

# Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has around 1.6 million disabled persons and is the only state with a higher number of women with disability than men.<sup>1</sup> Reservations for persons with disabilities in state services and educational institutions are being provided from 1981 onwards.

The Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (WDAP) is the main department in the State Government that deals with persons with disabilities. However other departments such as the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme (SWNMP) and the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) also extend various benefits and issue schemes for the welfare of disabled persons.

The state of Tamil Nadu has enacted the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Disabled Persons Act, 2007 to provide for a Board for implementing and administering various welfare measures for disabled persons. The Act provides for a definition of the term 'disability' that includes:

- i. visual impairment
- ii. low vision
- iii. hearing impairment
- iv. locomotor disability
- v. mental retardation
- vi. mental illness
- vii. leprosy cured
- viii. cerebral palsy
- ix. autism
- x. multiple disabilities<sup>2</sup>

Persons having a minimum of 40% of any of the above disabilities are recognised as 'person with disability'.<sup>3</sup> The Act also sets up the 'Tamil Nadu Welfare Fund for the Disabled Persons'. The Fund is to be used for the benefit of persons with disabilities in the state such as:

- a. Providing financial assistance to NGOs who take care of mentally retarded persons,
- b. Creating a barrier free environment for disabled persons in public places, work places, schools, colleges, and other institutions,
- c. Providing amenities for setting up special schools in the private sector in such manner that children with disabilities have access to such schools,
- d. Providing training to disabled persons through NGOs

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1. Disabled Population, Office of The Registrar General & Census Commissioner, *available at* [http://censusindia.gov.in/Census\\_And\\_You/disabled\\_population.aspx](http://censusindia.gov.in/Census_And_You/disabled_population.aspx).

2. Section 2(b) of the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Disabled Persons Act, 2007. The PWD Act does not identify cerebral palsy, autism, and multiple disabilities in the definition of 'disability'. The states are free to expand the definition for application within their jurisdiction.

3. Section 2(c) of the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Disabled Persons Act, 2007

- e. Providing subsidy to needy employers who employ disabled persons,
- f. Any other function as prescribed by the government

Tamil Nadu has also enacted the Tamil Nadu Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 2002.

Apart from various benefits that are provided to persons with disabilities through notifications issued from time to time, the state government through its yearly schemes also provides for various forms of assistance to persons with disabilities.

Non-Governmental Organisations in Tamil Nadu working for Persons with Disabilities have to mandatorily get registered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (the PWD Act). The State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Chennai is the only competent authority to register the NGOs under Section 51 of the Act. So far, 185 institutions have obtained registration certificates.<sup>4</sup> Some of the NGOs working for the disabled are:

1. National Federation for the Blind, Tamil Nadu
2. Akshaya, Tamil Nadu
3. Amar Seva Sangam, Tamil Nadu
4. College Students and Graduates Association for Blind, Tamil Nadu
5. The Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu
6. Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of all types of Differently Abled & Caregivers (TARATDAC)

#### I. EDUCATION

A list of all the Notifications and Schemes issued by the State of Tamil Nadu in the field of education are as follows:

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY	DATE ISSUED
<b>RESERVATION</b>			
1.	Reservation of 3% of vacancies in all state public services/education institutions for physically disabled persons.	Social Welfare Department	14.08.1981
2.	Sub reservation of the 3% of seats in educational institutions to be reserved for physically handicapped persons	DPAR	26.02.1988
3.	Implementation of 3% Reservation to disabled persons in educational institutions	SWNMPD	22.05.2003
4.	Separate Reservations for the Hearing Impaired in Engineering Colleges	Higher Education Department	12.09.2001
5.	Reservation in schools under the RTE	School Edu.	19.03.2012

4. Policy Note, Department for Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons 2012-2013

		Dept.	
<b>SPECIAL PROVISIONS</b>			
6.	Age relaxation in admission of physically handicapped students in educational institutions	SWNMPD	03.09.1993
7.	Special Preferences for physically handicapped students wishing to higher education	Education Department	02.08.2010 27.10.1993
8.	Exemption of mentally retarded students studying +1 and +2 from studying one language	SWNMPD	13.08.1999
9.	Exemption from writing one language exams for deaf and dumb students	Education Department	03.03.2009
10.	Time Concession to physically handicapped persons	SWNMPD	29.09.1993
11.	Special provisions for dyslexic, physically handicapped students and students with nervous disorders	Education Department	17.07.2003 28.12.2007
12.	Special provisions for students under Vidya Sagar Scheme in public exams	Education Department	06.03.2006
<b>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</b>			
13.	Scholarship to Differently Abled students	WDAP	25.11.2010
14.	Transfer of Scholarship Scheme to the State Government for disabled students	SWNMPD	27.03.1995
15.	Enhancement of scholarship to physically handicapped students studying from IX std onwards	SWNMPD	31.05.1999
16.	Exemption of Tuition Fee		23.02.2004
17.	Exemption of Examination fees and Appointment of Scribes at free charge for visually impaired students	Education Department	08.07.1974
18.	Exemption for Blind students from paying Exam fees in Colleges and Universities	Higher Education Department	31.12.1997
19.	Prize Scheme for students with disabilities	SWNMPD	29.11.2007
20.	Exemption of paying school fees by physically handicapped students in government aided institutions	SWNMPD	20.09.2008
21.	Exemption of tuition fees by disabled students in aided Universities	Higher Education Department	16.10.2008
22.	Readers Allowance to the Visually Handicapped Persons Enhancement of Reader Allowance	WDAP SWNMPD	07.01.2011 24.02.2004
23.	Scribe allowance	SWNMPD	24.11.1999

MISCELLANEOUS			
24.	Introduction of preparatory classes in pre-school for deaf children	SWNMPD	26.05.2000
25.	Establishment of a Special School for the Mentally Retarded Children	WDAP	15.07.2010

### Reservation of seats

- i. As per section 39 of the PWD Act, reservation in seats for persons with disabilities at a minimum of 3% are to be mandatorily provided in all government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government. From 1981 onwards, even prior to the enactment of the PWD Act, the government of Tamil Nadu has been providing reservations in educational institutions under all kinds of management like government, local bodies and aided management including universities where the rule of reservation is applicable for the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward classes.<sup>5</sup>
- ii. This reservation is being provided under the larger 18% reservation provided to SCSTs, and 50% provided to Backward Classes in the state. The above reservation is provided in the following manner:
  - (a) Out of the 18% seats reserved for persons belonging to SCs and STs, 3 out of every 100 seats shall be reserved for persons with disabilities belonging to the category of SCSTs.
  - (b) Out of the 50% seats reserved for persons belonging to Backward Classes, 3 out of every 100 seats shall be reserved for persons with disabilities belonging to the category of Backward classes.
  - (c) Out of the 32% seats reserved for open competition, 3 out of every 100 seats shall be reserved for persons with disabilities in general category.

The provision of reservation in the above terms is also a pre-condition for the receiving for any form of grant-in-aid from the funds of the government to educational institutions run by local bodies, management, or Universities.

- iii. In 1988<sup>6</sup> the above reservation for persons with disabilities was demarcated as follows:
  - (a) 1% for the Blind
  - (b) 1% for the Deaf, and
  - (c) 1% for the Orthopedically challenged persons
- iv. The High Court of Madras in the case of *Secretary, Education Department v. Master J. Rajkumar*<sup>7</sup> issued directions to the concerned authorities to ensure the strict implementation of the rule of 3% reservation to the disabled in all Governmental education institutions and government-aided institutions. Accordingly the state of TN through the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal

5. G.O. MS. No. 602 datd 14.08.1981

6. G.O. No. 99 dated 26.02.1988

7. W.A. No. 595 of 2003 and W.A.M.P. No. 783 of 2003

Program Department issued directions for implementation of the 3% reservation in educational institutions.<sup>8</sup>

- v. Until 2001 a common roster was being followed for the hearing impaired, orthopedically handicapped and the one-eyed in engineering colleges. From 2001 onwards 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of this special seat was reserved for the hearing impaired instead of having a common merit list.<sup>9</sup>
- vi. The 25% reservation for children from disadvantaged groups provided under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been extended to children with disabilities in the state of Tamil Nadu.<sup>10</sup>

### **Special Provisions**

Apart from reservation, the state government also provides for a number of special provisions to aid physically handicapped students from overcoming their disability and receiving equal and fair opportunities in education through provision of extra time, scribe assistance, age relaxations, etc.

- i. All physically handicapped students are allowed an age relaxation of five years to the maximum prescribed age limit.
- ii. Extra time is provided to persons with disabilities in all examinations to the extent of 50% of the total time but not exceeding one hour. Additionally examination authorities have been vested with authority to provide certain special conditions for all dyslexic and physically handicapped students such as:
  - (a) Extra time
  - (b) Permission to use calculator
  - (c) Use of Clarke's table
  - (d) Provision for someone to read out the question paper along with scribe assistance
  - (e) Exemption from language exams for students with hearing impairment and mental retardation

From 2007 onwards these preferences have also been made applicable to students with nervous disorders.

- iii. Exemption from language examinations: Deaf and Dumb students are exempt from writing one of the language exams in public examinations. Mentally retarded students studying +1 and +2 in both normal and special schools are exempt from studying one of the languages.
- iv. In addition to the above benefits, the government also provides for various course exemptions to enable PH students to study engineering. For the benefit of handicapped students, examinations in shorthand and typewriting have been equated to polytechnic exams in commerce.

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8. D.O. Letter No. 8459/SW4/2003-1 dated 22.05.2003

9. G.O. Ms. No. 267 dated 12.09.2001

10. G.O. Ms. No. 72 dated 19.03.2012

### **Financial Assistance:**

- i. Scholarships: The Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated various scholarship schemes for students with disability from time to time. The Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Program Department make a yearly sanction for the provision of scholarship to differently abled students. In the year 2009-2010 a sum of Rs. 261.00 lakhs was sanctioned. This sanction was also renewed for the year 2010 – 2011.
- ii. Previously the Government of India operated a scholarship scheme for the benefit of physically disabled students. This scheme was transferred to the state government from 1993 onwards.
- iii. In addition to scholarships, the Government also provides prize schemes for students with disabilities securing the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in public exams.
- iv. Exemption from tuition fees and examination fees: The waiver from paying tuition fees in government-aided institutions for disabled students is also provided through a number of notifications at different times. Physically handicapped students studying in government and government-aided colleges in Universities falling under the higher education department are exempted from paying tuition fees.<sup>11</sup> The same is also applicable to physically handicapped students studying in government owned and government aided schools.<sup>12</sup>
- v. From 1974 onwards, the government of Tamil Nadu provides for an exemption to blind students from paying examination fees in all SSLC Public examinations and other examinations conducted by the Commissioner of Government Examinations. Additionally they are also provided with a scribe to assist them in writing exams. From 1997 onwards this exemption has also been extended to blind students studying in Colleges/ Universities.
- vi. Reader and Scribe Allowance: The government annually sanctions money towards paying allowance to Readers to the visually handicapped students studying in schools and colleges. In the year 2009-2010 a sum of Rs. 19 lakhs was granted. This sanction was renewed in the year 2010-2011. Similarly the government also provides for a scribe allowance for the benefit of visually handicapped students studying in schools and colleges to appear in public examinations.

### **Miscellaneous Provisions:**

- i. In order to aid the integration of deaf students in normal schools, the government has introduced preparatory classes in pre-schools in four of the schools for the deaf. The Government has also set up a special school for mentally retarded children in Kattumannarkoil in Cuddalore District. these schools aid in identifying infants and young children with mental retardation and associated disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities,

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11. G.O. No. 429 dated 16.10.2008 (Higher Education Department)

12. G.O. No. 135 dated 20.09.2008 (Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Program Department)

and provide them with special education along with counselling and training to their parents.<sup>13</sup>

- ii. The Government provides for various other benefits such as distribution of Pre-recorded Text CDs and CD players to visually impaired students studying in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std, free uniforms, assistance to buy books in its annual schemes that is released on a yearly basis.

## II. EMPLOYMENT

A list of all the Notifications and Schemes issued by the State of Tamil Nadu in the field of employment are as follows:

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY	DATE ISSUED
<b>RESERVATIONS</b>			
1.	Reservation of 3% of vacancies in all state public services/education institutions for physically disabled persons in the posts where the rule of reservation is applicable for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and other communities	Social Welfare Department	14.08.1981
2.	Amendment to Rule 22 of the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services Rules to include 3% reservations in vacancies for persons with disabilities	DPAR	07.10.1986
3.	Sub reservation of the 3% of the posts in public services to be reserved for physically handicapped persons	DPAR	26.02.1988
4.	Identification and reservation of posts in public services/ educational institutions for disabled in Groups 'A' and 'B'	DPAR	11.04.2005
5.	Identification of posts in 'C' and 'D' group for persons with disabilities		
6.	Roster scheme for reservation of identified posts for the disabled	SWNMPD	22.12.2006 17.07.2008
7.	Constitution of a "High Level Committee" to monitor the provision of reservation for Persons with Disabilities in government jobs	SWNMPD	18.03.2010 27.08.2008
8.	Reservation in teaching and non-teaching posts for the blind and the deaf & dumb.	Education Dept.	23.06.1993
9.	Allocation of 3% seats for differently abled candidates in All India Civil Services Coaching Centre, Chennai for coaching in Union Public Service Commission Preliminary and Main Examination.	DPAR	15.05.2012

<sup>13</sup> G.O. Ms. No. 45 dated 15.07.2010

<b>SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS &amp; PROVISIONS</b>			
10.	Exemption of paying examination fees for the physically disabled persons for recruitment in Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission	DPAR	26.08.2008
11.	Age Relaxation for persons with disabilities	Public Services Dept.	15.04.1964
12.	Blind and Physically Handicapped government staff persons permitted to leave the office early by 15 minutes.	DPAR	24.03.2010 19.08.2008
13.	Transfer of Physically challenged government servants – to be posted near their native place as far as possible. Transfer of Government Servants having mentally retarded children from one station to another	DPAR	22.07.2009 14.05.1991
14.	Transfer of staff in education institutions – special provisions for persons with disabilities	Education Department	15.04.2009
15.	Appointment and Remuneration to Scribes provided by the Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission and extra time for writing examinations	DPAR	02.02.1996 01.02.1989 28.07.1987
16.	Exemption from paying Professional Tax by disabled persons		12.06.1992
17.	Reduction of the minimum age from 45 years to 18 years for getting the pension	SWNMPD	21.12.2011
18.	Recognition of Steno Typist Course by handicapped persons	Education Dept.	27.10.1993
19.	Appointment of deaf persons in public sector undertaking – Exemption from passing of Typewriting examination in one language		05.01.1994
20.	Priority to Disabled persons in recruitment through Employment Exchanges in the Public Services	DPAR	11.11.2011
21.	Appointment of disabled persons in the temporary post of Vocational Guidance Officer	SWNMPD	17.10.2005
22.	Special Recruitment Drive to enable persons with disabilities get employment	SWNMPD	18.03.2010
23.	Recruitment of Blind Teachers in government aided educational institutions	Education Dept.	05.07.1993
<b>TRAINING &amp; MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
24.	General Rules for the Tamil Nadu State & Subordinate Services		
25.	Special Training in Teaching the Visually Impaired,	WDAP	15.07.2010



	Hearing Impaired, and Mentally Retarded		
26.	Implementation of State Resource cum Training Centre for disabled persons	WDAP	25.11.2010
27.	Setting up on Telephone Booths in Hospitals – preference to physically handicapped persons	Health & Family Welfare Dept.	20.03.2003
28.	Definition of the term 'Blind' in reservation of appointment in Public Services	DPAR	2.11.2006
29.	Budget expenditure for training of teachers in physically handicapped schools	SWNMPD	01.09.2005
30.	Unemployment relief for persons with disability	SWNMPD	06.04.2005 22.08.2008
31.	Self Employment Assistance and bank loan assistance	SWNMPD	22.08.2008
32.	Grant of aid to physically handicapped legal practitioners from poor families	SWNMPD	25.01.1994

### Reservations

- i. Prior to the coming into force of the PWD Act, reservations were provided to persons with disabilities from 1981 onwards to the extent of 3% in all state public services in all the posts where the rule of reservation is applicable for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and other communities.<sup>14</sup>
- ii. In 1988, the government of Tamil Nadu issued orders for the above reservation to be provided to physically handicapped persons in the following manner:
  1. Blind – 1%
  2. Deaf – 1%
  3. Orthopaedically Handicapped – 1%<sup>15</sup>
- iii. The above 1988 order also provided a list of posts suitable for persons with disabilities but however the list was only illustrative and not mandatory. Further, in respect of Executive posts, the reservation of 3% was only provided only in Groups 'C' and 'D' and only upon furnishing of certificate of physical fitness from a Medical Board to the effect that their handicap will not affect the performance of the job to which he/she has been selected. No reservation was provided in respect of Executive posts in Groups 'A' and 'B'.
- iv. At present, all the provision regarding recruitment and reservation for physically handicapped persons is contained in the General Rules for the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services (hereinafter referred to as TN Service Rules). Rule 22 provides for 3% reservation to persons with disabilities with a further sub-reservation of 1% each for the visually challenged, orthopedically challenged and the hearing handicapped.
- v. In respect of teaching posts falling under the

14. G.O. MS. No. 602 datd 14.08.1981

15. G.O. No. 99 dated 26.02.1988

- School Education Department,
- Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department
- Social Welfare Department
- Backward Classes and Most-Backward Classes Department

the reservation for blind candidates is 2% and a nil reservation for the deaf. In non-teaching posts in the above departments the reservation for the deaf is 2% and a nil reservation for the blind.

- vi. As of 2005, the Government of Tamil Nadu has under section 32 of the PWD Act identified 117 posts in Groups 'A' and 'B' falling under the purview of Teachers Recruitment Board and the Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission as being suitable for persons with disabilities.<sup>16</sup> The Government has further directed 3% of vacancies in direct recruitment of posts in Groups A and B where rule of reservation is applicable for the SCs/STs, BCs, and other communities to be reserved for disabled persons.
- vii. **Jobs identified for the disabled in Groups C and D – unknown - Number of posts identified**
- viii. In respect of Executive posts, the reservation has now even been extended to Groups 'A' and 'B' in respect of posts identified as suitable for persons with disabilities. However, the condition of requiring the candidate to furnish a medical fitness certificate to the effect that the handicap will not affect the job-performance still remains in respect of all the four Groups.<sup>17</sup>
- ix. All the above reservations were initially being provided on a 100-point roster being divided into 3 blocks. Thus, for every 33 vacancies one disabled person may be selected for horizontal recruitment. From 2008 onwards, the state has shifted to a 200-point roster method divided into 6 blocks with one disabled person selected for every 33 vacancies.
- x. A High Level Committee has also been constituted in the state under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Social Welfare to ensure and monitor the provision of 3% reservation to persons with disabilities in all public services.
- xi. A separate 3% reservation for the physically handicapped (totaling to 9 seats) is also provided in All India Civil Services Coaching Centre where coaching for the examination to the Union Public Service Commission is provided.<sup>18</sup>

### **Special Exemptions and Provisions**

The Government of Tamil Nadu provides for various special benefits to ensure the integration of physically handicapped employees and for the removal of any difficulties.

- i. Exemption from paying examination fees and professional tax: All disabled persons are exempt from paying the examination fees to the exams conducted by the Tamil Nadu Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.<sup>19</sup>

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16. G.O. Ms. No. 53 dated 11.04.2005

17. Rule 22 of the General Rules for the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services.

18. G.O. Ms. No. 77 dated 15.05.2012

19. Rule 5 of the General Rules for the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services. Prior to 2008, only disabled persons whose family income did not exceed Rs. 350/- were eligible for exemption of

Physically disabled persons with total disability in one or both the hands or legs, spastics, totally dumb or deaf persons or totally blind persons are also exempt from paying profession tax under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.<sup>20</sup>

- ii. The upper age limit is relaxed by 10 years for handicapped persons for applying in Government jobs.<sup>21</sup>
- iii. Transfer of physically handicapped employees: The Government has issued various guidelines regarding the transfer of handicapped employees and have directed that physically challenged government servants in all Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' shall be posted near their native places wherever possible. Further employees with mentally retarded children are provided with a choice of posting on sympathetic grounds as facilities for medical help and education of such children are not available everywhere.
- iv. For the benefit of employees with disabilities, all blind and physically handicapped staff are permitted to leave the workplace 15 minutes earlier.<sup>22</sup>
- v. Visually handicapped persons have been allowed to appear for the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Competitive Examinations with the help of scribes.<sup>23</sup>. A scribe allowance along with travel and daily allowance is provided to such persons.
- vi. A special grant is also made in favour of law graduates who are physically handicapped coming from poor families (whose family income does not exceed Rs.12,000 annually). A sum of Rs.3000/- is granted in respect of such persons to aid them register as an advocate and purchase law books necessary to initiate their practice.
- vii. The government also provides for a pension to destitutes above the age of 60 who are incapacitated to earn a living due to blindness leprosy, insanity, paralysis or loss of limb.<sup>24</sup> the minimum age of 60 issued was reduced to 55 in the year 1974 specially for physically handicapped persons. in the year 1975 this age was further reduced to 45 (on a discretionary basis) in individual cases of extreme hardship amongst physically handicapped persons. In the year 2011 the age limit for the beneficiaries under Destitute Differently Abled Pension Scheme is reduced from 45 years to 18 years.
- viii. In order to aid appointment of deaf persons to get employment in Public sector Undertakings, they are exempt from the double qualification of procuring a Higher Grade in the typewriting examination in 2 languages. A qualification in any one of the languages i.e., English or Tamil has been made sufficient for deaf persons for recruitment in Public Sector Undertakings.<sup>25</sup>

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examination fees. The exemption was extended to all physically handicapped candidates from 26.08.2008 onwards.

20. Section 198-H, Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994

21. Rule 53 of the General Rules for the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services

22. G.O. Ms. No. 50 dated 24.03.2010

23. G.O. Ms. No. 720 dated 29.07.1987

24. G.O. Ms. No. 73 dated 22.01.1962

25. G.O. Ms. No. 4 dated 05.01.1994

- ix. In the government run Employment Exchanges, persons with disability have been placed in the 'priority list'. In 2011 the order of priority was amended and differently abled persons were elevated from group III(ii) to Group II(iv).<sup>26</sup>
- x. In 2010 a special recruitment drive was launched to aid persons with disabilities to get employment.<sup>27</sup> The government has instructed all recruiting agencies to clear their backlog of vacancies of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Training & Miscellaneous**

- i. The government of Tamil Nadu currently through the Department of the Differently Abled provides for special training for teaching the Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired and the Mentally Retarded Persons. Further, a secondary teacher training course is being given to orthopedically challenged persons.
- ii. A State Resource cum Training Centre for differently abled persons has been established at Chennai in the year 2003. This centre has been running with the aid of government sanction on an annual basis. A sanction of Rs. 24.45 lakhs has been provided for the year 2010-2011
- iii. The Government also provides with unemployment benefits for persons with disabilities. This was initially only provided for visually handicapped persons, but from the year 2008, it has been extended to all physically handicapped unemployed persons.<sup>28</sup>
- iv. The Government has also issued orders for hospitals to provide for preference to physically handicapped persons to run public telephone booths in their campus.
- v. Apart from the above, each year the Government comes up with a policy note and a set of schemes with various benefits for persons with disabilities such as:
  - a. Unemployment allowance
  - b. Assistance for self-employment
  - c. Special Training in Teaching the visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally retarded

### **III. HEALTH & REHABILITATION**

A list of all the Notifications and Schemes issued by the State of Tamil Nadu in the field of health & rehabilitation are as follows:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ISSUING AUTHORITY</b>	<b>DATE ISSUED</b>
1.	Establishment of 10 Homes for mentally ill persons	WDAP	04.06.2010
2.	Establishment of Day Care Centres for persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy	WDAP	14.06.2010

26. G.O. Ms. No. 149 dated 11.11.2011

27. G.O. Ms. No. 63 dated 18.03.2010

28. G.O. Ms. No. 113 dated 22.08.2008

3.	Scheme – Early Intervention Centres for infants and young children with Hearing Impairment	WDAP	10.11.2011 29.07.2010
4.	Continuance of Early Intervention Centre for infants and young children with hearing impairment	SWNMPD	06.08.2007 29.07.2010 10.11.2011
5.	Setting up District Rehabilitation Centre in Chengalpattu	SWNMPD	27.03.2003
6.	Establishment of 2 day-care centres for mentally challenged children through NGOs in Theni District	SWNMPD	24.06.2003
7.	Formation of Self-help Groups among Physically handicapped persons, commercial sex workers, etc.	SWNMPD	12.09.2003

Health and Rehabilitation efforts in the state of Tamil Nadu mainly comprises of setting up of various care homes and intervention centres for disabled persons.

- i. The state government has initiated the establishment of Homes for mentally ill patients in the state. As per the scheme there are 10 Homes to be established with one Home for every three districts. Homes have been set up in:
  - a. Chennai
  - b. Cuddalore
  - c. Tiruvarur
  - d. Thoothukudi
  - e. Ramanathapuram
  - f. Coimbatore
  - g. Erode
  - h. Trichy
  - i. Salem, and
  - j. Madurai

Each of these homes have social workers, para-medical nurses, wardens, vocational instructors and other support staff necessary to maintain the home and provide proper care and protection to persons with mental illness.

- ii. The government has also initiated a scheme to set up 6 day care centres in the Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Vellore and Tirunelveli districts for persons with Muscular Dystrophy. These centres are set up to provide physiotherapy treatments to persons with Muscular Dystrophy. The government also bears the cost of transport of these patients to the centre as persons afflicted with muscular dystrophy are confined to wheel chairs and have to be brought into these centres in private transport that is user friendly.
- iii. Two day care centres have also been initiated in Theni district for mentally disabled children which provide for care and rehabilitation facilities.

- iv. With regard to infants and children with hearing impairment, Early Intervention Centres to recognise and treat children with hearing impairment were initially established in 10 districts and was later extended even to the other 21 districts. These homes are provided with special educators for the benefit of the children.
- v. The government has also provided a sanction for the formation of Self Help Groups amongst handicapped persons, sex workes, illicit arrack brewers, eunuchs, etc. with the help of voluntary organisations. These groups are provided training and assistance in improving their economic condition.

#### IV. SOCIAL SECURITY

A list of all the Notifications and Schemes issued by the State of Tamil Nadu in the field of social security are as follows:

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY	DATE ISSUED
<b>FINANCIAL &amp; OTHER ASSISTANCE</b>			
1.	Creation of TN Victim Assistance Fund for Differently Abled Persons	WDAP	14.05.2010
2.	Scheme for assisting persons with more than 60% mental retardation and severely handicapped persons	SWNMPD	05.09.2007
3.	Maintenance provision to persons with muscular dystrophy	SWNMPD	22.05.2008
4.	Marriage Assistance for marrying: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Dumb and Deaf</li> <li>ii. One-arm and One-leg</li> <li>iii. Visually handicapped</li> </ol> Extension of Inter-caste marriage assistance to normal persons marrying blind persons	SWNMPD  Social Welfare Dept.	05.10.2009 05.10.2009 25.09.2009  23.05.1986 04.08.1987
5.	Aids and Appliances for physically handicapped persons by state	SWNMPD	12.09.2009
6.	Availing of financial Assistance by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation	SWNMPD	06.05.2008
<b>ISSUE OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATE</b>			
7.	Issue of Disability Certificates	Health & Family Welfare Dep.	08.05.2008 19.06.2008
8.	Amendment to the Tamil Nadu Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 2002	WDAP	17.06.2011
<b>HOUSING &amp; ACCOMODATION</b>			
9.	1% Reservation in allotment of rental quarters	Housing &	10.09.1984

	to physically handicapped persons	Urban Dev. Dep.	
10.	Reservation in housing for persons with disability	Housing and Urban Dev. Dep.	08.12.1982

### Financial & Other Assistance

- i. The government has set up a “Tamil Nadu Victim Assistance Fund for Differently Abled Persons” which provides for compensation to differently abled persons, who become victims of crimes like rape, murder, grievous injury, etc. This has been provided in accordance with the directions of the order of the Madras High Court in the case of                     <sup>29</sup> dated 30.11.2009. The assistance is provided in the following manner:

Sl. No.	Crime	Amount of cash to be paid	To whom it should be paid
1.	Murder	Rs. 10,000/-	To the legal heir
2.	Grievous Injuries	Rs. 5,000/-	To the victim
3.	Rape	Rs. 5,000/-	To the victim

In addition to the above assistance, irrespective of the outcome of the trial , an assistance of Rs. 200/- per day is paid towards expenditure incurred during the trial of the case subject to a maximum of Rs. 2000/- per victim per case. A conveyance amount of Rs. 500 and a sitting allowance of Rs. 800 per sitting is provided to advocates providing free legal services to differently abled persons. Further an Interpreter Allowance of Rs. 300/- is provided to interpreters assisting differently abled persons with speech and hearing impairment during the course of enquiries in police stations and courts.

- ii. Maintenance is provided to 1000 persons with muscular dystrophy in the state upto an amount of Rs. 500 per month in order to cover their medical expenses.
- iii. Persons with more than 60% mental retardation who cannot maintain themselves are entitled to schemes designed for severely handicapped persons. A sum of Rs. 755.35 lakhs has been released for this purpose.
- iv. Marriage Assistance: The state government also provides for financial assistance for persons without any disability marrying persons with disability. By way of the above provision, normal persons marrying persons with disabilities are provided with:
- a. Rs. 10,000/- as marriage assistance, and
  - b. Rs. 10,000 in National Savings Scheme Bond
- v. The government also provides for assistance in purchasing aids and appliances that aid physically disabled persons to achieve mobility and live independently. The state provides for a free supply of the following appliances based on need:
- a. Three-wheelers

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29. W.P. No. 5802/2006

- b. Wheelchairs
  - c. Hearing Aids
  - d. Solar batteries
  - e. Dark Glasses
  - f. Foldable walking stick
  - g. Braille watch
  - h. Foot Support
  - i. Crutches, and
  - j. Artificial limbs
- vi. There are about 23 district central cooperative banks in Tamil Nadu functioning as the agencies for receiving funds from the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. In order to enhance the implementation of the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation Scheme, the government has appointed even all the urban cooperative banks as additional channelizing agencies for selection and forwarding of applications of disabled persons.

#### **Issuing of identity card and Disability Certificate**

- i. Disability Certificate is issued to physically handicapped persons via the provision of the Tamil Nadu Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights, and Full Participation) Rules, 2002. Under the above Rules, the following persons are eligible for a disability certificate:
  - a. Persons with cerebral palsy
  - b. Persons with hearing impairment
  - c. Leprosy cured person
  - d. Persons with locomotor disability
  - e. Multiple Disability
  - f. Mental Illness
  - g. Mental Retardation
  - h. Low Vision/Blind
  - i. Autism
- ii. The above certificate is issued by a Medical Board and no fees is charged for this. The certificate is valid for a period of five years for persons whose disability is temporary.

#### **Housing and Accommodation**

- i. In the area of housing and accommodation facilities, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board provides 1% reservation for persons with disabilities in the allotment of houses. Additionally, 1% of the rental flats constructed under the Tamil Nadu Government Servant Rental Housing Scheme are reserved for physically handicapped Government employees.



## V. TRANSPORT & MOBILITY

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY	DATE ISSUED
1.	Concession in Train Fare and Bus Fare for Persons with Disability	SWNMPD	29.10.2008
2.	Exemption of tax payment on Motor Vehicles adopted for the use of physically handicapped persons	Home (Transport) Dep.	29.12.2006
3.	Conditions for alteration of two wheelers/ four wheelers for use by handicapped persons	Transport Dept.	03.11.2008 06.10.2008 04.11.2008
	Approval of two types of Retro fitment kits for TVS Scooty Pep/ Streak and TVS Wego Motor Cycles	Home Transport Dept.	10.01.2011
4.	Conveyance Allowance for Government Employees who are Blind or Orthopedically Challenged	Finance Dept.	27.06.1989 31.08.1998
5.	Conveyance Allowance to physically handicapped college lecturers	Higher Education Dept.	10.09.1998
6.	Conveyance Allowance to College Lecturers		10.09.1998

- i. Physically Handicapped persons are provided with 75% concession in train and government bus fare.<sup>30</sup>
- ii. Motorized vehicles that are specially designed or adapted for the use of physically handicapped persons are exempt from the payment of tax levied under the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1974.<sup>31</sup>
- iii. Alteration of Motor Vehicles for physically handicapped persons: Alteration of motor vehicles were initially banned by the Government of India under section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Keeping in mind the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities due to the non-availability of invalid carriages in the market, an exception was granted to allow alteration of motor vehicles for the use of physically challenged persons by state governments including the state of Tamil Nadu.<sup>32</sup> Permission is accorded to persons with disabilities upon the production of a medical fitness certificate.

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	ISSUING AUTHORITY	DATE ISSUED
1.	State Awards given during Independence Day	WPAD	08.08.2011

30. G.O. Ms. No. 153 dated 29.10.2008

31. G.O. Ms. No. 3352 dated 29.12.1976

32. Letter R. No. 61095/H2/08 dated 03.11.2008

	and International Day of the Differently Abled		20.06.2011
2.	Creation of Data Base on Disabilities in the state	SWNMPD	05.01.2007
3.	International Day of the Disabled Celebration	SWNMPD	22.12.1995

- i. Apart from provision of various reservations, preferences, concessions and assistance to persons with disabilities, the state of Tamil Nadu also grants special State Awards for persons working towards the empowerment of persons with disabilities. The categories provided for the above purpose are:
  - a. Best Private Employer – For provision of at least 2% employment and additional facilities and benefits to persons with disabilities.
  - b. Best Collector – For undertaking various efforts in rehabilitation and provision of services for the welfare of disabled persons.
  - c. Best District Differently Abled Welfare Officer
  - d. Best Doctor – For doctors practicing in the field of Rehabilitation of Disabled persons, providing special treatments and exemplary services for persons with disabilities.
  - e. Best Social Worker
  - f. Best Institution
- ii. The state has also initiated the creation of a state wide data base on disability to collect information on various indicators such as etiology, onset, type and degree of disability, congenital or acquired, level of education, benefits availed, etc. The data-base is proposed to help in:
  - a. Monitoring and evaluating the current provision of rehabilitation services
  - b. Predicting future service requirements
  - c. Research
- iii. Tamil Nadu also celebrates 3<sup>rd</sup> December every year as the International Day of the Differently Abled Persons and encourages the differently abled persons to show their skills and abilities in various fields of Arts and Sports. On the International Day of the Differently Abled, “State Level Sports Meet” is conducted, and various Aids and Appliances are distributed on this occasion. The Government has issued orders granting special casual leave for this day to all differently abled persons employed in Government Departments / Undertakings to enable them to participate in the function.

**CONTACT PERSONS IN THE STATE:-**

- **For education/scholarship:** contact persons
  - i. District Inspector of Schools.
  - ii. District Education Officer.
  - iii. District Social Welfare Officer.
  - iv. Directorate of Education.
  - v. Superintendent, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped.
  - vi. Principal of School

- **For training:**
  - i. Principal, Industrial Training Institute.
  - ii. Superintendent, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped.
  - iii. Directorate of Employment and Training.
  - iv. Director, Directorate of Technical Education and Training.
  - v. Vocational Training Institute specifically meant for the disabled persons.
  - vi. Industrial Promotion Officer, Block Development Agency of your area.
  - vii. Project Officer, District Rural Development Agency of your district.
  - viii. Manager (Cottage Industries), District Industries Centre of your district.
  - ix. Head of Government Training Institute of your area.
  
- **For employment:**
  - i. Superintendent, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre.
  - ii. Employment Officer of Special Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped of your state.
  - iii. Employment Officer In-charge, Placement cell of Handicapped, District Employment Exchange of your district.
  - iv. Placement Officers of leading voluntary organizations working for employment of disabled persons.
  - v. Refer advertisements of Staff Selection Commission, Union Public Service Commission, Banking Service Recruitment Board, Post and Telegraph department, State Public Service Commission and collectorate advertisements in which number of vacancies are being advertised as reserved for the disabled persons.
  - vi. Director, Directorate of employment.
  
- **For self employment:**
  - i. Superintendent, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre.
  - ii. Director, Directorate of Social Welfare.
  - iii. District Social Welfare Officers.
  - iv. Project Officer, District Rural Development Agency of your district.
  - v. Manager (Cottage Industries), District Industries.
  - vi. All the nationalized banks.
  - vii. Sub-Divisional Officer, Telephone Division of your area for telephone booth.
  - viii. Chairman of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, N.A.C's for allotment of kiosks, selling outlets, license for cart puller etc.
  - ix. President, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Y's Men Club and other social clubs/societies.