

7.1.7. Policy Document - Disabled Friendly and Barrier Free Environment

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REGISTRAR

Karpagam Academy of Higher Education
(Deemed to be University Under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)
Pollachi Main Road, Eachanari Post,
Coimbatore - 641 021.



7.1.7

The Institution has disabled-friendly, barrier free environment

POLICY DOCUMENT FOR DISABLED FRIENDLY AND BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT

Persons with disabilities have remained an invisible, silent & marginal part of the populace for long and have been subject to exclusion, discrimination, oppression & inhumane treatment; a person with disability is viewed as an individual who ‘lacked’ something naturally which justified such exclusion and isolation in society. They had no freedom to decide their place of living, studying and working, thus depriving them of their basic human rights.

‘Disability’ can no longer be confined within the views expounded by various definitions that attempt to narrow its scope to physical or pathological abnormalities. Though terms such as handicapped, disabled, physically challenged & crippled are used to address persons with disability, it is mainly characterized by a pathological view. Disability can therefore be said to be the state of an individual, who faces limitations in the activities he/she can pursue, or who cannot freely participate in the workings of day to day affairs and who suffers from some form of impairment.

According to current definitions in the context of Indian laws, “persons with disabilities” would mean to include anyone who suffers a minimum 40% disability and it must be certified by a medical authority specified by the government. This medical model of disability shifts the onus of responsibility and pressure to persons with disabilities to continually strive for rehabilitation, treatments & medical interventions.

The goal of implementing a fully inclusive & accessible educational system will be incomplete if students with less than 40% disabilities are excluded from the definition of disability.

Reasonable criteria needs to be formulated after a thorough need-based assessment is done of students with less than 40% disabilities so as to determine the provisions or concessions they can be granted with the goal of ensuring that the education they receive is 'inclusive' of them.

'Disabled students' count is Indian Institutions 0.56%. Of 15,21,438 students studying in Higher Education, there are only 8449 students with disabilities which is mere 0.56% of the total according to a survey on Status of Disability in Higher Education. Accordingly to the Third edition of the survey by National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People, 74.08% of these were males and 22.7% females. In terms of disability wise breakup students with orthopedic disabilities are 46.67%, students with visual impairment are 32.13%, students with speech / hearing impairment are 5.16% and students with other disabilities are 16.05%.

Having understood the requirements of Disabled the Karpagam Academy of Higher Education offer distinctive amenities for the physically challenged students and persons to impart quality education and to bring them into the main stream of the society as an employee / entrepreneur. The institution has a social responsibility and perception that physically challenged students should be respected and treated as a normal human being. To fulfill the above goals, the KAHE has drafted following policies for the benefit of Physically Challenged Students.

- ❖ To follow Government norms of students admission process
- ❖ To provide guidance and counseling for physically challenged students on the type of course they could study in the higher education institutions
- ❖ To assist physically challenged students to obtain employment in Public as well as in Private Sector
- ❖ To provide ramp and lift facilities for physically challenged students for easy access to class rooms
- ❖ To offer separate wash rooms for physically challenged students

- ❖ To offer scribe facility to the needy human assistance
- ❖ To provide software facilities for Visual Challenged Students for enriching their knowledge
- ❖ To make Institution website easily accessible by person with disabilities.
- ❖ To constitute Internal Committee at Institution level to ascertain and to address their requirements
- ❖ To provide relaxation up to a maximum of 5 years to the person with disabilities in admission to various programmes.
- ❖ To offer Non-Visual Desktop Access for Visually Challenged students for reading course based E- Contents and for accessing Internet on computers, which assist in enriching their knowledge
- ❖ To conduct skill-upgradation programmes like sign languages
- ❖ To adhere Government norms of allocating 3% reservation for disabled people in Jobs (Teaching and Non-teaching)
- ❖ To offer 5% relaxation (i.e from 55% to 50%) of marks at Master's and 5% relaxation at graduate level under the term of 'Good Academic Record par with SC / ST Candidates to the physically and visually handicapped candidates for appointment.

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