

About the Department

The Department of Mass Education Extension has under its administrative control two Directorates.

- (1) Directorate of Mass Education Extension
- (2) Directorate of Library Services.

Besides, West Bengal State Literacy Mission Authority (WBSLA), a body registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961, functions under the overall administrative control of the Department.

The MEE & LS Department contributes towards the education and vocational training of specially abled children having Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment and Mental Retardation through 74 Sponsored Special Schools and 79 Academically Recognized Institutions all over the West Bengal. Presently, there are 10,126 specially-abled students. In keeping with the policy framework of the Government for coverage of larger number of children under the social safety net, the State Government's effort is on to strengthen the infrastructural facilities of the existing 50 units of Social Welfare Homes (39 Aided Welfare Homes & 10 State Welfare Homes and 01 Sponsored Welfare Home) of the State. In 50 units of Social Welfare Homes under the administrative control of this Directorate around 5700 inmates are taken care of.

West Bengal has a network of public libraries comprising of 13 Government Libraries and 2460 Govt. Sponsored Public Libraries. State Central Library is at the Apex of the Public Library system of West Bengal. There are 6 Government District Libraries and 19 Government Sponsored District Libraries. There are 4 other Government Libraries and one Government Library of special status namely Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library. Also, there are 232 Town / Sub-divisional libraries, 2209 Primary Unit / Rural Library spread over all the districts of West Bengal. These apart, there are 7 Govt. Aided Libraries run by Voluntary Organizations.