

# The RPwD Act 2016



# Overview

- Earlier known as PWD Act - 1995
- The person with disabilities (Equal Opportunities protection of Rights and full participation) Act, 1995 came into force on February 7, 1996.
- The Act provides for both the preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation of persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for the disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

# Number of Recognized Disability conditions Increased

- Blindness
  - Low Vision
  - Leprosy Cured Persons
  - Hearing Impairment
  - Locomotor Disability
  - Dwarfism
  - Intellectual Disability
  - Mental Illness
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Specific Learning Disabilities
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- Multiple Sclerosis
- Speech and Language Disability
- Thalassemia
- Hemophilia
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Multiple Disabilities
- Acid Attack Victims
- Parkinson's disease
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Chronic Neurological condition

# Main provisions

## Prevention and early detection of disabilities

- Surveys, investigations and research shall be conducted to ascertain the cause of occurrence of disabilities
- Various measures shall be taken to prevent disabilities. Staff at the Primary Health Centre shall be trained to assist in this work
- All the Children shall be screened once in a year for identifying 'at-risk' cases
- Awareness campaigns shall be launched and sponsored to disseminate information
- Measures shall be taken for pre-natal, peri natal, and post-natal care of the mother and child

# EDUCATION

- Every child with disability shall have the rights to free education till the age of 18 years in integrated schools or special schools
- Appropriate transportation, removal of architectural barriers and restructuring of ramps
- modifications in the examination system shall be ensured for the benefit of children with disabilities
- Children with disabilities shall have the right to free books, scholarships, uniform and other learning material
- Special Schools for children with disabilities shall be equipped with vocational training facilities
- Non-formal education shall be promoted for children with disabilities
- Teachers' Training Institutions shall be established to develop requisite manpower
- Parents may move to an appropriate forum for the redressal of grievances regarding the placement of their children with disabilities

# EMPLOYMENT

- 4% of vacancies in government employment shall be reserved for people with disabilities, 1% each for the persons suffering from: Blindness or Low Vision, Hearing Impairment. Locomotor Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy

## **Suitable scheme shall be formulated for**

- The training and welfare of persons with disabilities
- The relaxation of upper age limit
- Regulating the employment
- Health and Safety measures and creation of a non- handicapping, environment in places where persons with disabilities are employed.
- Government Educational Institutes and other Educational Institutes receiving grant from Government shall reserve at least 3% seats for people with disabilities.

# SPECIAL COURTS

Special Courts in each district to handle cases pertaining to the violation of the rights of PwDs

For children with disabilities aged between 6 and 18 years; education will be free. In an attempt to eliminate discrimination, punishment by imprisonment has been mandated for those who intentionally insults or intimidates with intent to humiliate a person with a disability in any place within public view.

The RPWD Act 2016 also provides for creating institutional infrastructure to support the needs of persons with disabilities. In addition, State Governments will setup district-level committees and a separate State Fund for the welfare of PwDs. Similarly, a National level fund will also be set up.