

A Report

Workshop on Career Counselling for Children with Disabilities

Organized by:

Rajasthan Bal Adhikaar Sarkshan Sajha Abhiyan Alliance

UNICEF

Date:

24th December 2022

Venue:

Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur

Background

For more than a decade, the Bal Adhikar Sarkshan Sajha Abhiyan Alliance, a strong network raising collective voices and influencing the policies related to issues of children & adolescents' rights, care, and protection in the state of Rajasthan. It is also supporting children with counseling services, legal support, and provides learning labs to adolescents for expressing and raising their issues through theatre & natak toli as a profound way of communication in the community.

Realizing the necessity of enhancing awareness among Children with Disability (CwD) and their families on the Rights to Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPWD), sharing the positive changes, and advocating the gaps in the existing Act at the state level for preventing them from re-victimization and including their issues in the State Youth Policy, a “workshop on understanding challenges of CwD with different groups of disabled people” was organized in the association of UNICEF at Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur on 19th November 2022. In this first-ever effort to bring together the voices of people with disability on a common platform, a total of 120 people participated. Which included Specially-abled children, students & people, Para Olympians, their parents, Special educators, Academicians, NGOs, Advocates, Government officials, representatives of UN agencies

Preface

The overwhelming participation in the workshop held on understanding the challenges of Children with Disabilities (CwD) in November 2022, demanded a counseling workshop with the aim of streamlining their education, employment, empowerment, and their overall development.

Therefore, Bal Adhikar Sarkshan Sajha Abhiyan Alliance in association with the Support Foundation for Autism and Development Disability and UNICEF organized a workshop “Dishaye” on career counseling for the disabled at Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur on 24th December 2022. The devastating response received, about 300 people including disabled children, their parents, NGOs, activists, and government department from Jaipur, Jhalawar, Ajmer, Dausa, Tonk, Baran, SriGanganagar, Alwar, Sikar, Udaipur, Sawai Madhopur, Bikaner, Kaurali, Jaisalmer, Bhilwara, Dholpur, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, Kota, Jodhpur, Bundi, and other states including Mumbai, Gwalior (MP), Firozabad (UP) participated in the workshop. The workshop and deliberation were one of the unique initiatives in the state.

Proceedings

Welcome & Introduction

Mr. Vijay Goyal-Director, Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), Ms. Pratibha Bhatnagar-Secretary, Support Foundation for Autism and Development Disability and Mr. Sharad Tripathi-Assistant Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Gol, New Delhi welcomed and appreciated all the participants for their interest, motivation & presence in making the workshop effective. The objectives and schedule of the workshop were shared and also motivated the participants to take maximum benefit from the deliberations during the day for streamlining them with government schemes and employment opportunities.

Plenary Session

With the aim of orienting the participants on varied government schemes and job opportunities offered by different departments & agencies for disabled people, a plenary session was conducted for all members to attend. The representatives shared and explained the scopes under education, vocational training, and career options.

Rajiv Gandhi Centre of Advanced Technology (R-CAT):

R-CAT is managed under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology & Communication and the Government of Rajasthan (GoR). It is offering training and global certification programs in emerging technologies. Organizing Quiz-a-thon 2023 for promoting 100% scholarship, in which disabled students who achieve 60% marks are eligible for the 100% scholarship for IT training. Also starting the psychometric assessments for the students to know and understand their career of interest.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti:

It is the world's largest organization for the disabled providing them with artificial limbs (including the Jaipur foot), calipers, crutches, ambulatory aids like wheelchairs, and other aids and appliances totally free of cost. Having branches of the organization in India and abroad to cater to the needs of differently-abled people.

Mukhyamanti Laghu Udhog Protsahan Yojana:

This scheme has been launched with the objective of providing subsidized loans through banks to facilitate the establishment of enterprises in the state and to provide new employment opportunities to all sections of society with low-interest rates. Also shared briefly about Mukhyamanti Laghu Protsahan Vaahan Yojana and Balika Durust Yoajana to the participants.

Indira Gandhi National Open University:

National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS) caters to the educational, vocational, and rehabilitation needs of persons with disabilities (PwD) through a wide range of activities. Having two cycles of admission in the year i.e. January and June. Students who are studying at Indira Gandhi National Open University and have disabilities can now opt for scholarship options provided by IGNOU. Launched Rojagar Parakh Shiksha for disabled children, which provides study material. The Rajasthan government will reimburse the fees of women. They can take admission without TC or a migration certificate. About 2500 courses are offered by the university for all sections of society.

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS):

NIOS established in 1989 and provides a number of Vocational, Life Enrichment and community oriented courses besides General and Academic Courses at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. It also offers Elementary level Courses through its Open Basic Education Programmes (OBE).

Institute of Hotel Management:

It provides the right kind of guidance, advice, and counseling which shall enable the students to prepare themselves for a progressive career in the hospitality industry. It offers hunar se rozgar tak and entrepreneurship programs, skill development and certification programs, etc.

National Career Service Centre:

It brings together Job Seekers, Employers, Skill Providers, Career Counsellors, Local Service Providers, Career Centers, Placement Organizations, Households, and Government Departments on a common platform through the efficient use of information technology. Also providing vocational rehabilitation of PwDs and those from weak social, economic, and educational backgrounds remained a challenge, especially for those that could not pursue formal technical or vocational education with the provision of a stipend.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. Free legal services in civil and criminal matters for those poor and marginalized people who cannot afford the services of a lawyer for the conduct of a case or legal proceedings in any court, tribunal, or authority.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

Provides industry relevant skill training that helps in securing a better livelihood. Offers free (lodging & boarding free) training courses like computer operator, human networking, hotel management, software development, etc even for school dropouts with guaranteed placement.

Dr.Reddy's Foundation:

Assisting disadvantaged people to have access to quality education and develop skills to keep pace with modern day challenges. It provides free of cost 60 days of training with assured placement by inviting companies for the campus interview.

Stalls & Exhibition

For comprehensive assistance, all the above departments & agencies displayed exhibition stalls with more information in form of visuals, signage, graphics, and deep insights about them to enable the participants for heading toward their aspirations.

The participants expressed gratitude for organizing such an informative, interesting, and useful workshop as the broad range of content provided in the deliberative process during the workshop.

Closing Remarks

Towards the end of the workshop, Dr. Kamlesh Meena, Assistant Regional Director at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Sawai Madhopur, appreciated the organizers for conducting a career counseling workshop for disabled young people. The participants received the right information and guidance for facilitating them to choose their destinies. Such deliberations are helpful in making informed and responsible decisions and also help in the personal development of an individual as well. Further, the organizers were congratulated for the superlative arrangements during the workshop.