
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO EMPOWER THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN INDIA

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Abstract: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives. The companies having Net worth of INR 500 crore or more, or Turnover of INR 1000 crore or more; or Net Profit of INR 5 crore or more during any financial Year are having such responsibilities. These companies have to spend 2% of their profit for such cause. As per the census 2011, 2.21 percent of the general population of the country is reported to be affected with one or other type of disability condition. The department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India is having the entire responsibilities of providing social justice to persons with disabilities. To meet the demand of persons with disabilities requires huge budgeting. The support received from companies is not sufficient to meet the demands of the persons with disabilities. To strengthen the CSR activities the companies and the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities should work together to achieve the target of promoting inclusive society.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); Persons with Disabilities (PWD); Empowerment.

Introduction:

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives ("Triple-Bottom-Line- Approach"), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.

The term "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" can be referred as corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare. CSR also be referred to as "corporate citizenship" and can involve incurring short-term costs that do not provide an immediate financial benefit to the company, but instead promote positive social and environmental change. CSR is not charity or mere donations. CSR is a way of conducting business, by which corporate entities visibly contribute to the social good.

The companies on whom the provisions of the CSR shall be applicable are the companies having Net worth of INR 500 crore or more; or turnover of INR 1000 crore or more; or Net Profit of INR 5 crore or more during any financial Year.

CSR Activities: The Policy recognizes that corporate social responsibility is not merely compliance; it is a commitment to support initiatives that measurably improve the lives of underprivileged by one or more of the following focus areas

- a) Eradicating hunger, poverty & malnutrition, promoting preventive health care & sanitation & making available safe drinking water;
- b) Promoting education, including special education & employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly & the differently unable & livelihood enhancement projects;

- c) Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes & hostels for women & orphans, setting up old age homes, day care centres & such other facilities for senior citizens & measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially & economically backward groups;
- d) Reducing child mortality and improving maternal health by providing good hospital facilities and low cost medicines;
- e) Providing with hospital and dispensary facilities with more focus on clean and good sanitation so as to combat human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, malaria and other diseases;
- f) Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora & fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources & maintaining quality of soil, air & water;
- g) Employment enhancing vocational skills.
- h) Protection of national heritage, art & culture including restoration of buildings & sites of historical importance & works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion & development of traditional arts & handicrafts;
- i) Measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows & their dependents;
- j) Training to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports, sports & Olympic sports;
- k) Contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development & relief & welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities & women;
- l) Contributions or funds provided to technology incubators located within academic institutions, which are approved by the Central Government;
- m) Rural development projects;
- n) Slum area development.

Persons with Disabilities and Their Needs: A person with disability is a condition of functional limitation to any individual that makes him / her unable to perform the activities like any other individuals. As per the census 2011, 2.21 percent of the general population of the country is reported to be affected with one or other type of disability condition. There are twenty one categories of persons with disabilities enumerated in Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016. Those categories are listed as per their limitations of functional abilities such as Physical disability (Locomotors disability like polio, amputees, cerebral palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and Dwarfism, Visual disabilities like low vision and Blindness, Hearing impairment, Speech and Language disorders).

Intellectual Disability those includes the conditions of Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorders and Learning Disabilities.

Mental Disorders such as any abnormal mental disorders.

Disability due to chronic neurological impairment like Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson disorder and the blood related disorders like Thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia.

Multiple disabilities which includes the condition of Deaf-Blind and any other conditions as reported by the professionals.

Role of Government for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities: The department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is having the entire responsibilities of providing social justice to persons with disabilities

Ministry of social justice and empowerment Govt of India constituted the statutory bodies and established the National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, and District Rehabilitation Centres to cater the needs of persons with disabilities.

The demands or the needs of persons with disabilities are more than that of non disable citizen. Access to health, education, communication, transport, and infrastructure to promote inclusive society is major challenges to the country .To fulfil the needs for persons with disabilities on all the above aspects requires huge budgeting. The participation of companies through CSR activities can be a great support to extend the facilities to persons with disabilities through the implementing agencies like Government and Non-Government agencies.

The New Companies Act, 2013 makes a mandatory provision of making a contribution of 2% of profit towards corporate social responsibility to address social issues and bring about a positive impact on the life of the poor and disadvantaged groups including bringing about inclusive development and help these sections leave a productive dignified life.

Provisions relating to the activities of this Department are covered under the entry (ii) in Schedule - VII of the said Act:- Promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly, and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects;" Section 135 of the Company's Act 2013, is regarding activities by Companies in their corporate social responsibility. Ministry of Corporate Affairs clarified vide Circular No. 21/2014 and OM No. 05/01/2014-CSR dated 18.06.2014 that provision for aids and appliances to the differently able persons is covered under Schedule VII (i) under promoting health care including preventive health care.

Supports Received From CSR Sources For Various Activities To Empower The Persons With Disabilities From 2011-2014 By The Ministry: The Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (RECL), will provide Rs. 296.00 lakhs for setting up of Modular Operation Theatre and advanced medical equipments Distribution of Aids and Appliances by ALIMCO a PSU of the department for Rs 4959.66 Lakhs worth of materials to 62512 beneficiaries from 2011 to 2014.

Number of Camps Conducted by 13 CPSU under 27 CSR activities for the year 2012-13. The number of beneficiaries was 10101 with the expenditure of 583.06 Lakhs. The companies are ONGC ,RECL ,BEL ,MNDC, HUDCO ,ITPO , RINL , PFC, MIDHANI ,IRFC ,NRL ,MMTC , IFFCO. The major contribution was made by RECL (Rs157.50 Lakhs) and the minimum contribution was made by NRL (Rs02.41 Lakhs). Number of Camps conducted by 14 CPSU under CSR activities was 133 in the year 2013-14. The number of beneficiaries was 10101 with the expenditure of 3920.18 Lakhs. The companies are ONGC ,REC, HUDCO, IRFC , MIDHANI ,HPCL, NRL , IFFCO, BEML ,BEL,NPCIL , NTPC , HAL ,SPM. The major contribution was made by ONGC (Rs3362.20 Lakhs) and the minimum contribution was made by BEML (Rs01.45 Lakhs).

Number of Camps conducted by 11 CPSU under CSR activities was 40 in the year 2014-15. The number of beneficiaries was 3533 with the expenditure of 13.19 Crores. The companies are NPCIL,BOI,IDBI,CONCOR ,PGCIL, BEML , IIFCL,NIACL , Canra Bank ,RITES, IRFC The major contribution was made by NPCIL (Rs 5.88 Crores) and the minimum contribution was made by CONCOR (Rs0.05 Crore).

Conclusion: The resources utilised under the CSR activities for the benefit of persons with disabilities are near about 112 crores for a period of 3years.an average of 37.3 crores per year which is not sufficient to provide the minimum services to persons with disabilities on accessing health, education, communication transport, buildings and vocational program. Government of India shall give the directions to all the companies to implement the project either through concern ministries or through concern National Institute which holds the responsibilities of developing service delivery models, human resources and conducting the research and development in the respective field. Around 25 companies in India have the ranking of performing high in their business. The contribution of these 25 companies is meagre for the activities of empowerment of persons with disabilities. As per the medical report on causes of disability the majority of the cases are occurs due to the influence environmental factors. The responsibility to rehabilitate and empower the persons with disability is in the hands of society and companies. As the New Companies Act, 2013 makes a mandatory provision of making a

contribution of 2% of profit towards corporate social responsibility to address social issues and bring about a positive impact on the life of the poor and disadvantaged groups including bringing about inclusive development and help these sections lead a productive dignified life, the contribution of the companies have to be more focused by converging the activities through the ministries.

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