

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 44th MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN), DEHRA DUN HELD ON 2.12.2022 (FRIDAY) AT 10.30 A.M.

The 44th meeting of the General Council was held on 02.12.2022 at 10.30 A.M. under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India through virtual mode.

Members present in the meeting:

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| 1. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal,
President, General Council (NIEPVD) &
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,
New Delhi | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Rajesh Kumar Yadav,
Chairman, Executive Council (NIEPVD) &
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),
MSJ&E,
New Delhi-110003 | Member |
| 3. Shri Sanjay Pandey,
Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser,
MSJ&E, Room No. 610, 'A' Wing , Shastri Bhawan,
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi. | Member |
| 4. Shri Aqib Javed,
Director General, Employment and Training,
Ministry of Labour ,
Government of India, 3/10, Jam Nagar House,
Shahjahan Road ,New Delhi 110011 | Member |
| 5. Shri Satya Bhushan Jain,
54, New Rajdhani Enclave,
Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092 | Member |
| 6. Ms. Vijayalakshmi Vijalvan Joshi,
Tunalka, Naugaon, Uttarakhand,249171 | Member |
| 7. Shri Karmendra Singh,
Commissioner Disabilities & Under Secretary | Member |

Representative, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare,
Government of Uttarakhand

8. Shri Mrityunjay Jha,
Deputy Secretary,
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
(Divyangjan), MSJ&E, New Delhi

Special Invitee

9. Dr. Himangshu Das,
Director,
NIEPVD, Dehradun

Member Secretary

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 42ND AND 43RD MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Since no comments were received, the Council confirmed the Minutes of the 42nd and 43rd meetings of the General Council held on 23rd March, 2022 and 10th June, 2022 respectively.

ITEM NO. 2 REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE MINUTES OF THE 42ND AND 43RD MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The Council noted the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 42nd and 43rd meetings of the General Council held on 23rd March, 2022 and 10th June, 2022 respectively.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

The Director, NIEPVD made a power-point presentation on the glimpses of the Annual Report for the year 2021. The Council approved the draft Annual Report of the Institute for the year 2021-22 with the following observations:

- i. In order to increase the enrollment of students in HRD courses “D.Ed. Spl. Edu. (V.I.), B.Ed. Edu. (V.I.) MD/DB, M.Ed. Edu. (V.I.), M.Phil in Clinical Psychology & Rehab. Psychology, Post Graduate Diploma in Rehab. Psychology and other new courses”, and skilling courses the Council approved 'in principle' construction of one additional hostel each for male and female students as per seat requirement. The Chairperson directed to submit the proposal to DEPwD immediately.
- ii. The Council also approved 'in principle' the additions of computer labs and classrooms as per the RCI norms for quality output of training.
- iii. As regards, National Board of Examination and Rehabilitation (NBER) Cell of RCI (NBER), the Council advised to strictly adhere to RCI Schedule of Examination and conduct the examinations accordingly .

- iv. The Council directed to send a list of toppers in all HRD courses so that they could be invited in the convocation ceremony of graduates along with their parents being planned to be conducted in Delhi.
- v. As regards, Teachers Training Centre being funded by the Institute, the Council directed that all TCTVHs should be run from the premises of the Institute's RCs and CRC only and fully manned by the NIEPVD staff. The Council further directed that either these centers should be adopted fully by NIEPVD or the NGOs/State Government must run them independently at their level.
- vi. As regards production of Braille appliances by the Institute's Workshop for Manufacturing of Braille appliances, the Council directed to get the patenting of all the products being manufactured by the Institute. The Council further advised that for patenting, for development of new designs & R&D projects IIT Roorkee and IIT Chennai may be approached. The Council also advised to expand its collaborative efforts with IITs or other higher education institutes of repute for product designing. The Council directed to adopt the latest technology in lieu of traditional technology presently being adopted by the Institute's Workshop.
- vii. The Council further directed that the Institute's Workshop building for Manufacturing Braille Appliances along with its machinery and equipment may be revived. For this purpose CSR/startups may be approached for its revival with revenue sharing model. The Chairperson directed NIEPVD to immediately collaborate with ALIMCO for scaling up the production & sale of application for PwVD.
- vii. The Council advised to establish Assistive Technologies Resource Centre at the Institute and at other organizations working in the field of visual disability.
- viii. As regards Research and Development Projects, the Council advised that all HRD students may take up the R&D activities during their course of studies. The Council further advised that the quality of output should be improved. Students and Professors should contribute with their papers and articles in the RCI/other scientific quarterly journals.
 - Regarding the Project on Designing of Pre-School Educational Kit, the Council directed that the field trial of the ADIP kit should be ensured with the larger group.
 - Regarding the Project on Annotated Bibliography of Special Education, the Council directed to create open source of copyrights publications.
- ix. As regards distribution of assistive devices under ADIP Scheme, the Council directed to tie up with ALIMCO or other Start Ups to establish a start-up of the ADIP devices. For this purpose, the Council directed to conduct a meeting and submit a detailed proposal to the Department within a month.
 - The Council directed that the survey of the Schools in Dehradun, Education Departments such as SSA, employees covered under

CGHS, geriatric people who are in need of spectacles and low vision devices should be conducted.

- Functional assessment of children with low vision should be conducted in order to know their classroom requirement and planning teaching strategies for them.
- x. As regards placement, the Council directed to submit the details of 88 placements effected during 2021-22 to DEPwD with their telephone numbers for tracking their record. The Council also directed to develop placement tracking system at the Institute and the database of the pass-out students (both HRD and Skilling) from the Institute under various courses.
- xi. As regards production of Braille books by the Institute's Central Braille Press, the Council advised to produce tactile books or maps for school going children for ensuring accessibility to the children with visual impairment and for better learning outcome.
- xii. The Council further directed that a list of private Braille Presses who have not taken grant from the Government's Braille Press Scheme and are working efficiently may be submitted to DEPwD.
- xiii. Braille printing machines of the Braille Presses who are not functioning properly, may be taken back and be re-deployed at the Braille Presses who are working well to improve their Braille printing capacity and for timely availability of Braille text books to the school going children.
- xiv. The Council directed to conduct the capacity building and upgradation training programmes for the personnel engaged in Braille production. The Chairman of the Council also advised that the demand of large print books, audio books and E books for low vision should be completed on time. The Council also directed that since there is no provision for distribution of large print books to the low vision children in the Braille Press Scheme, therefore, the Scheme may be reviewed for inclusion of the large print books, audio books and E books in the Scheme.
- xv. The GC member Ms. Vijayalakshmi Vijalvan Joshi enquired about the free distribution of large print books to the children studying from Class IX onward. The Chairman, GC directed to obtain the details of text books from NCERT and other Education Boards for their production.
- xvi. As regards audio books production, the Council directed to submit the catalogue of books indicating title of the book, subject and year of audio book production. The Council also directed to get in touch with the publisher for audio book conversion on law, medical, and other courses of studies.
- xvii. The Council directed that the list of blind achievers in the country should be prepared and submitted to DEPwD so that they could be used as ambassadors to spread awareness.
- xviii. The Council directed to submit a plan for establishment of museum; mandir etc. incorporating accessibility features so that the persons with visual impairment can experience them.

The Council further directed to submit the list of dedicated officers to be involved in the project for developing museum and mandir with accessibility features including existing monuments and other places of historical importance.

- xix. As regards CRCs, the Council directed that the posts of CRC Directors should be filled up at the earliest without any further delay.
- xx. The Council directed DEPwD officials to compile 10-12 important judgments of High /Supreme Courts passed for persons with visual impairment and circulate the same to all NIs.
- xxi. As regards CRC, Gorakhpur, the Council directed that the CRC should conduct a survey of persons with loco-motor disabilities including congenital deformities in Gorakhpur to provide them treatment or Prosthetics & Orthotics devices.

ITEM NO. 4. TO CONSIDER ANNUAL ACCOUNTS WITH BALANCE SHEET & DRAFT SAR FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

The Council approved the Audited Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Institute for the year 2021-2022 and authorized chairperson to consider and approve final audit certificate.

ITEM NO. 5. TO CONSIDER REVISED ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2023-24

The Council approved the Revised Estimates for the year 2022-2023 and Budget Estimates for the next financial year 2023-2024 subject to availability of funds. The Council further advised to submit the revised BE 2023-24 under RE incorporating requirement of funds for new programmes/buildings/projects.

The Council directed that the CSR funding should be reflected in the Budget. The Council further advised that the efforts should be made to improve the accounting system for displaying Internal Accruals in the Annual Accounts.

ITEM NO. 6 ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. One of the GC members Ms. Vijayalakshmi Vijalvan Joshi from Uttarkashi raised the issue for stopping the funding to the Hill Model of Inclusive Education at Village Tunalka, District Uttarkashi. The Chairman, GC conveyed that the matter is being taken up by DEPwD separately.
2. The Council approved the proposal for establishment & running of concept model Inclusive KV School in principle by KV Sangathana, Ministry of Education in NIEPVD premises.

3. As regards need for more classrooms & Labs for HRD Courses & Clinical services; the Chairman, GC suggested to submit proposal to DEPwD as per need of the Institute.
4. As regards, infrastructure required for the new building of Vocational Training Centre the council directed that the requirements in terms of machinery and equipment for the classrooms and lab may be submitted in the EC meeting for consideration.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
