



ISEC Declaration 2018 (Draft) on Mainstreaming Differential Ability in Local Governance and Development

Drawing from the discussions carried out during the National Policy Workshop organised by Sri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair on Decentralization and Development at ISEC, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru during 22-23 February 2018, a Draft document titled as ‘ISEC Declaration 2018 on Mainstreaming Differential Ability in Local Governance and Development’ was formulated. We admit that this document is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive in nature. It is a modest effort to put together certain operational, functional and viable aspects to be taken up for necessary policy advocacy with the Central Government, State Governments, Local Governments, Academic Institutions, Civil Society, etc. **The statements in the ISEC Declaration given below are based on values and ethics, embedded with empathy and manifestation of our efforts towards Mainstreaming Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Local Governance and Development.**



ISEC Declaration 2018 on Mainstreaming Differential Ability in Local Governance and Development’ was formulated. We admit that this document is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive in nature. It is a modest effort to put together certain operational, functional and viable aspects to be taken up for necessary policy advocacy with the Central Government, State Governments, Local Governments, Academic Institutions, Civil Society, etc.

The statements in the ISEC Declaration given below are based on values and ethics, embedded with empathy and manifestation of our efforts towards Mainstreaming Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Local Governance and Development.

Efforts to enhance awareness, orientation and sensitisation of the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 are to be sustained.

Assessment of pre-natal and post-natal assessment is to be ensured, followed by appropriate child-centric initiatives and interventions.

Orientation programme for medical fraternity is to be taken up.

Orientation and sensitisation programmes for the elected functionaries and officials of Local Government Institutions are to be organised.

While issue of birth certificates, issues of physical disability could be indicated.





Mandatory registration and certification of PWDs by a multi-disciplinary team.

Provision of family-based rehabilitation services for children with disability.

Organising capacity building of Anganawadi Workers, ASHA worker and other grass root workers to identify preliminary cases of PWD and take up referral services.

Organising capacity building programmes for the primary and upper primary school teachers to identify the issues of children with learning disability.

The Act, 2016 needs to be analysed to find out the potentials and possibilities of 'Mainstreaming differential ability in Local Governance and Development'.

Creation of Inclusion cell in all educational institutions is to be made.

Establishment of 'Special Schools'.

Encourage inclusive education, with thrust on remedial measures.

Need to integrate 'Special Schools' with 'Inclusive Schools'.

Flexible curriculum, flexible timings, Aids and adaption measures, availability of scribes, enhanced used of ICT, etc.

Skill training centres which caters to development issues of individuals.





Setting up of open employment cells, sheltered workshops and neighbourhood initiatives, depending upon the specific needs, concerns, issues and problems.

Redressal cells for PWDs at various institutions.

Demographic analysis of the issues of PWDs at all stages, especially for the elderly is to be carried out.

Setting up of Group Homes.

Accessible and accommodative housing.

Capacity building of Architects and Civil Engineers for creation of infrastructure for PWDs.

Special Employment Exchange for PWDs or Special Cell/ Wing in the Employment Exchanges to be established district-wise.

Provision of political reservation at all levels for PWDs, at par with the reservation for women, SCs and STs – Both vertical and horizontal reservation.

Specific efforts to check ‘multiple marginalization of women’ among PWDs.

Equal Opportunity Policy, as mandated by the Representation of People’s Act, shall be derived and implemented by every establishment – Government and private.

Health insurance and life insurance for PWDs.





Special focus on safety and protection for PWDs.

Free transport facility with personal attendant.

Subsidy for equipment used by/ for PWDs.

Provision of sign language interpreter for speech and hearing impaired persons.

Introduction of Braille ATMs.

Special provision for making ATMs accessible to PWDs.

Incorporating the Bottom-up approach in the formulation of policy and programmes/schemes for PWDs.

A study on the status of PWDs is to be taken up by the Local Government Institutions (Rural, Urban and Tribal) with thrust on 'Status of PWDs'.

The State Governments who have already formulated the 'Policy for PWDs' need to relook, analyse and incorporate the provisions for 'Mainstreaming differential ability in Local Governance and Development.

Need-based and demand-driven programmes and schemes for PWDs are to be formulated in consultation with all major stakeholders, especially by representatives of organisations 'working with and working for' PWDs.

Sustained advocacy is to be carried out with the State Government who have not formulated any 'Policy for PWDs' to motivate them to come out with the relevant initiative.





More research and development (R & D) initiatives in the sector of assisted technology and equipment for PWDs be encouraged and supported by the Central/State Governments.

Special support systems may be offered for initiation of 'Start-up units' by the PWDs and for the fabrication of assisted equipment for them.

Institutions coming up innovative and differently abled-friendly initiatives need to be encouraged and supported.

A single window system for PWDs is to be considered in all line Department units/ Agencies/ Local Government Institutions.

A Guidebook on various programmes, schemes, scholarships and other support systems/ mechanisms for PWDs is to be prepared, state-wise. A reputed NGO with wide expertise in the area could be assigned the task.

Introduction of a 'Disability Sub plan' at the Local Government Institutions.

Opening of Special Windows in all the Ministries and Departments to ensure the implementation of PWD Act in letter and spirit.

Prepare specific Action Plan to take the Declaration forward.

