

**REPORT ON
AWARENESS ON DISABILITY**

DATE: 5TH MAY, 2022

VENUE: ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

TIME: 10:30AM

Disability is prominent in our society and it is important that we live and work in communities that are inclusive to those with limitations and provide necessary support to them. Hence, awareness programs on disability are very much important.

On the 5th of May, 2022, a few staffs from the State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs, Shillong, Meghalaya, came to St. Edmund's College to conduct an awareness program on disability. The program took place in the college auditorium and began at 10:30am.

The people who attended the program were the students and teachers of the Social Work Department, both UG and PG. The Vice Principle- Sir Monotosh Charkraborty, the Dean- Dr (Mrs) B.W. Nongbri and the Secretary- Dr. (Br) Simon Coelho, also attended the program for some time.



The program started off with a welcome speech by Ms I. A. R. Dorphan, where she quoted Oliver Sacks, saying “I wish for a world that views disability, mental or physical, not as a hindrance but as unique attributes that can be seen as powerful assets if given the right opportunities”.

After giving her warm welcome to all present there, a prayer by the Dean was followed and at 10:36am, the facilitation of the guest speakers was done. She then introduced the first guest speaker, Shri. S. K. Seal, Advisor cum Planning Officer, SRCDA, and handed over the time to him.



At 10:40am, Shri. S. K. Seal started by wishing everyone a very good morning and expressed that it was a great opportunity to have gotten the chance to be there. He congratulated all the student social workers for choosing the course. He then told a short story with a moral that, while working, we should never be egoistic. We have to remove the

“I” and say “we”. He also encouraged the students to be honest and give their best in their profession as social workers and continued by asking one of the

student social workers to read a quote by Albert Einstein, that was on his PPT, saying “Not until the creation and maintenance of decent conditions of life for all men, are recognized and accepted, as a common obligation for all men and all countries- not until then shall we, with a certain degree of justification, be able to speak of mankind as civilized”.



He presented a PPT on ‘Awareness on Implementation of Disability Rehabilitation Programme’ and then talked firstly about two definitions of Disability, defined by the WHO and then mentioned the objectives of the Unique Disability ID (UDID), which are:

- i) Equal opportunities.
- ii) Protection of rights.
- iii) Full participation in nation building.

The UDID provides educational facilities for the children, employment facilities for the adults, affirmative actions and non-discrimination in transport, roads, building environment and employment.

When it comes to education, every disabled child has access to free education in appropriate environment, till 18 years of age, to promote integration of disabled students in normal schools, promote setting up of special schools, vocational training facilities, schemes for non-formal education, set up appropriate cell for redressal of grievances, suitable modification for students with different disabilities and restructuring the curriculum for the benefit of disabled children.

The schemes for non-formal education are to:

- i) Conduct part time classes for disabled children who cannot continue whole time school after class V.
- ii) Conduct special part time for functional literacy for children 16 and above.
- iii) Impart non formal school through available man power in rural areas after appropriate orientation.

- iv) Imparting education through open schools and universities.
- v) Conducting class and discussion through interactive electronic media
- vi) Providing every disabled child free of cost special books and all equipment required for his education.

The 21 types of disabilities are:

- i) Blindness
- ii) Low-vision
- iii) Leprosy cured persons
- iv) Hearing Impairment
- v) Locomotor Disability
- vi) Dwarfism
- vii) Intellectual Disability
- viii) Mental Illness
- ix) Autism Spectrum Disorder
- x) Cerebral Palsy
- xi) Muscular Dystrophy
- xii) Chronic Neurological Conditions
- xiii) Specific Learning Disabilities
- xiv) Multiple Sclerosis
- xv) Speech and language Disability
- xvi) Thalassemia
- xvii) Haemophilia
- xviii) Sickle Cell Disease
- xix) Multiple Disabilities including deaf blindness
- xx) Acid Attack Victim
- xxi) Parkinson's Disease

He then talked about Locomotor Disability, Visual Disability, Mental Retardation (Intellectual disability/ Mentally ill). He also talked about the following:

There are 4 District Resource Centres on Disability affairs (DRCDA) attached to their respective Civil Hospitals viz. Shillong, Tura, Nongstoin and Jowai and 11 District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs) in the 11 districts of Meghalaya; all operated by SRCDA. He also talked about the Network of Field Workers (Office Assistants/MRWs/CBRWs) under SRCDA, district wise.

The activities of SRCDA for the Implementation of Disability Rehabilitation Programme through the District Resource Centres on Disability Affairs (DRCDA) are:

- i) Implementation of Disability Rehabilitation Programmes.
- ii) Issuance of Disability Certificates under UDID Project.
- iii) Awareness and sensitization through camps, press and electronic media.
- iv) Therapeutic services like Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology and Speech Pathology, Vocational Guidance, Clinical Psychology.
- v) Distribution of aids and Appliances, under ADIP Scheme.
- vi) Fabrication of Prothesis and Orthosis.
- vii) Corrective surgery for prevention of disability.
- viii) Other related rehabilitation activities.

The main thrust of SSIRPD is for:

- i) Implementation of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disability (RPD) Act, 2016.
- ii) Prevention of Disability.
- iii) Detection and Early Intervention Programmes on Disabilities.
- iv) Training of manpower: Medical faculties, field workers, rehabilitation professionals, etc.
- v) Awareness and Sensitization to all PwDs along with the parents through Camp Approach and Workshops.
- vi) Treatment for Correction of Disability and Fitment of assistive devices.
- vii) Distribution of assistive/supportive aids and appliances.

They have Sensitization Sessions for the Government Functionaries about:

- i) General Disability Concept
- ii) Rehabilitation Programmes and Facilities
- iii) Disability Rights
- iv) RPD Act, 2016
- v) Miscellaneous related topics on disabilities
- vi) Sharing of data.

They have camp approaches like:

- i) Distribution of Mobility Aids and Appliances.
- ii) Disability Certificates under the UDID Project.
- iii) Awareness Creation.
- iv) Training of Manpower (Medical Faculties, Paramedical Professionals, CBR Workers, etc)
- v) Distribution of Medicines and other services.

The preventions of Disability are:

- i) Right nutrition
- ii) Good health
- iii) Proper immunization
- iv) Management of mother and child at risk.

About the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Scheme, the SRCDA is the Nodal Agency of the State for the Implementation of Dean Dayal ADIP Scheme. Under this Scheme, the Persons with Disabilities are being provided with assistive devices at free of cost, for BPL Group. Below is the Implementation of Meritorious Scholarship Scheme for the Students with Disabilities in the State:

Categories	# of Students	Rate per month (₹)
XI & XII Level	25	₹2,000/- per month
Graduate Level	21	₹3,000/- per month
Post Graduate	8	₹4,000/- per month
Professional Level	4	₹5,000/- per month

Total number of beneficiaries = 58 numbers

Before ending his session, Shri. S. K. Seal reminded everyone there about striving to have an inclusive society, leaving no one behind and giving everyone equal respect and opportunities. He then played a music video called The Love Within, which was sung by a few Khasi singers and a few of them were disabled. The song talked about the power of a loving and that we can make a change when we open our arms to the love within. It was a beautiful song.

Shri. S. K. Seal's session ended at 11:22am and Ms. I. A.R. Dorphang thanked him and said that the video was a beautiful representation of inclusion, hope and love. She then introduced the second guest speaker, Shri. Dylan. R. J. Syiem, State Coordinator, UDID Project, SRCDA, Shillong. She also mentioned that Meghalaya was able to secure and is still holding the 1st position in the implementation and coverage for PwDs under UDID, in the country. The UDID coverage of the PwDs as of 28th April 2022, stands as 25851, a PwD population coverage of 111.72%



At 11:24am, Shri. Dylan. R. J. Syiem began with his session and he firstly thanked the management for having the awareness program on disability. He also thanked the department of Social Work, especially the under graduate department that had invited the SRCDA. He mentioned that it was the first time that they did an awareness program on disability

with an educational institute and also the first time collaborating with the Social Work department. He plans to have more sessions with other departments because he understands that we have to work together, to connect to the youth, who are the next generation. He then started with his presentation on the Disability Act(s) in India. It is important for the student social workers to know about them, so that when they go to the field, they can tell the people what disability is about and what their rights are, so that they can come forward. We have to have love for one another so that we can actually come out and help our fellow disabled friends.

There are two disability Acts that brought about the disability rights in India. First was the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and eleven years later, there were The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which we are currently implementing.

The SRCDA is doing one of the duties and responsibilities of the Act that is required by the state government. The Act provides that the Government must spread awareness and sensitize the general public about issues of persons with disabilities. One of the objectives of awareness programs is to change the mindset of the people, the second is to change the influence of various stake holders.

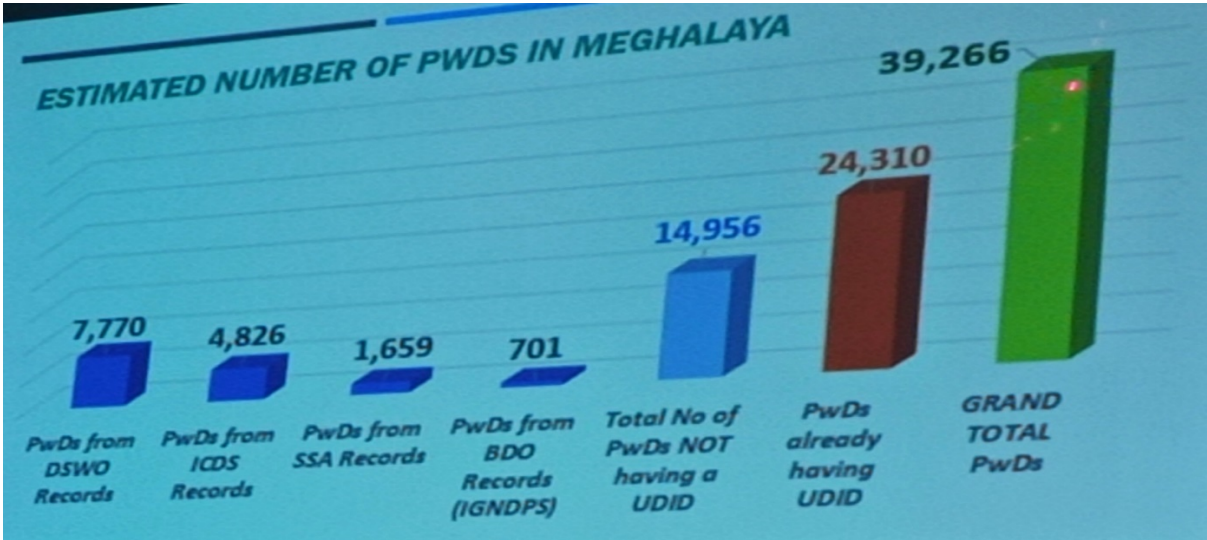
He talked about three reasons why there is a need of a disability Act in India. One is because of the perception in the 1970s and 1980s and second is the perception in the 1990s (Welfare model to a rights-based model). He also talked about discrimination for the disabled and the need of a disability Act. Though the Indian Constitution in its Articles 15 and 16 prohibits discrimination in the matter of employment and access to public facilities on grounds of religion, race caste, sex and place of birth, it is silent on disability. Until 1995 the service

Rules prevented the entry of persons with disability in higher grades of service. There was no census for the disabled from 1941 to 1971. PwDs were excluded from the population census until the 1960s. Only in 2011, the census revealed that over 26.8 million people in India are disabled, i.e. 2.21% of the population.

He then talked about The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The rights and entitlements are:

- i) Right to equality and non-discrimination.
- ii) Women and children with disabilities are more vulnerable than others and therefore, find a special mention in the act.
- iii) Persons with disabilities are entitled to live with their families and within the community and have the right to live an unformed and healthy reproductive life.
- iv) Every person with disability is to be seen as a legal person in the eyes of the law, allowing a person with disability to have his/her own bank account and own property.

He also talked about the community life, protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment, protection and safety, provisions given during covid 19, home and family, accessibility in voting, access to justice, limited guardianship, inclusive education, increasing the capacity of the human resources, skill development, grievance redressal officer, social security, health and rehabilitation, reservation in institutions of higher education, reservation and identification of posts for reservation, chief and state commissioner for persons with disabilities, certification of specified disabilities, the estimated number of PwDs in Meghalaya and background of UDID. UDID Project aims to uniquely identify a person with disability across the nation. Each person with disability in India is given a unique ID card. Any person with disability can apply.



UNIQUE DISABILITY ID (UDID) PROJECT

Each Person with Disability in India is given a **unique ID Card**

UNIQUE DISABILITY ID
Government of India

Mr / Name
RICHARD vsr
Richard Dihar

UD ID
ML0620920030027638

Disability Type
Intellectual Disability

Year of Birth
2003

% of Disability
65% (Sixty Five Percent)

Date of Issue
16/05/2019

Valid upto
16/05/2022

Issuing Authority Sign

UNIQUE DISABILITY ID (UDID) PROJECT

Disability Certificate

Issuing Medical Authority, South West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

Date: 09/11/2017

Certificate No. ML 0620920030027638

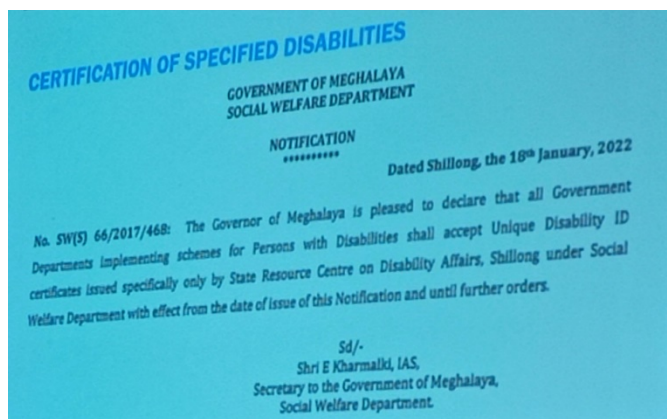
This is to certify that after being carefully examined I am, **Bismahkhyi Tomphikha** daughter of **Shir Bismahkhyi** (Sponsoring Date of Birth: 20/08/2008 Age: 17) having Mental Retardation, Registration No. 1790000001710007002 resident of **North St, Bismahkhyi, South West Khasi Hills District, South West Khasi Hills, State of Jh, Meghalaya** whose strength is as follows, and who is entitled to:

(A) She is a case of hearing impairment
 (B) The diagnosis is her case is **SE PROFOUND HEARING LOSS**

(C) She has **100%** (One hundred percent) mental impairment in relation to her part of body as per guidelines to be specified.

The applicant has submitted the following document(s) in proof of residence:

Name of Document(s): _____



The second guest speaker ended his session at 11:58am and Ms I. A. R. Dorphan thanked him and after that, Shri. S. K. Seal asked all the student social workers to write a sheet of paper about what they want to be in the future and to submit the sheets to the guest speakers at the end of the program.

Ms. I. A. R. Dorphan then introduced the third and last guest speaker, Smti. LarisukRaplant, Manager, District Resource Centre on Disability Affairs and Occupational Therapist, Civil Hospital, Shillong.



At 12:04pm, Smti. LarisukRaplant, wished everyone a very good afternoon and expressed her gratitude to the college. Before starting with her presentation, she asked the students to do some stretching since they have been sitting for quite some time. She then said that no matter what field we come from, we can always contribute to the field of disability, especially social work.

She started off with her topic, 'Disability Rehabilitation'. Disability Rehabilitation is important because it prevents further disability and secondary complications and their lifespan expands. Rehabilitation has therapeutic programs, it restores functions (loss), to new ones, improve abilities that they might need for daily life, achieve their maximum potential for physical, cognitive, social and psychological function, participation in society. Rehabilitation also helps an individual achieve the highest level of function, independence and quality of life possible (QOL).

In the rehabilitation team, they have a physiatrist (PMR) and social worker. In the District Resource Centre on disability affairs, they have:

- i) Audiology and speech therapy.
- ii) Occupational therapy (play therapy, sensory issues, cognitive training, ADLs, adaptive aids, ADL and Adaptive aids, quality of life, splints)
- iii) Prosthesis and orthotist.
- iv) Psychotherapy (Clinical Psychologist)

The problems faced by PwD are:

- i) Lower education accomplishments
- ii) Poorer health conditions
- iii) Higher risk of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional or neglect)
- iv) Higher poverty rates and less economic engagement than people without disabilities
- v) Face discrimination in everyday life
- vi) They are disabled not only by their bodies, but by society as well

A social worker plays a major role in the field of disability. They act as a bridge, guide, counsellor and supervisor. They work alongside with PwDs and families. A social worker helps a PwD in providing:

- i) Space and time to think of the emotional impact on PwD
- ii) Opportunities to discuss on the family mental and emotional tolerance
- iii) Support to develop extra skills needing in parenting a disabled child
- iv) Help find resources in the community to benefit the PwD
- v) Help in application for benefits and services
- vi) Opportunities to connect with other families
- vii) Connection with support groups in the community
- viii) Support when facing additional challenges (health/relationship/money)
- ix) Help with referrals to other services (work closely with other disability teams)

She further talks about the roles of a social worker, rehabilitation council of India, vocational counselling and rehabilitation social work/administration. She ends her session by saying “when everyone else says you can’t, determination says, ‘YOU CAN’ AND TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”



But before she went back to her seat, she invited a cerebral palsy patient, Mr. LarikyrpangNongrum, to share his rehabilitation success story. He firstly expressed his gratitude for being able to be there with everyone. He was able to stand and talk very well, because of the rehabilitation. Since he was one year old,

his parents were wise enough to take him to Civil Hospital, Shillong for treatment. When he was younger, he could never sit, stand, walk nor eat on his own. He went everyday to the hospital for therapy and now he is 23 years old, able to even do his bachelors in sociology. It was touching and encouraging. Everyone gave him a huge round of applause.

At 12:57pm, Ms. I. A. R. Dorphan thanked Smti. LarisukRaplant and Mr. LarikuparNongrum, for their amazing speeches, followed by a question round and the students asked the following questions and the guest speakers answered.

- i) “What is the age for UDID?” and the answer was 5 years and above because before 5 years of age, there is a chance that the child might improve.
- ii) “What is the difference between rights based and welfare model?” and the answer was that in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, people think that helping the disabled is charity, but now it is a right.
- iii) “What is functional literacy?” and the answer was that it is not just sight and hearing, sign language and sense of touch can also be functional literacy.
- iv) “What is the difference between disability and impairment?” and the answer was that disability is harder to recover and impairment can be recovered.

The answers were clear and the session was a good and helpful one.

Ms. I. A. R. Dorphan invited Sir Daniel Kharkongor, one of the BSW teachers to give the vote of thanks. He thanked all the guest speakers, teachers, student reporters and all the students present there, not forgetting Mr. LarikyrpangNongrum who shared about his life story and how rehabilitation can really help. He was an inspiration and the program was a success.

After that vote of thanks, at 1:15pm, the program ended and everyone got light refreshment after.
