

***RIGHTS Project: Inclusion, Accessibility & Opportunities for the
Differently Abled in Tamil Nadu***

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF

Optometrist/ Mobility Instructor- One Stop Social Care Service Centre

1.	BASIC DETAILS	
	Duty Station	: TENKASI –I) KADAYANALLUR II) M.N. NALLUR CHENNAI- I) SHOLINGANALLUR II) TEYNAMPET
	No of Engagements	: TENKASI –2 (Two) CHENNAI- 2 (Two)
	Language Required/preferred	: English & Tamil
	Duration of Contract	: 24 months (Renewable subject to performance)
	Reporting Officer	: Centre Manager-OSC
2.	BACKGROUND	
	i.	As per the Census (2011), Tamil Nadu is the sixth most populous state in India with a population of 72 million, which includes a proportion (1.63 percent) of Differently Abled Persons compared to the national average of 2.21 percent. A study that used pooled data from the District Level Household Survey-4 (2012-13) and Annual Health Survey 2 nd updating round (2012-13) reveals that there are 4550 differently abled persons amongst every 100,000 population in Tamil Nadu, thereby indicating a much higher prevalence of disability in comparison to the census data. Therefore, if one goes by the estimates of this recent study, about 3.2 million people in Tamil Nadu would live with some form of disability. Moreover, even these estimations appear on the lower side, significantly since the definition and type of disabilities have changed to include a larger population group since the promulgation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

<p>ii.</p>	<p>Differently Abled Persons (DAPs) with disabilities face multiple socio-economic constraints, including poorer health outcomes, lower education levels, limited economic participation, and higher poverty rates than persons without disabilities. They often experience exclusion and barriers in accessing health services, education, employment, transportation, information, care, and rehabilitation services. Furthermore, households with disabled members are more likely to experience material hardships—food insecurity, poor housing, lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and inadequate access to healthcare. Thus, these limitations and barriers hinder their full and effective participation in society and affect the country's productive potential, the human capital. In order to increase human capital and reduce the achievement gap among people with disabilities, a coordinated and comprehensive package of interventions appears warranted for addressing the individual and community contexts at multiple and systemic levels.</p>
<p>iii.</p>	<p>Tamil Nadu has always been a pioneer in the implementation of welfare schemes for all sections of socially disadvantaged groups. Through its various initiatives and schemes, the Department for the Welfare of the Differently Abled (DWDAP) has extended full support to the differently abled people in their pursuit of full and equal involvement in every aspect of society. The DWDAP is mainly responsible for all administrative, statutory and service delivery functions, which are implemented through its well-experienced workforce at the state, district and local levels. The thrust areas of the DWDAP are prevention and early interventions, special education, employment & vocational training, social security (maintenance allowance, travel concession, assistance to NGOs), aids & appliances, and barrier-free structure. Recently, DWDAP conducted a pilot project in a few blocks of the state and has identified a need for a multi-sectoral, whole-government, and capacity-building approach to care and rehabilitation of the differently abled.</p>
<p>iv.</p>	<p>The RIGHTS Project focuses on three pillars: first, promote <u>inclusion</u> of all by ensuring that persons with disabilities participate equally with others in any activity and service intended for the general public, such as education, health, employment, and social services; second, improve the <u>access</u> of specialised programs by investing in specific measures for quality care, rehabilitation and</p>

	support services; and third, provide opportunities for persons with disabilities for completion of education, skills training and market-linked employment opportunities. However, to manage the project at the proposed scale, substantial efforts would be required to build the current institutional capacity of the DWDAP at all levels in terms of field units for administration, service delivery, supervision and monitoring, along with the autonomous capacity.
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	v.	The project would be managed through the Directorate for Welfare of the Differently Abled (DWDA), led by the Project Director (PD) RIGHTS project cum Director, DWDA, in the future also referred to as PD, and would have a team of consultants. District Project Implementation Unit in each district will oversee the activities at the district level headed by District Differently Abled Welfare Officer (DDAWO). It will have a team of District Project Officers.
	vi.	To provide the overall process coordination of successful delivery of the RIGHTS project, the DWDA for its RIGHTS PROJECT is seeking an interested and qualified person to be engaged as an Optometrist/Mobility Instructor in the One Stop Social Care Service centre in each subdivision during the project implementation.
3	i	<p>OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the supervision of the Centre Manager -OSC, the incumbent will be responsible for the activities related to eye testing and visual stimulation for the differently abled. • Perform eye exams to identify any problems in your vision. Mobility Instructor teach individuals with visual impairments to travel safely, confidently, and independently in their environment.
	ii	<p>The roles and responsibilities of the Optometrist/Mobility Instructor rae as follows,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining Daps eyes and conducting diagnostic tests to assess ocular health and determine the nature and extent of vision problems and abnormalities.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing visual functions using specialised instruments and equipment for measuring visual acuity and refractive error, the function of visual pathways, visual fields, eye movements, freedom of vision and intraocular pressure.• Prescribing corrective eyeglasses, contact lenses and other vision aids, and checking optical devices for performance, safety, comfort and lifestyle.• Detecting and diagnosing eye movement disorders and defects of binocular function, and planning and managing treatment programs, including counselling DAPs and their families in eye exercises to coordinate movement, and focusing of eyes.• Detecting, diagnosing, and managing eye disease, including prescribing medications for the treatment of eye disease.• Consulting with and referring DAPs to Ophthalmologists if additional medical treatment is necessary in relating to eyes.• Advising on visual health matters such as contact lens care, vision care, optics, visual ergonomics, and occupational and industrial eye safety.• Provide instruction in orientation & mobility support to DAPs as referred by Case Manager using the standard methods and techniques.• Instruct DAPs on related subjects/ issues including but not limited to use of certified low vision, electronic mobility aids such as long canes, independent living services, vocational services, Braille, keyboarding and computer technology training, and orientation and mobility services.• Provide instruction/ guidance and mentor DAPs in problem solving techniques, direction finding and use of electronic devices for analyzing surroundings.• Orient DAPs to their physical environment through maximum development and utilization of their remaining senses• Conduct individual and/or group training in local surroundings of village/ block/ district. Instruction is to include, but not limited to the use of public transportation, public facilities, stairs, revolving entry gates to public places and other related obstructing features they may come across in daily life. |
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare tactual and auditory maps and instruct beneficiaries in their proper use to help them identify and understand their localities. • Evaluate beneficiary's functional, physical, and mental capabilities, as related to mobility and orientation. • Determine individual's need for physical conditioning. • Address and conduct workshops for interested beneficiaries as and when required. • Train the block team in eye-related issues and provide support services to the block team. • Need to deliver tele consultation when needed as per schedule. • Need to travel in mobile unit for assessment and needed treatment. • Any other relevant task/ activity as assigned by the Subdivision Officer for Differently abled.
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4	REPORTING AND REVIEW
	The Optometrist/Mobility Instructor will report to Centre Manager-OSC
5	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE
	Optometrist/Mobility Instructor requires dynamic, experienced, and analytical professionals with demonstrated experience in programs related to disability.
	i) Optometrist/Mobility Instructors should possess a Bachelor / master's degree in optometry from a UGC recognized University.
	ii) Preferably 3 years of post-qualification for Master's degree / 5 years Post-qualification for Bachelor degree experience in areas relating to service delivery for persons with disabilities, particularly in care, support, and rehabilitation services is preferred.
	iii) Demonstrated understanding of centre-based rehabilitation activities related to Special Education

* Preference will be given to Differently Abled Person

6.	Skills Required	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capability to assess, evaluate and generate reports in eye testing aspects of the differently abled people. • Candidate must be a good observant, patient and reliable with a desire to work with persons with disabilities. • Computer proficiency and good knowledge of MS-office, or equivalent computer applications are required. • Able to read and write Tamil and English. • Ability to work in teams and liaise well with others.
7.	Remuneration	
	i)	<p>The remuneration for the Optometrist/Mobility Instructor would be Rs. 35,000 per month. Only travel expenses will be paid additionally as per actuals. The Special Educator will be located at Subdivision level OSC during the contract period. Optometrist/Mobility Instructors may require travelling as per Project requirements.</p>
	ii)	<p>Optometrist/Mobility Instructors will have to attend OSC on all working days unless on an official tour as approved by the Centre Manager-OSC. Optometrist/Mobility Instructor may also be required to attend an office or travel in a mobile unit for assessment and treatment on holidays as and when desired by PD/DPIU/SPIU/other higher officials for disposal of urgent matters. However, no extra remuneration will be paid for attending the office on holidays.</p>