

DARJEELING GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

Policy Document

On

Disability-friendly and a Barrier-Free Environment and Inclusive Campus

Introduction

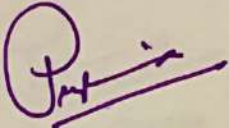
Darjeeling Government College was established immediately after independence to cater the educational needs of the Hills. Since its inception till date, this Institution has successfully fulfilled the need of this region. Since, it is a Government Institution; it ensures that education is accessible to all, especially to the economically weaker and the vulnerable sections of the society. It takes pride in rendering equal opportunities in regard to holistic development of students. This college is committed to provide quality education and promote research that will contribute to the continual development of our society. The college is nearing towards 75th Year of its existence and we feel elated and proud to have achieved significant milestone at the same time acknowledging responsibility. Taking into account the necessity of promoting *equal opportunity and inclusivity* for all the sections, especially the disadvantaged, the college has formulated its policy document regarding Disability Friendly and Barrier Free Environment and inclusive Campus.

The biggest barrier to inclusion is the human mind. Darjeeling Government College aims to overcome these barriers and break all myths associated with the people with disabilities. The policy is directed towards sensitization, inclusion and integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream. As an educational institution we aim to help students with disabilities lead independent lives with dignity. Darjeeling Government College is committed to providing and developing a positive, supportive and enabling environment for all staff and students. This policy document is built on the UGC guidelines, People with Disabilities Act of 1995 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Acts (RPwD) 2016.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act was enacted in the year 2016 and came into force from 19th April, 2017. It replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The objective of the RPwD Act is to

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ensure that all persons with disabilities can lead their lives with dignity, without discrimination and with equal opportunities. The Act lays down specific provisions to uphold such rights. It incorporates the rights of persons with disabilities covered under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory.

Darjeeling Government College is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and enabling a barrier free campus. This entails the inclusion of values that help ensure a disabled-friendly environment. Adhering to the guidelines of UGC Guidelines and relevant laws and regulations towards the implementation of several schemes and mechanisms in this regard is also vital to our policy.

Objective of the Policy

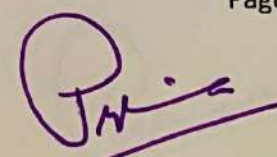
- Promote equality of opportunity for the students with disabilities.
- Protect their rights and promotion of a positive mindset towards the students with disabilities.
- Involvement of the students with disabilities in the academic and cultural life of the college.
- Creation of a barrier free environment physically and socially.
- Integration of students with disabilities.
- Sensitization of the college community towards those who are students with disabilities.
- Affirming the special care and inclusivity of students with disabilities and promotion of barrier free teaching –Learning environment.

Policy Statement

- ❖ The Institution shall promote and take necessary measure and initiative to create a barrier free and disabled friendly Teaching-Learning Environment.
- ❖ The Institute shall strive towards ensuring adequate provisions in the infrastructure to provide a disability friendly, barrier- free and inclusive campus.


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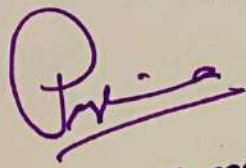
- ❖ The college shall promote self-reliance among the students with disabilities.
- ❖ The college shall organize seminars and workshops for raising awareness and sensitization regarding people with disability and creation of an inclusive outlook.
- ❖ The Institute shall take appropriate measures to providing opportunities for participation in co-curricular and cultural activities for the students with disabilities.
- ❖ Regarding Examination policy- The College shall ensures the sensible convenience to meet with the necessities of the students with disabilities. A separate seating arrangement and use of scribe in the examinations shall be permitted as per the University guidelines.
- ❖ The college shall also conduct career guidance workshops and providing placement assistance for the disabled students whenever possible.
- ❖ The college shall ensure that all facilities in the college are accessible to the differently-abled and ensure holistic development of the students with special needs.
- ❖ The Institute shall collaborate with external agencies to expand the scope of access to facilities, opportunities and alternatives which can help the disabled students in being independent to a large extent.
- ❖ Student with disability shall be the foremost priority of the institution and it shall provide special care and support to the disabled students.
- ❖ The college shall take appropriate measure to redress the grievances related to the disabled students.
- ❖ The institution shall adhere and strictly implement provisions related to disabled persons.

Compliance

The Institute shall strictly adhere and comply to the rules and regulations of UGC, Government and the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Acts (RPwD) 2016.


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Supervision Authority

The principal / Officer –in- Charge of the college shall directly supervise and oversee the matters regarding the students with disabilities.

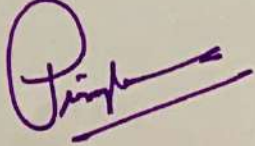
Responsibilities and Role of stakeholders within the campus

1. College Administration: The college administration shall provide requisite resources and logistics to realize the implementation and execution of this policy.
 2. Faculty and Staffs: Faculties and Staffs of the college are expected to conform, support and actively participate in the initiatives and measures outlined in this policy.
- Students: The students are encouraged to assist and create an inclusive environment. They are also expected to protect the rights and promote positive mindset towards fellow students with disabilities

Conclusion

Darjeeling Government College firmly believes in the policy of inclusion. It works wholeheartedly in the direction of providing a barrier-free environment to the differently-abled with the objective of empowering them. This Policy will attempt to ensure holistic development of the students with special needs. With the help of the aforementioned policy for the students with disabilities, the college strives to support the students with disabilities and extend its disabled-friendly opportunities. The college is hopeful to facilitate the barrier free campus culture and inculcate values of inclusion.


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