

## Bihar

According to the 2001 Census Report, there are 18, 87,611 persons living with disabilities in the state of Bihar – this number however, is a conservative estimate that requires more detailed examination.<sup>1</sup>

The Directorate of Social Security and Disability<sup>2</sup> is mainly responsible for the care and protection of three categories of persons – these are; persons living with disabilities; older persons; and the destitute. Originally restricted to helping in the aid of the poor and destitute, the Directorate of Social Security was brought under the purview of the Department of Social Welfare in 2007, thus extending the scope of the Directorate of Social Security to include the welfare needs of persons with disabilities and thereby leading to the Directorate of Social Security being rechristened as the Directorate of Social Security and Disability. The Directorate of Social Security and Disability co-ordinates and implements a number of programmes and schemes for the benefit of persons living with disabilities in the state of Bihar.

The Directorate of Social Security and Disability in the state of Bihar is in the process of formulating a comprehensive state policy on disability - this Bihar State Policy on Disability is meant to be an extension of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities and is currently in a draft form awaiting Government approval and notification<sup>3</sup>. The Draft Bihar State Policy has been prepared with the technical support of the World Bank and is meant to bring forth a holistic disability policy that is in compliance with the Biwako Millennium Framework and the UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for PWDs.<sup>4</sup>

According to the Draft Bihar State Policy<sup>5</sup>, World Health Organization statistics estimate that around 10% of the population in the state, is living with some form of disability. The 2001 Census states that persons living with disabilities constitute nearly 3.2% of Bihar's population, with nearly 90% of these persons living in the rural parts of the state (16,92,454 people). Bihar's disabled population consists of 11,31,526 men and 7,56,085 women. 53% of

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1. Bihar State Comprehensive Policy for Persons with Disabilities *available at* <http://gov.bih.nic.in/Documents/Revised-BSPD.pdf>
  2. Introduction to the Bihar Directorate of Social Welfare and Disability *available at* <http://socialwelfare.icdsbih.gov.in/about/Introduction.php?grpID=3>
  3. <http://bit.ly/YtblVg>
  4. Bihar State Comprehensive Policy for Persons with Disabilities *available at* <http://gov.bih.nic.in/Documents/Revised-BSPD.pdf> at p. 1
  5. Bihar State Comprehensive Policy for Persons with Disabilities *available at* <http://gov.bih.nic.in/Documents/Revised-BSPD.pdf> at p. 10

those living with disabilities suffer from visual impairment, 27% suffer from locomotor disabilities, 11% suffer from speech and hearing impairment and 9% live with forms of mental disability.

The Draft Bihar State Policy intends to promote self-representation and the active participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes; inclusion by advocating adequate representation in strategies and activities of all government programmes; and sustainability through the integration of the Draft Bihar State Policy with proper planning and developmental mechanisms<sup>6</sup>. The Draft Bihar State Policy's objectives thus include<sup>7</sup>:

1. Facilitating the inclusion of disability rights, values and practices into Government developmental plans;
2. Developing an integrated management system for the coordination of disability planning, implementation and monitoring in the various wings of the Government;
3. Establishment of State and subsequent District structures like the State Integrated Disability and Rehabilitation Programme so as to create a network between all stakeholders;
4. Initiate and develop capacity-building strategies that will enhance the Government's ability to implement the recommendations proposed in the State Policy Framework and;
5. Promote the development of an action plan that will emphasise programme planning, public education and awareness raising in an effort to transform society's approach towards disability and persons with disabilities.

Besides the Draft Bihar State Policy, the state Government in conjunction with the Directorate of Social Security and Disability has issued a number of schemes and programmes to benefit persons with disabilities in the areas of education, employment, health rights, rehabilitation and social security.

## I. EDUCATION

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6. <http://bit.ly/YtbIVg>

7. <http://bit.ly/YtbIVg>

A list of some of the schemes introduced by the State of Bihar in the field of education are as follows:

Sl. No	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY
1.	Mukhyamantri Nihshaktjan Shiksha Rin Yojana or a scheme offering low interest rate, higher –professional education loans to students with disabilities	Department of Social Welfare
2.	Scheme for stipends to physically handicapped students	Department of Social Welfare

#### A. Financial Assistance:

- i. **Mukhyamantri Nihshaktjan Shiksha Rin (Loan) Yojana<sup>8</sup>:** This scheme was launched in October, 2011 and primarily offers loans to students with disabilities at the simple interest of 4% for the purpose of funding their higher professional education. Under this scheme, the beneficiary at soft interest rates can avail of a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs. The Bihar State Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation disburses the sum through the concerned educational institution and the amount can be used towards expenses such as the payment of entrance fee, tuition or examination fees or hostel fees, purchase of books, stationary or any other significant course related material. It is necessary for the beneficiary to be a resident of Bihar and to belong to the age-group of 18 to 30 years. He or she must also show that they are suffering from at least 40 percent disabilities. Financial assistance will only be provided to those students with disabilities interested in pursuing a degree/diploma course in an institution recognised by the Central or the State Government.
- ii. **Scheme for Stipends to Physically Handicapped Students:** This scheme initiated by the Social Welfare Department provides monetary and other

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8. <http://bit.ly/11IjZqu>

assistance to disabled students from class I to Post Graduate level. The benefits offered by the scheme are as follows:

a. Day Scholars:

- Class I-V : Rs.145 per month
- Class VI-VIII : Rs.165 per month
- Ad hoc Grant of Rs.550 per year
- Transport Allowance of Rs. 50 per month
- Escort Allowance (for the severely disabled) Rs. 50 per month

b. Hostellers:

- Class III-VIII : Rs.360 per month
- Ad hoc grant of Rs. 600 per year
- Class III-VIII : Rs.360 per month
- Ad hoc grant of Rs. 600 per year
- Transport Allowance of Rs.50 per month for students staying outside campus of the educational institute

The scholarship is payable to students of class I-VIII, for 10 months in an academic year, except where the student either joins or leaves the school in the middle of the school year. Students have to provide the concerned authority with the report card of the class passed as a certificate of their promotion to the next class. Candidates must show that they are suffering from 40% disability.

## **B. Special Institutions:**

- i. The Directorate of Social Security and Disability runs eight schools for children with disabilities; three for children who are visually challenged and five for children who are suffering from hearing and speech impediments. Nearly 376 students in these special schools are provided with a state sponsored education, along with access to free food and clothing<sup>9</sup>.
- ii. The Directorate of Social Security and Disability in Bihar also runs an educational institution; namely the Kamala Nehru Disability Vocational Centre<sup>10</sup> that provides persons with disabilities, vocational training in skill based industries such as tailoring, welding, carpentry and so on. Furthermore, the state provides the students of this institution free accommodation, food and clothing and often awards students a stipend amount.

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9. <http://bit.ly/YqL2S9>

10. <http://bit.ly/ZjNhWP>

## II. EMPLOYMENT

- i. **Mukhyamantri Nihshaktjan Swarojgar Yojana**<sup>11</sup>: The scheme has been launched to provide loans to persons with disabilities, interested in self employment and entrepreneurial activities like small scale manufacturing industries, agriculture and so on. The Bihar State Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation is the agency responsible for the implementation of this scheme. Under this scheme, a sum of upto Rs.1.5 lakhs will be provided, at an annual interest rate of 5%. The repayment schedule of the loan begins one year after the sanction of the loan or six months following the initiation of the entrepreneurial venture, whichever is earlier. The loan amount must be repaid within five years of its sanction in equal monthly installments.
- ii. **Reservation in Government Jobs**<sup>12</sup>: The state of Bihar provides for 3% reservation in Government Jobs for persons with disabilities. This reservation includes 1% for the visually impaired, 1% for the hearing impaired and 1% for the orthopaedically challenged.

## III. HEALTH AND REHABILITATION

A list of the schemes relevant to the health care and rehabilitation needs of persons in disabilities, may be found below:

Sl. No	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY
1.	Mukhya Mantri Samarthya Yojana to facilitate rehabilitation	Department of Social Welfare
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances	Department of Social Welfare
3.	Samarthya Scheme to provide rehabilitation to persons with disabilities living below the poverty line	Department of Social Welfare
4.	Financial Assistance Scheme for Intra-	Department of Health

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11. <http://bit.ly/VTPkEh>

12. <http://bit.ly/ZjNoBD>

	<p>Occular lens implants vide N.14-104/2002-380</p>	
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- i. **Mukhya Mantri Samarthya Yojana**<sup>13</sup>: This scheme has been designed to facilitate the physical, social, economic and psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Under this scheme the State Government provides aids and appliances such as tricycles, hearing aids, callipers and similar aids to the beneficiaries of this scheme. The applicant is required to be between the ages of 14 and 60 years and must belong to a family whose annual income does not exceed Rs.1 lakh. The extent of disability of the candidate must be at least 40 per cent.
  
- ii. **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)**<sup>14</sup>: The Scheme is meant to assist persons with disabilities in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that are capable of promoting their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and thereby, enhancing their economic participation. The aids and appliances supplied under the Scheme must be ISI approved. The benefits under this scheme include the reimbursement of the full cost of the aid if the person's income does not exceed Rs.6500 per month, or 50% of the cost of the aid if the income is between Rs.6501 and Rs.10000 per month. Persons are eligible to avail the benefits under this scheme if they have not already received assistance from the Government, local bodies or other non-official organisations during the last 3 years for the same purpose. However, this rule is relaxed for children below 12 years of age by providing the time limit as a year.
  
- iii. **Samarthya Scheme**<sup>15</sup>: This scheme aims at ensuring the physical, social, economic and psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The state government under the scheme proposes to provide aids and appliances such as

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13. <http://bit.ly/VeGCR0>

14. <http://bit.ly/14UbQ09>

15. <http://bit.ly/ZcyjGj>

tricycles, hearing aid, calipers and so on. The applicant must be a physically handicapped person where the extent of disability must be 40% and he must belong to a BPL family having an annual income not exceeding one lakh per annum.

- iv. **Financial Assistance Scheme for Intra-Ocular lens implants:** Under this scheme, the State of Bihar provides for financial assistance to visually impaired persons who wish to undergo intra-ocular lens surgery in an effort to improve their eyesight. The scheme has set a ceiling of Rs.5000 for the implantation surgery and a ceiling of Rs. 10,000 for persons who require aid in purchase of the lens along with the surgery.

#### IV. SOCIAL PROTECTION

A list of the schemes issued by the state of Bihar with reference to social pro

Sl. No	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY
1.	Bihar Disability Pension Scheme, 2007	Department of Social Welfare
2.	Indira Gandhi National Pension Scheme (Guidelines vide No. J- 11012/1/2009 – NSAP)	Department of Social Welfare

- i. **Bihar Disability Pension Scheme, 2007<sup>16</sup>:** Under the Scheme, persons with 40 percent or more disability belonging to any income and age group are covered, provided that they are not availing the benefits of Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme.
- ii. **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme<sup>17</sup>:** This scheme is meant to financially assist disabled people in the country. The State Government offers beneficiaries under this scheme, an amount of Rs.200 per month. The eligibility age under this scheme is between 18 and 64 years and the beneficiary must belong

16. <http://bit.ly/X7451g>

17. <http://bit.ly/WKFtir>

to a household whose income qualifies as that of one below the poverty line. The beneficiary must be suffering from severe disabilities as recognized under the definition of the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and must produce a disability certificate issued in the correct format by the medical board.

#### V. MISCELLANEOUS

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY
1.	Scheme of National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	Department of Social Welfare

- i. The State of Bihar has instituted a scheme of national awards<sup>18</sup> for the empowerment of persons with disabilities in order to encourage persons with disabilities to excel in various fields. The awards include awards for best employee, best creative child, role model and so on. The award is accompanied with a cash incentive.

#### CONTACT PERSONS IN THE STATE

1. Sri Anurag Prasad, Director, Directorate of Social Security and Disability
2. Smt. Madhumita Kumari, Assistant Director, Directorate of Social Security and Disability

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18. <http://bit.ly/13DkH8y>