

VETHATHIRI MAHARISHI COLLEGE OF YOGA

DIVYANGJAN – POLICY DOCUMENT

Policy Statement

This policy document outlines the inclusive infrastructure, support systems, and committee structure at **Vethathiri Maharishi College of Yoga (VMCY)** aimed at facilitating accessibility and equal opportunities for **Persons with Disabilities (PwD)**. It affirms the institution's commitment to creating a barrier-free, inclusive environment through adherence to national policies and proactive implementation of assistive facilities.

Preamble

India is home to over 80 million persons with disabilities, resulting from age-related conditions, medical issues, or accidents. According to the World Bank, one in every twelve households in India includes a person with a disability. **The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, highlights the importance of accessibility to buildings, workplaces, transport, education, healthcare, and other public services.

Initiatives like the **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)** and **Swavlamban** have laid the foundation for inclusive infrastructure in various sectors. Despite these initiatives, persons with disabilities continue to face challenges in accessing classrooms, laboratories, washrooms, libraries, cafeterias, hostels, and playgrounds.

VMCY is committed to addressing these barriers through the provision of essential facilities and an effective support mechanism for Divyangjan.

Inclusive Infrastructure Facilities at VMCY

To promote accessibility, VMCY has implemented the following Divyangjan-friendly facilities across campus:

- Ramps and handrails for easy access to all buildings
- Elevators in multi-storey buildings
- Wheelchairs and walkers available on request
- Accessible washrooms for persons with disabilities
- Provision of scribes for examinations
- Pedestrian-friendly roads and safe movement areas
- Accessible library, classrooms, and laboratories

Implementation of the Policy

In alignment with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, VMCY has established an institutional mechanism to ensure the inclusive implementation of policy and infrastructure. The college strives to eliminate discrimination and provide equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of physical or mental disability. The Divyangjan Committee is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of these efforts.

Objectives

- To foster an inclusive culture and prevent any form of discrimination, especially against PwD students and faculty.
 - To establish, maintain, and monitor infrastructure and resources for Divyangjan.
 - To ensure compliance with all relevant legislations and national policies regarding persons with disabilities.
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Definition of Disability

Disability includes, but is not limited to:

- Motor and sensory limitations (mobility, vision, hearing impairments)
- Chronic illnesses and syndromes (e.g., heart disease, epilepsy, AIDS, diabetes, asthma, arthritis)
- Psychological and emotional disorders, learning disabilities, Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI)
- Invisible disabilities requiring customized support

Accommodations must be tailored to the individual's specific needs and limitations.

Definition of Divyangjan

A "qualified individual with a disability" refers to a person with a disability who:

- Meets the academic qualifications for enrolment in a particular course or program
 - Is capable of performing the essential functions of a job, with or without reasonable accommodation
 - Is eligible for relaxation or support measures as per government regulations
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Accessibility and Grievance Redressal Committee

To ensure the effective functioning of Divyangjan support services, the following committee has been constituted:

Composition:

- Chairperson: Principal
- Coordinator
- Administrative Officer
- Faculty Members:
 - Dr. K. Anuradha – Associate Professor
 - Dr. E. Santhi – Assistant Professor

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Address all disability-related concerns within the institution
 - Ensure campus-wide accessibility for all persons with disabilities
 - Monitor grievances and, if unresolved at the committee level, escalate them to the Governing Body
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Accessibility Policy

VMCY is committed to ensuring that all its academic, administrative, and support services are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes:

- Reasonable accommodations tailored to individual needs
 - Barrier-free movement throughout the campus
 - Ensuring availability of assistive technology and learning aids
 - Promoting awareness among faculty and staff regarding accessibility issues
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Accessibility of Resources

- All UG, PG, and research-level faculty and staff members shall ensure access to institutional infrastructure for PwD
- Reading materials, textbooks, and learning resources shall be made accessible to students with disabilities
- The Exam Cell shall facilitate accessible formats and resources for exams, including use of scribes

- Awareness and sensitization programs shall be organized to promote inclusive practices among all members of the institution
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Facilities Available at VMCY for Divyangjan

Vethathiri Maharishi College of Yoga has made comprehensive arrangements to support Divyangjan, including:

- Wheelchairs and walkers
- Accessible washrooms
- Ramps and handrails
- Elevators in multi-floor buildings
- Use of scribes for examinations
- Pedestrian-friendly pathways
- Tactile paths and clearly marked signage
- Emergency ambulance support provided by the institution's Trust

The institution ensures that Divyangjan face no difficulties in accessing these facilities. Should any issues arise, they are encouraged to contact the Accessibility and Grievance Redressal Committee for resolution.



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