

HUMANITY WELFARE ORGANIZATION HELPLINE®

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Persons with disabilities are part and parcel of the society. A bitter truth is that anybody could acquire disability in any age. Present age is full of risks. Natural disasters, manmade disasters, conflict situations, transport accidents, falling from heights, machine accidents and many other related causes give rise to disability. Disability has risen up in all over globe. Our state Jammu and Kashmir is highly sensitive place in terms of disasters like floods, volcanoes, flash floods and cloud bursts. Our society and disaster management department needs be aware about the inclusion while disasters happen.

Persons with disabilities need safe handling during disasters. The disaster preparedness trainings need to be made inclusive. So that rescue teams needs to be trained how to rescue the victims with disabilities during disasters. The persons with disabilities have lot of special needs that needs to be fulfilled. As per census 2011 the number of persons with disabilities is 361153 however the number of disabilities in double digit percentages because of cross boarder shelling and firing.

	Total	Males	Female s	Educated
Total number of disabled persons in J&K	361153	204834 56.71%	156319 43.29%	21%
Seeing Disability	66448	35656	30792	18223
Hearing Disability	74096	42744	31352	21513
Speech Disability	18681	11351	7330	5419
Movement Disability	58137	35145	22992	16859
Mental Disability	16724	9798	6926	1901
Mental Illness	15669	8810	6859	4542
Multiple Disability	44441	24478	19963	322
Other Disabilities	66957	36852	30105	6899
Total Rural	273952	154892	119060	75678
Total Urban	87201	49942	37259	

District-Kupwara	31798	18404	13394
District-Badgam	21800	12286	9514
District-Leh	3859	2608	1251
District-Kargil	4050	2382	1668
District-Baramula	26491	15306	11185
District-Bandipore	13792	7683	6109
District-Srinagar	26373	14694	11679
District-Ganderbal	9611	5199	4412
District-Pulwama	25227	13068	12159



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District-Shupiyani	7904	4355	3549
District-Anantnag	48653	25965	22688
District-Kulgam	14415	7950	6465
Disable persons in Kashmir	233973	129900 55.51%	104073 44.49%

Rights of persons with Disabilities Act 2016 under CHAPTER II (RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS) says:

Section 8. (1) the persons with disabilities shall have equal protection and safety in situations of risk, armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

(2) The National Disaster Management Authority and the State Disaster Management Authority shall take appropriate measures to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in its disaster management activities as defined under clause (e) of section 2 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 for the safety and protection of persons with disabilities.

(3) The District Disaster Management Authority constituted under section 25 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 shall maintain record of details of persons with disabilities in the district and take suitable measures to inform such persons of any situations of risk so as to enhance disaster preparedness.

(4) The authorities engaged in reconstruction activities subsequent to any situation of risk, armed conflict or natural disasters shall undertake such activities, in consultation with the concerned State Commissioner, in accordance with the accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities.

There are certain recommendations in respect to inclusive disaster management preparedness programme:

There should be training for disaster management staff, volunteers and other agency people including police personnels regarding the handling of persons with disabilities while handling or rescuing persons with disabilities.

The persons with disabilities need to be trained through awareness programmes how to remain prepared for the disasters.

Blind persons, Deaf and dumb persons need to be given awareness about alarms during disasters.

The children with mental disabilities need to be given special treatment in shelter homes. Some children are dependent on drugs because of anxieties, depressions and attention deficit disorders. Their parents need to be given pre disaster trainings to procure the required medicines for their children with psychosocial disabilities.



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The privacy of persons with high support needs need to be ensured in shelter homes during disasters as they need dressing of wounds, diapers sheets to be changed because of bowel bladder incontinence.

Special washrooms need to be designed and fitted near the shelters, sheds created for victims of disasters, so that women with disabilities, spinal cord injured, fully paralysed persons can use such washrooms independently.

The disaster rescue and relief teams should include counsellors, psychiatry dealing assistants, so that persons with mental illness and other related disorders could be consoled.

Many persons with disabilities lost their aids and appliances during disasters and they need to be given the aids and appliances to continue their mobility and be ready for displacements if needed. The following kits need to be formulated to assist the persons with disabilities during disasters.

The disaster preparedness awareness programmes, workshops and seminars could be inclusive for all types of persons with disabilities, their parents with the help of sign language interpreters, Braille and audio material available with SDRF and other disaster management authorities.

The census of persons with disabilities should be available from all villages and contact numbers should be available so that through sms or phone call warnings and other messages are given during disasters, if communication set up works.

Relief Kit for People with Disabilities

1. Walking sticks
2. Cycle bells
3. Identity cards
4. Dark goggles for use on need basis only
5. Flash lights with cells
6. Magnifying glasses
7. Sets of laminated pictorial cards (A5) to use as signs
8. Pen & pads
9. Whistles
10. Extra cells for assistive devices

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11. Transfer boards
12. Urine bags
13. Adult & child diapers
14. Light foldable wheelchairs of universal size
15. Height adjustable crutches with quick user guide
16. Foldable toilet chair (improvise locally)
17. Modified cups for better grasp
18. Curtains and long sticks for ensuring privacy of persons with disabilities.
19. Water proof sheets for high support persons with disabilities.
20. Dressing for wounds.
21. First aid kits including ointments, iodine solution, Vaseline, burnt ointments.
22. Hearing aids of child and adult sizes
23. Elbow crutches
24. Callipers
25. White canes for persons with blindness.
26. Stretchers
27. Boats that can accommodate wheelchair users

Do's and Dont's

Some tips for rescue or quick response teams or even for rapid spot assessment teams to help ease in dealing with people with disabilities post disaster

Do's

1. Be sensitive toward people with disabilities.
2. Be sensitive toward needs of persons with disabilities.
3. Treat people with disabilities with respect and dignity.
4. Look and speak to them directly.
5. Speak clearly and slowly.
6. Have patience while dealing with people with disabilities. Be prepared for

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resentment.

7. Show that you care for the people with disabilities.
8. Remain positive and relax in dealing with people with disabilities.
9. Communicate in the language understandable by people with disabilities. Speak locally understandable language and use gestures and pictorial signs if available or improvise. In case if you are trained please use sign language or even tactile tap sensation if required.
10. Prioritize rescuing people with disabilities when resources are limited.
11. Ensure the care giver is accompanied during rescue as far as it is feasible.
12. Be gender sensitive during rescue.

Don'ts

1. Do not call them with their disability tag. (aey anday, langday, pagal, bahray)
2. Do not speak loudly or raise your voice while communicating with people with disabilities.
3. Do not offer anything without their consent. Best ways to help them is to 'ask' them.
4. Do not push or hit a person with disability for attention. This offends them.
5. Do not use inappropriate handling techniques while rescuing an injured victim. This might complicate existing injury.
6. Do not invade in their personal space. Avoid going too close while communicating.
7. Do not obstruct the entrance to a shelter for people with disabilities. Do not allow parking of vehicles in the entrance or exit of a relief shelter.
8. Do not forget to collect assistive devices during rescue along with the people with disabilities.

The suggestions regarding inclusive disaster management for persons with disabilities are submitted before the National Disaster management Authority through email policyplan@ndma.gov.in by the Honorary chairman Humanity Welfare Organisation HELpline NGO, NH Road Bijbehara J&K – 192124.

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