

# Andhra Pradesh

## Executive Summary

The state of Andhra Pradesh has not enacted any legislation specifically for persons with disabilities but implements the central 'Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995. The state has also issued a number of notifications and schemes for the benefit of persons with disabilities in the areas of accessibility, education, employment, training, rehabilitation, social protection, transport and healthcare.

The Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens is primarily responsible for the welfare of persons with disabilities in the state and has formulated most of the legal provisions for persons with disabilities. The departments for Education, Housing, Finance, General Administration, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Municipal Administration and Urban Development have issued notifications for persons with disabilities in their sectors.

- Capital: Hyderabad
- Population: 84,655,533
- Population of persons with disabilities: 13,64,981<sup>1</sup>
- HDI Rank: 20<sup>th</sup> (2005)
- Literacy: 67.77 %
- Website: ap.gov.in<sup>2</sup>

## Ministries and Departments

- Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens (erstwhile Women Development, Child Welfare and Disabled Welfare Department).

## Government run Organisations

- Commissionerate of Disabled Welfare
- Andhra Pradesh Vikalangula Cooperative Corporation
- Directorate for the Welfare of the Handicapped

## Legal Provisions

Andhra Pradesh does not have a legislation specifically for persons with disabilities in the state but implements the central legislation – the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 (Persons with Disabilities Act 1995). The Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens provides that any person applying for the facilities, concessions or benefits under the schemes for persons with disabilities offered by either governmental or non-governmental organisations should have a minimum disability of 40 percent in any category as certified by the medical authority as mentioned in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995<sup>3</sup>. The state also issues various schemes, policies and notifications for persons with disabilities. These are listed below under various categories as follows:

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1. <http://socialjustice.nic.in/statewisedisabled.php>

2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andhra\\_Pradesh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andhra_Pradesh)

3. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 27, dated: 09.08.2000.

## **Accessibility**

### **Physical Accessibility**

The state government directs that all the government departments, local authorities and agencies shall provide barrier free environment in all new buildings and public utilities for easy access of persons with disabilities.<sup>4</sup>

The government provides that teachers and lecturers with visual impairment are eligible to receive readers allowance to enable them to engage readers to assist them in accessing various books in order to be able to maintain the required professional knowledge and standards. The rates provided are as follows: secondary grade teachers (including craft instructors) – Rs. 400 per month, school assistants – Rs. 500 per month and junior lecturers and above – Rs. 600 per month.<sup>5</sup>

### **ICT Accessibility**

The government has constituted a committee to prescribe JAWS software knowledge and practical ability instead of or along with typewriting for visually impaired candidates for the posts of typists, stenographers and data entry operators.<sup>6</sup>

### **Education**

The government provides post matric scholarships and tuition and special fees reimbursement to eligible students with disabilities for pursuing their education. Students studying post matric courses in the government or university colleges and institutions as well as those studying in the Category A convenor quota in private colleges are eligible for scholarships and reimbursement of fees. Reimbursement of fees will be granted to all eligible candidates and will be reimbursed directly to the concerned institution. The college management shall not collect fees from the candidates at the time of admission or counselling as the same would be reimbursed to the college by the government.<sup>7</sup>

The government has provided that children with hearing impairment who appear for only the first language and non language papers in their SsC examination and claim exemption from their second and third language papers are also eligible to be awarded first, second or third division according to the marks secured by them in the four papers of the SSC public examination.<sup>8</sup>

The government further extends the following concessions to students with disabilities who appear for the class VII and class X public examinations: The qualifying marks for students with visual impairment or hearing and speech impairment be reduced from 35 to 20 marks, jumbling system in evaluation of the papers of these students be abolished and only trained teachers engaged for the evaluation, the scribe provided to the visually impaired students be of class X, the exemption to hearing impaired students to study only one language and exemption from fees be extended to all students with disabilities and extra time of half an hour for every paper to be extended to all candidates with disabilities in all classes from the seventh to the tenth.<sup>9</sup>

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4. Department for women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 30 Dated: 17.6.2002

5. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 34 Dated: 16.07.2010

6. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O. MS. No. 36 Dated: 03.08.2011

7. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 21 Dated: 3.07.2008

8. Education (Exams) Department G.O.Rt.No.1161 Edn. Dated:24/06.1992

9. Education (Exams) Department G.O.Ms.No. 33 Dated: 19/03.2001

## **Employment and Training**

The government provides three per cent reservation for persons with disabilities in all state government positions trifurcated as one per cent for persons with visual impairment, one per cent for persons with hearing impairment and one per cent for persons with locomotor disabilities. Preference is given to persons having a higher degree of disability.<sup>10</sup> Persons with disabilities are allowed an age relaxation of ten years on the upper age limit for recruitment to government employment. They are also exempted from paying the prescribed application fee for the application submitted to the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission for selection to various posts.<sup>11</sup>

The government provides that the reservation for the various posts earmarked for persons with disabilities should be carried forward for three consecutive years until a suitable candidate is found. In case of non availability of the right candidate even after three years, the posts may be filled by interchanging among the three categories of disabilities after which the reservation would cease to exist. The government also provides for 33 per cent reservation for women with disabilities within the three per cent reservation for persons with disabilities. Reservation for women would be provided on a rotational basis between the three categories.<sup>12</sup>

Persons with disabilities are provided three percent reservation in promotion which is applicable to all the services of the state government where the cadre strength is more than five and to all the candidates who are fully qualified and eligible to hold the post under the existing rules and guidelines.<sup>13</sup>

AP Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act 1987 provides exemption from payment of professional tax to persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup>

The Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department has issued a rural development scheme with rural standard schedule rates for persons with disabilities employed for works taken up for wage employment in rural development. The wage rates for persons with disabilities would be operated at 30 per cent extra over the rural standard schedule rates on items of labour component only. These rates would be allowed only when all the persons of the group are disabled.<sup>15</sup>

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department provides three per cent reservation in the allotment of fair price shops to persons with disabilities.<sup>16</sup> The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department provides that three per cent of the shops and stalls constructed by the municipality would be leased to persons with disabilities for a payment of Rs. 2.50 per square feet or 50 per cent of the rent being paid by the neighbouring shop considering whichever was lower without the regular channel of public auction.<sup>17</sup>

The General Administration Department has made provisions to consider persons with visual impairment who have prosecuted SSC and higher studies directly without the qualification of VII class to be eligible for the posts of attender and other class IV posts in the Andhra Pradesh Last Grade Services without insisting for passing of VII class in case of non availability of visually impaired

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10. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS. NO. 56 Dated: 02.12.2003.

11. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS. No. 22 Dated: 25.05.2011.

12. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.Ms.No. 23 Dated: 26.05.2011.

13. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 42 Dated: 19.10.2011.

14. Revenue Department G.O. Ms. No. 1063 Dated: 02-08-2007.

15. Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department G.O.MS.No. 146 Dated: 24.4.2007.

16. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department G.O.Ms.No.99 Dated: 22-10-1998.

17. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department G.O.Ms.No. 63 M.A Dated: 14.02.1996.

candidates with the basic educational qualifications prescribed for the post in the service rules.<sup>18</sup> The Department has further made provisions to consider all persons with disabilities who have prosecuted higher studies such as graduate and post graduate degrees directly without the qualification of the intermediate posts for Group IV posts such as junior assistants / typists / junior accountants / junior stenographers etc in the AP ministerial services and other relevant services and offices except in the offices of the heads of departments where intermediate is prescribed as the minimum qualification.<sup>19</sup>

The government provides that persons with disabilities are given three per cent reservation in all coaching and training facilities and programmes of welfare departments for competitive examinations irrespective of their caste or religion.<sup>20</sup>

### **Health**

The government has adopted the definitions of the various disabilities as mentioned in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999 and has directed that the guidelines for the evaluation of various disabilities and the procedure for certification issued by the Government of India in 2001 – 2002 be followed in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The department has notified all the district head quarters hospitals / government teaching hospitals as district medical boards and has authorised them to give certificates for persons with disabilities.

For persons with temporary disabilities, the certificates are valid for a period of five years or as specified and for persons with permanent disabilities the certificates are permanently valid. In case of loss of certificate, the person may apply to the board with FIR and the non-traceable certification from the police and a new certificate will be issued within 20 days of application<sup>21</sup>.

The state has constituted disability-wise appellate boards as under:

- Orthopedically DISABLED / locomoter disability / dwarfs / hunchback / muscular dystrophy / leprosy-cured Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad & Gandhi Hospital, Hyderabad
- Blindness / Low vision – Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, Hyderabad
- Mental Retardation – Institute for Mental Health, HYDERABAD & National Institute for Mentally Handicapped
- Mental Illness – State Institute for Mental Health, Hyderabad
- Hearing Impairment – Government ENT Hospital, Koti, Hyderabad

### **Rehabilitation**

The GOVERNMENT extends direct loans to severely challenged students pursuing higher education / professional education for procuring improved prosthetic aids or motorised vehicles from the funds given to the Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Vikalangula Co-operative Corporation under the condition that Rs. 5000 is given as incentive subsidy and the balance amount not exceeding Rs. 60,000 per student is given as direct loan to be recovered in monthly instalments in three years payable from two years after completion of course or on securing a placement considering whichever happens earlier.<sup>22</sup>

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18. General Administration Department G.O.Ms.No. 34 Dated:17-05-2003.

19. General Administration Department G.O Ms.NO.33 Dated:03-02-2003.

20. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.Ms.No. 32, dated: 13.07.2011.

21. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 31, dated: 1.12.2009.

22. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.RT.No. 194, dated: 30.06.2008.

## Social Protection

The government provides special dispensation for severely disabled girls under the Girl Child Protection Scheme (GCPS), the Janashree Bhima Yojna and the Shiksha Sahayog Yojna as per eligibility as prescribed in the GCPS. Girls with severe disabilities will be required to pursue their education beyond class VII to be eligible for educational scholarship under the Shiksha Sahayog Yojna and will have to continue their education to class XII to be eligible for the benefits under GCPS. Girls whose disability is more than 80 per cent are eligible for benefits under GCPS provided the incomes of their parents or their guardians do not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 per annum. In case of girls with more than 80 per cent disability, the conditions of the girl being a single child or part of a family of two girls do not apply and a girl with one or two brothers may also apply for protection under the scheme.<sup>23</sup>

The government has increased the income ceilings of parents / guardians of children with disabilities to Rs. 1,00,000 per annum for the children to be eligible to receive scholarships and fee reimbursements in the categories of: books and instruments to ITI and polytechnic students, supply of musical instruments to professionals, scholarships to mentally retarded students, coaching for typewriting, shorthand and professional examinations and scholarships for research scholars.<sup>24</sup>

The government provides an incentive of Rs. 10,000 to couples for marriages between persons with disabilities and person without disabilities.<sup>25</sup>

Persons with disabilities have been sanctioned benefits like pensions, scholarships, Indira Aavaas Yojna (IAY) houses and economic support schemes as per eligibility criteria and conditions stipulated for each scheme or benefit irrespective of the nature of the benefit to them provided that each benefit / scheme gives a different type of support or rehabilitative support to them.<sup>26</sup>

The government awards a pension of Rs. 500 per month to persons with disabilities<sup>27</sup> This pension is awarded to all persons with disabilities with a minimum disability of 40 per cent irrespective of their age. In case of minor children with disabilities, the pension will be given to the mother or father of the child<sup>28</sup>. The government has made provisions to allot three per cent of housing sites free of cost to persons with disabilities whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 11,000.<sup>29</sup>

It further provides that houses / flats under the Housing Department shall be also allotted to adult, unmarried persons with disabilities treating them as separate units or families. The ground floor of all the houses under the Indira MMS scheme shall be reserved for persons with disabilities and the flats / houses will be designed to be disability friendly. In case of persons with mental disabilities, the house / flat will be allotted to the guardian in the name of the person with the disability.<sup>30</sup>

The government has directed that all the departments and local authorities shall reserve not less than three per cent in terms of physical and financial coverage in all poverty alleviation schemes for the benefit of persons with disabilities.<sup>31</sup>

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23. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Memo No. 7861/JJ/A1/2004, Dated 11.06.2008.

24. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 9 Dated: 10.4.2008.

25. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 18 Dated: 19.6.2008.

26. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 19, Dated: 25.6.2008.

27. Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department G.O.MS.No. 454 Dated: 14.11.2008.

28. Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department G.O.MS.No. 117 Dated: 29.03.2007.

29. Social Welfare Department G.O.Ms.No.133 Dated: 17.09.1997.

30. Housing Department G.O.RT.No. 106 Dated: 27.3.2008.

31. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS.No. 1 Dated: 9.01.2002.

## Transport

The government provides conveyance allowance to persons with disabilities – including hearing and speech impaired employees - at ten per cent of their basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 650 per month<sup>32</sup>. The government also provides vehicle maintenance allowance to persons with disabilities at the following rates: cycles – Rs. 125 per month and for any motorised vehicles like cars, bikes, scooters and mopeds – Rs. 700 per month.<sup>33</sup>

## Miscellaneous

The government has directed that dwarf persons be included in the category of locomotor disabled for the purpose of availing the benefits under government schemes for the disabled.<sup>34</sup>

Sr. No.	Category	Department	Ref. No.	Details
1	Disability	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 27, dated: 09.08.2000	Minimum 40% disability for persons with disabilities
2	Accessibility	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 30 Dated: 17.6.2002	Barrier free environment
3	Accessibility	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 34 Dated: 16.07.2010	Reader's allowance for teachers and lecturers
4	Accessibility	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O. MS. No. 36 Dated: 03.08.2011	Committee for prescribing JAWS software for the visually impaired candidates
5	Education	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 21 Dated: 3.07.2008	Scholarships and reimbursement of fees
6	Education	Education (Exams) Department	G.O.Rt.No.1161 Edn. Dated:24.06.1992	Eligibility for securing divisions in examinations for students with exemptions
7	Education	Education (Exams) Department	G.O.Ms.No. 33 Dated: 19.03.2001	Educational concessions for students with disabilities
8	Employment & Training	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS. NO. 56 Dated: 02.12.2003	3% reservation in employment, preference for those with greater disability
9	Employment & Training	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS. No. 22 Dated:	Relaxation in age limit and exemption

32. Finance Department G.O.Ms.No. 197, dated:06-07-2006.

33. Finance Department G.O.MS.No. 276 Dated: 15.10.2005

34. Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens G.O.MS. No. 20 Dated: 14.7.2005

		Citizens	25.05.2011	from application fees
10	Employment & Training	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.Ms.No. 23 Dated: 26.05.2011	Carrying forward of reservation, interchanging among categories and reservation for women with disabilities
11	Employment & Training	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 42 Dated: 19.10.2011	3% reservation in promotion
12	Employment & Training	Revenue Department	G.O.MS.No. 1063 Dated: 02.08.2007	Exemption from professional tax
13	Employment & Training	Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department	G.O.MS.No. 146 Dated: 24.4.2007	Wages for persons with disabilities employed in rural development
14	Employment & Training	Food, Civil Supplies and consumer Affairs Department	G.O.Ms.No.99 Dated: 22-10-1998.	3% reservation in allotment of fair price shops
15	Employment & Training	Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department	G.O.Ms.No. 63 M.A Dated: 14.02.1996	3% reservation in allotment of municipal shops and stalls
16	Employment & Training	General Administration Department	G.O.Ms.No. 34 Dated:17-05-2003	Class IV posts for the visually impaired without the qualification of standard VII
17	Employment & Training	General Administration Department	G.O Ms.NO.33 Dated:03-02-2003	Group IV posts for persons without the qualification of intermediate
18	Employment & Training	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.Ms.No. 32 Dated: 13.07.2011	3% reservation in coaching and training facilities in welfare departments for competitive exams
19	Health	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 31 Dated: 1.12.2009	Issuing of disability certificates
20	Rehabilitation	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.RT.No. 194 Dated: 30.06.2008	Loans for procuring prosthetic aids and motorised vehicles

21	Social Protection	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	Memo No. 7861/JJ/A1/2004, Dated 11.06.2008	Special dispensation for severely disabled girls and protection under Girl Child Protection Scheme
22	Social Protection	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 9 Dated: 10.4.2008	Increasing the income ceiling of parents / guardians for scholarships / reimbursements to children
23	Social Protection	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 18 Dated: 19.6.2008	Incentive for marriage between disabled and non disabled persons
24	Social Protection	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 19, Dated: 25.6.2008	Sanctioning of multiple benefits
25	Social Protection	Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department	G.O.MS.No. 454 Dated: 14.11.2008	Disability pension increased to Rs. 500
26	Social Protection	Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department	G.O.MS.No. 117 Dated: 29.03.2007	Disability pension to all persons with disabilities
27	Social Protection	Social Welfare Department	G.O.Ms.No.133 Dated: 17.09.1997	Allotment of housing sites for persons with disabilities
28	Social Protection	Housing Department	G.O.RT.No. 106 Dated: 27.3.2008	Allotment of houses / flats under the housing department
29	Social Protection	Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS.No. 1 Dated: 9.01.2002	3% reservation in Coverage in poverty alleviation schemes
30	Transport	Finance Department	G.O.Ms.No. 197 Dated:06-07-2006	Conveyance allowance to persons with disabilities
31	Transport	Finance Department	G.O.MS.No. 276 Dated: 15.10.2005	Vehicle maintenance allowance to persons with disabilities
32	Miscellaneous	<sup>1</sup> Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens	G.O.MS. No. 20 Dated: 14.7.2005	Inclusion of dwarfs in the orthopedically disabled category



## **Non Governmental Organisations**

- Network of Persons with Disabilities Organisations
- Persons with Hearing Impaired Network
- Christian Blind Mission, Hyderabad
- Ashray Akrutu, Hyderabad
- National Association of the Blind, Hyderabad
- Andhra Pradesh Federation of the Blind, Hyderabad