

## **CENTRE FOR RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD) REPORT 2019-2020**

The center for disability is a clinical experience for awareness and sensitization of persons with disabilities, with an objective to provide equal opportunity, status and dignity in the society, the Centre was inaugurated in the year 2018 and is working in collaboration with IDARE, an NGO actively engaged in clearing the obstacles faced by the persons with disabilities.

### **INTRODUCTION**

As a center for disability, we have a vision, an idea, and we have what it takes to fulfill the object of our ultimate Goal to facilitate and aid the persons with disabilities in our society.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Adhering to the idea that no person is born disabled but it is the society that cripples a man in his beliefs, motifs and norms. We tend to change not who are specially abled but changing the environment and surrounding that make a person feel that he is differently able yet ABLE. There are a few milestones earmarked right from the conception of the center for disability at V M Salgaocar College of Law.

### **COMPOSITION**

Dr.B.S Patil is the director for the centre for disability at VM Salgaocar College of Law.

The centre is progressing actively under his leadership and guidance.

Student In-charge for the Centre for Disability, *Ms. Aishwarya Sinari*, heads the centre at V. M. Salgaocar College of Law. The 15 members of the Mala Legal Aid Cell, by default, are members of the disability centre.

### **COMPLETED PROJECTS**

#### **1. Xv GMC December 2018**

The client approached the centre in 2018 for redressal against an unethical practice followed by GMC for obtaining disability certificate: A photograph of the disability of that particular person would be displayed on the certificate. The centre for disability filed a petition to the State Human Rights Commission, who in turn Sent a notice to GMC. The matter was then taken to the court wherein GMC admitted misinterpretation of the provisions of the Disability Act and this practice was ended thereon in the year 2019.

## 2. PASSING THE RPWD ACT

Rules for the Rights Of Persons With Disability were formulated in the year 2016, and only after persistent compelling and pressing for the passing of these rules in the social welfare department by the members of the disability centre, with the help of Mr. Vaidya who was instrumental in framing these rules, the Act was passed in August 2019.

## 3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THE STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

The members of the Disability Centre wrote to the National Human Rights Commission of India, New Delhi, by way of an online application for appointment of a Chairperson at the State Human Rights Commission which has been headless for over 4 years. The NHRC took note of the application and within months the appointment was made.

## 4. OBTAINED DISABILITY CERTIFICATE FOR STUDENT WITH LEARNING DISABILITY

A Student Mr. Y from V M Salgaocar College of Law has a learning disability. The members of the disability centre accompanied him in December 2019 to the institute of Psychiatry and Human Behavior multiple times for form filling, regular check-ups and tests, and succeeded in obtaining a disability certificate for him in January 2020.

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

### 1. THALESSEMIA SOCIETY

Doctors from the Goa Medical College approached the members of the disability centre at V M Salgaocar College of Law to seek help in spreading awareness about Thalassemia in Goa. Post the new Disability Act, blood disorders are falling under the purview of Disability and hence the students took up the matter and are working towards creating awareness about the same. In an all-Goa Principals meeting, the activity of spreading awareness took shape and the message was conveyed to the Principal of every professional college in Goa.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### 1. DISCUSSION TO PASS DISABILITY BILL

A session was held in August 2019 at V M Salgaocar College of Law, addressed by Mrs. Shubhangi Joshi, former chairperson for disability centre, President of the NGOIDARE. Adv. Brijesh and Mrs. Sandhya Kalokhe also expressed their views.

## 2. DRAFTING POA 2019-2020

Associate Prof .B. S Patil convened a meeting of all the active members and planned activities for the fresh academic year.

## 3. MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACT AND WOMEN

Dr. Prof. Soumitra Pathare, director for Centre of Mental Health and Law, Pune, delivered a lecture on Mental Health Act for women in the Social Science Department Block B of the Goa University.

## 4. LECTURE FOR UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIA EXCHANGE STUDENTS.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020, the members of the centre for disability centre and Prof B.S Patil presented a lecture on the working of the disability centre and all the activities undertaken and tasks completed, as a part of the exchange Programme.

## 5. ANNUAL SOCIAL SCHEMES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Members of the centre visited the Social Welfare Department to obtain and verify information on the schemes for the persons with disabilities. Members managed to get the scheme chart for the disabled and are now in position to spread awareness about the same to the respective groups.

## **CONCLUSION**

The above are the milestones achieved for year 2019-2020, however, the disability centre has a long way to go. Imparting knowledge about the rights and privileges for the disabled section of the society is the need of the hour to protect this section of the society from being trampled under the weight of social stigma and ostracism. We as a team work towards eradicating the indifference and fostering equal opportunities, fair

and just treatment and ensuring every person can have access to all the rights and privileges given to him by law.