

COMPOSITE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT, REHABILITATION & EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, NELLORE, A.P

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1.0. Introduction

The Persons with Disabilities {Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 became operational in February 1997, when the rules for its implementation were notified by the Government of India. The Chapter 6 on employment, Section 38 calls upon Government and local authorities to formulate schemes for ensuring employment of persons with mental retardation. It is therefore envisaged that persons with mental retardation will have wide ranging opportunities to seek employment in all kinds of situation such as self employment, open competitive, supported, group and individual employment.

While there are over nine hundred facilities for special education of the persons with mental retardation in India, facilities for vocational training programmes are only about three hundred. Vocational training programmes which were initiated sometime in 1950s aimed at keeping persons with mental retardation happy and busy rather than training them to be productive and employable.

Initiative undertaken in India in early 1990s has changed the perspective in vocational training. There has been increasing emphasis on remunerative employment rather than on unproductive engagement in occupational activities. Another development that took place was that of looking for open competitive employment for persons with mental retardation. With these two initiatives the vocational training programmes have moved away from the concept of charity and move towards enhancing image of persons with mental retardation as persons who can earn theirown living and can advocate their own cause.

Rapid expansion of group employment situation occurred in India in the 1990s. This became possible with the involvement of groups of parents on one hand and large public sector undertakings on the other, with technical guidance from professionals. The above initiatives have drastically changed the concept of vocational training and employment of persons with mental retardation.

The Manpower Development Report for Mental Retardation developed by Rehabilitation Council of India envisages professional preparation for different categories of functioning: teaching, education, rehabilitation and vocational training, supervision and administration. The objectives of RCI encompass constant revision and updating of courses . In this context the DVTE (MR) course, which was revised in 2000 needs a fresh look on the basis of opinions and suggestions received from various organizations. The RCI has therefore constituted a Core Group to go through the course structure, content, duration and all other allied issues. The present document is the outcome of an exercise that has gone into the process of updating it.

2.0. Nomenclature of the course

Diploma in Vocational Rehabilitation (Mental Retardation) DVR (MR)

3.0. Philosophy Of The Course

With increasing emphasis on productive and remunerative employment of persons with mental retardation, the institutions require trained human resources who can conduct vocational training programmes in a professional manner. Therefore, a composite course was envisaged with components from diverse fields of psychology, special education, engineering, social work, business management, accountancy and book – keeping.

The vocational instructor thus trained should be able to study the job market demands and accordingly undertake training of persons with mental retardation for gainful and remunerative production.

The Curriculam content envisaged in this course correlates to the Job market demands on one hand and conceptual understanding on the other. Therefore, with adequate theory inputs, having emphasis on practical and field placements in real or simulated environments, this course will train vocational instructors to provide services of vocational rehabilitation and adult independent living skills for persons with mental retardation. This is the first level basic course designed for service providers.

Objectives

Overall aim of the course is to prepare a cadre of trained personnel to provide services in the area of vocational rehabilitation including adult independent skills in persons with mental retardation functioning at various levels to lead them towards independent life as far as possible.

More specifically, the objectives are to:

Acquire required knowledge on various aspects such as medical, psychological, educational, technology, community work and management related to vocational rehabilitation and adult independent living of persons with mental retardation.

Demonstrate skills to assess, plan, implement and evaluate vocational training programmes for persons with mental retardation individually and in groups, at various work settings.

Develop competences to contact employers, identify suitable jobs, prepare job analysis and learn possible trades in a professional manner so as to enable to train thepersons with mental retardation in suitable jobs for placement

Acquire the basic skills to prepare jigs and fixtures and transform the technical know- how to develop suitable adaptive devices and TLMs for vocational rehabilitation and adult independent living

Demonstrate skills necessary for providing training to persons with mentalretardation in adult living skills irrespective of their intellectual levels, in various environments such as home, community and work place.

Entry Requirement, Admission Procedure and Number of Seats

Entry requirements

Minimum educational qualifications for admission to the course will be the successful completion of the ten plus two or equivalent examination in general education.

Admission procedure

Each training centre will evolve admission criteria and publish the same in its prospectus. Theadmission procedure will incorporate reservation policy and adhere to the law of the country.

Number of seats

The number of seats at each training centre will be 20.

4.0. Duration of the Course

Ten calendar months – 220 – working days, 7 hrs. Per day, 5 days a week. This duration

includes – Teaching & practicals	: 175 days
Educational tour	: 15 days
Tests & and examination	: 30 days

The training centres are encouraged to arrange block placements for the trainees in otherplaces while doing their practicals for a minimum of 30 days, 210 hours.

5.0. Content of the course

The curriculum consists of predominately practical exercises to develop necessary skills in jobidentification, vocational rehabilitation and independent living skills.

06. Medium of language for examination

The candidate who desires to write the examination in their regional language will be allowed todo so. In such case the interpreters have to be identified to help the examiners.

07.Award of Diploma

08. Based on the results of the examination, successful candidates will be awarded diploma inVocational Rehabilitation (Mental Retardation)