Creating a National Resource Kit of Laws, Policies and Programmes for Persons with Disabilities

Quarterly Programmatic Report
(May 15, 2013 to August 15, 2013)

Creating a National Resource Kit of Laws, Policies and Programmes for Person with Disabilities: Quarterly Report

Contents

Highlights

- During this quarter (May to August) draft chapters for seven states were published for comments and feedback. The states are Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Maharashtra. With this we have completed a total of 19 states and 2 union territories.
- Scanned and accessible versions of the schemes and notifications issued by the states of Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Odisha and Uttarakhand have been published for easy reference.
- Information for the state of Madhya Pradesh has been compiled and is awaiting translation.
- In November last year, CIS had sent right to information (RTI) applications seeking information on laws, policies, programmes, schemes and other initiatives for persons with disabilities. We followed up on this with the Commissioners of Disability and Public Information Officers through e-mails and letters in December and have continued to follow up with the non-responsive states through direct calls in the following months. The union territory of Puducherry responded with information on the schemes being implemented for persons with disabilities.
- CIS reached out to state disability commissioners and secretaries of the departments of relevant states to solicit suggestions and feedback on the information compiled for the states of West Bengal, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, Meghalaya, Sikkim and the union territory of Lakshadweep. We also received response from the disability commissioners of the states of West Bengal and Meghalaya.
- CIS established communication with leading non-governmental organizations in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi.
- Information compiled in three languages — Hindi, Marathi and Punjabi — from the four states of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Punjab have been translated into English.

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The following report covers activities from mid-May to mid-August, 2013:

Summary
CIS continued to source and gather information on the disability laws, policies and programmes from various state departments and non-governmental organisations. Information thus collated resulted in draft chapters for six states (Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra), and one union territory (Chandigarh). All these chapters have been published for feedback and comments.

Government Communication
CIS followed up on the RTI applications sent earlier. By mid-May we received responses from eleven states (Kerala, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir), and two union territories (Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu). By mid-August, the union territory of Puducherry also responded with information on schemes and notifications.

Other Developments
The states of Delhi, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh are yet to respond to the RTI applications. Appeals have been sent to the appellate authorities in these states.

CIS solicited feedback from the state disability commissioners and secretaries of relevant departments of ten states (West Bengal, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, Sikkim and Meghalaya) and one union territory (Lakshadweep) on the information presented in the chapters of all these places, and we received responses from the states of West Bengal and Meghalaya.

The office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has shown interest in this project and proposed a joint collaboration on this publication. This is a really good development since this means that we will get access to inputs from states and the CCPD office and will also increase publicity and credibility of the publication.

The Chapters
The following chapters were published in this quarter. Highlights given below (with links to the original on the website):

Punjab Chapter
(by Anandhi Viswanathan, July 31, 2013)
Punjab has not enacted any specific law or state policy for persons with disabilities in the state. The Social Security and Women and Child Development Department, which is primarily responsible for the welfare of persons with disabilities within the state has implemented several schemes for the benefit of persons with disabilities. There are eight schemes in education, seven schemes in employment and four schemes in social protection.

The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-punjab-chapter-call-for-comments.

Uttarakhand Chapter
(by Anandhi Viswanathan, July 31, 2013)
Uttarakhand is yet to enact any specific legislation for persons with disabilities. The state currently implements certain social security schemes and provides scholarships for students with disabilities. The Social Welfare Department and the Directorate of Social Welfare are responsible for the implementation of the schemes and programmes for the welfare of persons with disabilities within the state.

The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-uttarakhand-chapter-call-for-comments.

Sikkim Chapter
(by CLPR, May 30, 2013)
The Social Welfare Division under the Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department is responsible for the welfare of persons with disabilities in the state of Sikkim. The division implements a few schemes and programmes in education, employment and training and social protection for persons with disabilities.

The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-sikkim-chapter-call-for-comments.

Odisha Chapter
(by Anandhi Viswanathan, May 31, 2013)
Odisha has framed the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Amended Odisha Rules 2012. The state has issued two notifications in education, one notification in employment and one notification for health and rehabilitation. The Directorate for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities under the Women and Child Development Department is responsible for the implementation of schemes and programmes within the state.

The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-odisha-call-for-comments.

Jharkhand Chapter
(by CLPR, June 30, 2013)
The Jharkhand State Policy on Disability has been formulated under the provisions enshrined in the Central Policies and laws. The state policy seeks to ensure, *inter alia,* participation, inclusion, barrier free environment, empowerment and self advocacy. The nodal department in charge of the implementation and enforcement of the Rules and Acts concerning Persons with Disabilities is the Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development.

The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-jharkhand-call-for-comments

Maharashtra Chapter
(by Anandhi Viswanathan, July 31, 2013)
The state of Maharashtra is in the process of finalising the Maharashtra State Policy for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The draft is currently under discussion by the government and civil society organisations. The Maharashtra government has issued notifications on providing assistive technologies to disabled employees in government and semi-government services.

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The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-maharashtra-chapter-call-for-comments.

Chandigarh Chapter
(by CLPR, July 31, 2013)
The Department of Social Welfare is responsible for implementing the laws, schemes and policies for the welfare of disabled persons in Chandigarh. Chandigarh has not enacted any specific rules for persons with disabilities but implements the central laws. Chandigarh has implanted a few schemes and programmes in education, employment and social protection.

The full chapter can be accessed at http://cis-india.org/accessibility/blog/national-resource-kit-chandigarh-chapter-call-for-comments.

Challenges
The researchers continue to face the twin challenges of lack of response from the state government and NGOs, and the non-availability of information on the internet and in English. Identification of reliable translation providers has also been a challenge.