Environment**

The enabling environment of the College is one in which individuals with disabilities have no barriers to entering and using all of the facilities therein:

- Entry gates.
- Ramps in the building.
- Emergency exits.
- Lifts/Elevators.
- Adaptation of toilets for differently-abled students.
- Braille and audio Books.
- Signage.
- Curb cuts and slopes in pavement inside College.
- Assistive Technology.

The following facilities to be made available for the Differently-abled Students in the College:

- For students with disabilities, a special admission window is made available, and the admission procedure is simplified on a priority basis.
- The Institution is responsible for ensuring that no qualified disabled student is denied the benefits of or excluded from participation in any programme because of the absence of auxiliary aids & services.
- Auxiliary aids and services, such as translators (Oral), readers, scribes, Assistive/ adapted equipment, and other relevant services or equipment, are available to students as needed for course or Programme accessibility.
- All programmes, services, and activities would be delivered in the most integrated setting possible to meet the needs of disabled students and to encourage interaction among all students, including Differently-abled students.
- Students with disabilities who submit necessary documentation in accordance with legal mandates will be provided with reasonable classroom accommodations.
- Academic requirements should be modified as needed and appropriate to ensure that they do not discriminate against Differently-abled students based on disability or have the impact of discriminating against them. Modifications may include changes in the length of

time permitted for the completion of degree requirements, less or waive- off fee in accordance with the UGC regulations.

- The College may administer or assist in the administration of scholarships, fellowships, or other types of financial support established by management, trusts, or other similar organizations.
- Personal, academic, or career counselling, guidance, and placement services would be provided without discrimination based on disability.

Differently-abled students would have to follow the steps given below to get the most out of the privileges and facilities provided by the college.

#### **V. Documentation Procedure**

- All students seeking disability-related benefits must notify the Principal of the College in writing of the presence of a specific disability.
- Students are responsible for self-identification and providing the College with current and appropriate documentation of a disability. Wherever possible, students may be asked to produce additional documents. The College shall keep the documents pertaining to a student's or applicant's disability confidential.

#### **VI. Examination Procedure**

Subject to the norms established by the College, candidates who are eligible to avail the services of scribes, the Controller of Examinations is authorized to appoint the eligible scribes for the differently-abled students.

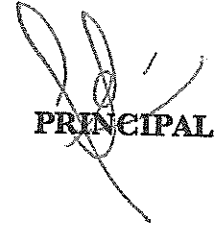
#### **VII. Grievance Procedure**

The college has in place a Grievance Redressal Committee to look after all the grievances/complaints including those from the specially-abled students and ensure timely redressal of the same. Where ever, a specially-abled candidate feels/faces any discrimination or impolite or insensitive behaviour, the candidate may submit a written grievance/complaint to the Grievance Redressal Committee. The college has made different grievance filing procedures available for the students including availability of complaint boxes in the campus, online grievance filing option on the college website.

**Committee Responsible:** Differently-abled and Equal Opportunities Committee

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**PRINCIPAL**



**ANNEXURE - I**

<b>Committee for Specially-abled Students</b>	
Dr. Mudasir Khazer	Convener
Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Dar	Co-convener
Prof. Zahoor Ahmad Shah	Member
Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malla	Member
Prof. Shabir Ahmad Mir	Member