

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES (NIEPVD) (DIVYANGJAN)

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Impairment (Divyangjan) (NIVH) at 116, Rajpur Road, Dehradun is one of the seven national institutes working under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwDs), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and Government of India. It owes its origin to St. Dunstan's Hostel for the War Blinded established in 1943, which offered a basic set of rehabilitation services to the soldiers and sailors blinded in the World War II. In 1950, the Government of India took over the St. Dunstan's Hostel and entrusted the Ministry of Education with the responsibility of developing comprehensive services for the rehabilitation of blind persons. Subsequently, services for the blind witnessed remarkable expansion. In the same year, the Government established the Training Centre for the Adult Blind to ensure reintegration of blind soldiers including other persons in the field of work. In 1951, the Government established Central Braille Press (CBP); in 1952, Workshop for the Manufacturing of Braille Appliances (MBA); in 1954, Sheltered Workshop; in 1957 Training Centre for the Adult Blind Women; in 1959, Model School for the Visually Handicapped (MSVH) and in 1963, National Library for the Print Handicapped (NLPH) was established.

On integration of all these units in 1967, the Government established the National Centre for the Blind (NCB). This Centre was further upgraded as National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Impairment (Divyangjan) in the year 1979 and finally in October 1982, it was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and acquired the status of an autonomous body.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aims and objectives of the NIEPVD as stated in the Memorandum of Association (MOA) are as follows:

- To conduct and sponsor programmes for training of teachers, O&M instructors and to undertake capacity building of field functionaries and service providers of mainstream institutions of the society.
- To conduct, sponsor, coordinate and/or subsidise research into various dimensions of the education and rehabilitation of the visually impaired persons and for effective evaluation of special appliances or for the development of new special appliances/instruments
- To distribute, promote, or subsidise the manufacturing of prototypes and to manage distribution of any or all devices designed to promote any aspect of the education, rehabilitation or employment of the visually impaired persons.
- To design and develop models of education, vocational training and other rehabilitation services to ensure minimum standards and wide coverage.

□ **VISION:**

To create an environment in which visually impaired persons can participate in all aspects of society without facing any discrimination, disadvantage or hurdles.

□ **MISSION:**

The Mission of the Institute is to empower the visually impaired persons by providing them qualified service providers, appropriate technologies and model services.

SERVICES OFFERED:

- ❖ Long-Term HRD courses to develop Special Educators for Persons with Visual Impairment, Deaf-blindness, Multiple Disabilities and Clinical and Rehabilitation Psychologist
- ❖ Short term & CRE programmes for Capacity Building and Professional Development
- ❖ Vocational Training and Skill Development Courses
- ❖ School Education (Nursery to Class XII for children with visual impairment)
- ❖ Awareness programmes at community level for different stakeholders
- ❖ Research and Development
- ❖ Identification of jobs & job placement.
- ❖ Production, Distribution & Supply of Braille Aids & Appliances
- ❖ Early Detection and Intervention through Early Intervention Centre
- ❖ Clinical, Referral & Guidance & Counselling
- ❖ Community /out- reach programmes
- ❖ Production, Distribution and supply of accessible reading material in Braille, Large Print & Audio Formats)
- ❖ Community FM Radio (Hello Doon) produced and broadcast awareness programmes