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BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Approved in the Governing body meeting held on 21st August 2024

(Updated in 2024)

PREFACE

The main objectives of the “Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1996 enacted by the Government of India on January 1, 1996 are to create barrier free environment for persons with disabilities and to make special provisions for the integration of persons with disabilities into the social mainstream.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, ACT NO. 49 of 2016 specifies the duty of educational institutions. The appropriate Government and the local authorities shall endeavour that all educational institutions funded or recognized by them provide inclusive education to the children with disabilities and towards that end shall

(i) admit them without discrimination and provide education and opportunities for sports and recreation activities equally with others;
(ii) make building, campus and various facilities accessible;
(iii) provide reasonable accommodation according to the individual's requirements;
(iv) provide necessary support individualized or otherwise in environments that maximize academic and social development consistent with the goal of full inclusion;
(v) ensure that the education to persons who are blind or deaf or both is imparted in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication;
(vi) detect specific learning disabilities and take suitable pedagogical and other measures to overcome them;
(vii) monitor participation, progress in terms of attainment levels and completion of education in respect of every student with disability;
(viii) provide transportation facilities to the children with disabilities.

In order to create a barrier free environment in consonance with the provisions of the Act, Manakula Vinayagar Institute of Technology (MVIT) has formulated the policy, which would be applicable to all buildings and facilities constructed.

With this MVIT ensures that everyone, including the physically disabled and elderly persons, should have easy / hassle free access to entire facilities.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS should hire / recruit architects/planners with an awareness of creating barrier free environment for physically challenged.

1. OBJECTIVES

i. To enable people with disabilities to move about safely and freely and to use the facilities within the built environment.

ii. To provide an environment that supports the independent functioning of differently-abled persons in everyday activities in the Institute.

iii. To observe and follow standards / norms / principles, in creating various facilities to meet the standards of safety, convenience and usability for differently-abled people.

iv. To implement "Barrier free design standards" in buildings, the choice of hardware and equipment, and the arrangement in outside space for enabling mobility and functioning of differently-abled persons.

2. TYPE OF DISABILITIES

Various, disabilities which have been considered while preparing the guidelines for barrier free built environment are broadly classified under four categories

i. Non-Ambulatory: Impairments that, regardless of cause or manifestation, for all practical purposes, confine individuals to wheel & chairs.

ii. Semi-Ambulatory: Impairments that cause individuals to walk with difficulty or insecurity. Individual using braces or crutches, amputees, arthritics, spastics & those with pulmonary & cardiac ills may be semi-ambulatory.

iii. Sight: Total blindness or impairments affecting sight to the extent that the individual functioning in public areas is insecure or exposed to danger.

iv. Hearing: Deafness or hearing handicaps that might make an individual insecure in public areas because he is unable to communicate or hear warning signals.

3. FACILITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS

- Adequate space should be provided in all moving (Walking) areas for persons using mobility devices. e.g. wheelchairs, crutches and walkers, as well as those walking with the assistance of other persons.
- The Space should be given by considering the range of reach (forward and side; with or without obstruction) of a person in a wheelchair.
- Attention should be given to dimensions of wheelchairs used locally. Standard size of wheel chair has been taken as 1050mm x 750mm (as per ISI).

4. SPECIAL NEEDS FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

With regard to the design guidelines the special needs of the differently-abled persons for construction of built environment are as follows.

4.1.NON-AMBULATORY DISABILITIES

- Persons restricted on wheel chair should use the facilities within the built environment alone without a helper's assistance.
- Wheelchair Users – A wheelchair may be operated by the user alone or with a helper's assistance. However, wheelchair design must assume that the user should be able to operate the wheelchair without help.
- Ramps should be provided for the easy mobility while using wheelchair.

4.2.SEMI-AMBULATORY DISABILITIES

- The persons in this category include those who cannot walk without a cane and those who have some trouble in their upper or lower limbs although they can walk unassisted. Hand Rails should be provided for the easy mobility for these persons.

4.3.SIGHT DISABILITIES

- Persons in this category are totally blind or with impaired vision. Visually impaired persons make use of other senses such as hearing or touch to compensate for the lack of vision. It is necessary to give instructions accessible through the sense of touch (hands, fingers or legs). Tactile paths should be provided for the easy mobility of these persons.

4.3.1. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

i. Use of guiding blocks for persons with impaired vision to guide them within the buildings and facilities and outside the building.
ii. Installation of information board in Braille in almost all the public facilities like lifts, stairs, etc., in the Institute.
iii. Installation of audible signages (announcements) at entrance and other vulnerable points in the building.
iv. Removal of any protruding objects and sufficient walking space for safe walking in all pathways in and around the Institute.
v. For persons with limited vision use of contrasting color arrangements in the accession points would be ensured.

4.4.HEARING DISABILITIES

- Persons with impaired hearing
- Persons in this category are totally deaf or have difficulty in hearing. They generally use their sight to gather information in public places.

4.4.1. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

i. Provision of information boards denoting basic Codes of conduct / rules to be observed in the Institute in an easily understandable manner.

ii. Provision of illuminated signages, layout diagrams, etc., at the identified locations, to help the persons easily reach the desired places (Toilets, Common Rooms, Rest rooms, etc.,)

4.5.ELDERLY PERSONS

- Elderly persons may suffer impaired mobility, sight disabilities (partially or fully), hearing disabilities or any other physical difficulties, for whom the design guidelines and facilities shall be similar like other physically disabled persons.

The above design guidelines would be observed even for elderly persons who are likely have above disabilities, in all the Institute's existing and future constructions and installations to ensure Barrier Free Environment.

5. DESIGN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE BUILDING PREMISES

The following facilities to be considered to create the Barrier free Environment in the College Premises.

i. Site Planning
   Walks and Paths
   Ramp

ii. Parking

iii. Approach to Plinth Level
   Ramped Approach
   Stepped Approach

iv. Entrance Landing

v. Corridor

vi. Entrance / Exit Door

vii. Windows

viii. Stair Ways

ix. Lift

x. Toilet

xi. Signages

xii. Other Facilities

Counter

Telephone

Mailbox / Suggestion Box / Complaint Box .


MIT-Manakula Vinayagar
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