

## **Sarthak Educational Trust- Online Portals for Persons with Disabilities**

### **Background**

Over a billion of the world's population has some form of disability. As per the **World Bank** estimates included in the 2011 "**World Report on Disability**", 20 % of the poorest people in the world are disabled and occupy the most marginalized and disadvantaged sectors of society. Furthermore, due to discrimination or incapacity to perform certain work, people living with disabilities have a difficult time finding employment, with unemployment rates reaching 80% for disabled people in the working age group.

Further, according to the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) study in 2010, there are **796 million adults** in the world that are illiterate, most of whom reside in the developing world. Elderly persons are also marginalized from access to technologies much the same way as persons with disabilities due to problems of physical access and marginalization.

In India, about 21 million people are disabled and 58% of them are women while 69% of people with disabilities come from rural areas. In India, there is a confluence of barriers to accessibility with inaccessible and unaffordable technologies, inaccessible websites and unsupportive laws.

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The need for accessibility – both in the physical environment and in the use of information technology – is highlighted by the increase in consumption among the general public. As more and more persons with disabilities start utilising public marketplaces, products and services, a demand is generated to make these accessible to be able to reach out to a group of untapped consumers. Analyzing the need of online services, Sarthak came up with its portals to empower people with disability.

### **Sarthak online Services**

Year 2019 has been very significant to Sarthak in terms of developing digital solutions namely Sarthak Knowledge Bank and Management Information System. Both these systems will help us to capture quantitative and qualitative information to improve our systems and processes as well as to maintain the database.

Furthermore, to achieve the mission to create an inclusive eco-system for PwDs many online portals are also initiated.

## **Portals**

- 1. Sarthak Knowledge Bank** – It includes standard operating Procedures, Practices and Guidelines for all Sarthak Services at a single platform in written as well as audio-visual formats. The platform is being actively used for internal capacity building as well as knowledge database repository.
- 2. Sarthak Management Information System**-It provides a one-stop solution for complete database management one-stop solution for complete database management across centres, data analysis, record keeping and report generation. Through this system, we aim towards quick identification of challenges and concerns and providing immediate solutions to achieve our targets in an efficient manner.
- 3. Disability Information Portal** – One stop solution for disability specific information such as Government Schemes/ Policies and available services & support by Government, Corporate, NGOs and others. Link- [https://sarthakindia.org/disability\\_information\\_portal/general\\_information.php](https://sarthakindia.org/disability_information_portal/general_information.php)
- 4. Mobile App** – To outreach PwDs and extend required information and support services through mobile application support.
- 5. Rashtriya Divyang Sashaktikaran Manch** – To help empower Indian PwD by leveraging the collective strengths of many NGOs dedicated to this field. Link - [https://sarthakindia.org/social/ngo/ngo\\_forum/](https://sarthakindia.org/social/ngo/ngo_forum/)
- 6. Job Portal**- This platform is to provide easy access to Companies to post new job openings and for Job seekers look for available job openings for job seekers, related to hiring of PwDs in different job roles.Link - [https://sarthakindia.org/jobs\\_pwd](https://sarthakindia.org/jobs_pwd)
- 7. Alumni Forum**-\_Sarathak believes in being connected with all its members, so that, together we can achieve more and empower more persons with disability, through peer to peer knowledge sharing. Link [https://sarthakindia.org/alumni\\_connect.php](https://sarthakindia.org/alumni_connect.php)
- 8. Parents Interaction Forum:** Sarthak provides confidential, professional and friendly guidance and mentoring, to all parents and individuals whose children or near and dear

ones suffer from various types of disabilities. Link:  
<https://sarthakindia.org/forumnew.php>

## Snapshots

### Disability Information Portal

General Information   Health   Education   Vocational Skill Building   Employment   Other

#### General Information -

1. Types of Disabilities, PwD Act 2016 (List and Definition)
2. Disability Certificate (Criteria, Benefits, Required Documents and Fees, Validity, How to Apply guide) + State-wise list of offices for Disability Certificate
3. Disability Pension (Criteria, Benefit, Required Documents, How to Apply guide) + State wise list of offices for Disability Pension
4. UDID Card (Criteria, Benefit, Required Documents, How to Apply guide) + State wise list of offices for UDID Card
5. Departments and Offices for PwD Support - Central and State-wise
6. Concessional Transport Facility for PwDs + State wise details and list of centres where such passes can be made
7. Innovations and Equipments for PwDs - separately for each disability category

Note: Was this information useful to you? Kindly share your feedback [Click here...](#)

## Rashtriya Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Manch - Sarthak NGO Partnership Program

We at Sarthak have been working for mainstreaming and empowerment of Persons with Disability since 2008 and have introduced positive changes to many lives. And, with every such change we get infused with the spirit to contribute more.



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