

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee under the Scheme on 'Research on Disability related Technology' held on 18.06.2015 at 11.00 AM in the Conference Room, 5th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

List of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. Secretary (DEPwD) welcomed the members of the Committee and requested JS(AKA) to briefly explain issues to be discussed in the meeting.

3. JS(AKA) informed the members that the Department launched the Scheme on "Research on Disability related Technology" in January, 2015 with a view to start a window for research in disability sector. As per the Scheme the areas for research/studies are required to be identified in every financial year for inviting applications. The Technical Committee under the Scheme has suggested various areas of research/studies under broad categories namely Rehabilitation, Education, Intervention and Prevention and Miscellaneous for the current financial year. The Committee also suggested broad scope for each of the categories. However, these areas are not exhaustive. The Steering Committee is to consider the suggested areas of research/studies recommended by the Technical Committee for approval before applications are invited accordingly. He also intimated that the Department has already received research/proposals. The Steering Committee may like to take note of this and may consider directing the Scrutiny/Technical Committee for evaluation of these proposals if these fall within the identified areas and are in accordance with the Scheme. He requested Director(KVS) to briefly explain about Scheme.

3. Director(KVS) stated that the main components of the Scheme is research and development of assistive technology and product development devices, scheme for study/research/survey/internship and periodical collection of data related to disability. As per this Scheme, (i) Scrutiny Committee will scrutinize each proposal with reference to terms of reference and financial parameters, etc., (ii) Technical Committee will recommend the research product and the subjects/topics for survey, studies, etc and also evaluate each proposals and submit its recommendations to the Steering Committee and (iii) Steering Committee will oversee the operation of the Scheme. The funding pattern for research & development under the Scheme is 40% of the fee on signing of agreement, 35% after submission of draft project report within the time frame with a presentation and 25% on submission of final report. Funding pattern for internship is 30% on signing of



the agreement, second 30% on submission of the draft study/survey report within stipulated time, third and final installment of 40% on submission of final survey/study report after acceptance by the Government. The Steering Committee needs to decide the areas of research/studies recommended by the Technical Committee so that applications could be invited during the current financial year. The proposals received under the Scheme so far may be examined by the Scrutiny Committee and subsequently by the Technical Committee. On the basis of the recommendation of the Technical Committee the Steering Committee could then take a decision in the matter.

4. During the deliberations, Dr Ravinder Singh, Scientist 'C', ICMR, informed the Committee that they have 100 research proposals under category of Intervention and Prevention. He agreed to send the details of such proposals for consideration in the Department. He suggested that Intervention and Prevention should be given priority over the other categories as suggested by the Technical Committee.

5. The representative from IIT, Delhi stated that recently they have developed a product namely Multi-functional Polimeric Orthotic knee joint for polio and Cerebral Palsy patients to facilitate smooth movement of knee. The product is on trial in collaboration with ALIMCO. DGM, ALIMCO, informed that they have observed certain problems in the product and they are in touch with IIT, Delhi in this regard.

5. After detailed deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

(i) The areas of research/studies recommended by the Technical Committee along with the suggested scope as indicated at **Annexure-II** are approved and notice inviting proposals may be issued immediately. The copy of the notice may be placed on the website and advertisement in this regard may be issued accordingly.

(ii) The priority of considering the proposals in respect of the recommended 4 categories may be in the following order:-

- a) Intervention and Prevention;
- b) Rehabilitation;
- c) Education;
- d) Miscellaneous;



Miscellaneous category should be kept open ended and any other area related to disability can also be considered under this category.

(iii) The proposals received may be segregated into sub categories namely specific project level, sector level and Research Institute level.

(iv) ICMR and Deptt. of Science Technology may send the details of the proposals relating to disability sector for consideration under the Scheme.

(v) Deptt. of Science and Technology may also suggest the name of premier institutes so that notices inviting applications for research project can also be sent to them directly.

(vi) ALIMCO may sign agreement with the IIT, Delhi for promoting the products for persons with disabilities developed under various research projects.

(vii) The proposals received in the Department so far may be scrutinized by the Scrutiny Committee and evaluated by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee may submit recommendations for consideration of Steering Committee.

(viii) The meeting of the Steering Committee may be held on a quarterly basis.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



The list of participants

1. Shri Lov Verma, Secretary(DEPwD)
2. Shri Awanish K Awasthi, JS(AKA)
3. Ms. Kiran Puri, JS&FA(DEPwD)
4. Shri K.V.S. Rao, Director(DEPwD)
5. Shri D.K. Panda, Under Secretary(D-III)
6. Prof Naresh Bhandari, IIT Delhi
7. Shri A.K. Srivastava, DGM (Production), ALIMCO
8. Dr Gopi Krishna, Scientist'D', Deptt. of Science & Technology
9. Dr Ravinder Singh, Scientist 'C', ICMR, Delhi

Annexure -II

| S.No. | Category | Area of Research/Survey/Study | Broad scope |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Intervention and Prevention | 1. Tools for early detection of disabilities 2. Application of Information and Communication Technology in Disability Sector 3. Research in disability through use of space technology | The research and development projects should aim at designing/developing new techniques for screening, assessing disability at prenatal, neonatal and infant stage with new approach for preventing disabilities. This will also include:- (i) surveys/investigations regarding causes of occurrence of disabilities. (ii) Evolving health care techniques for PwDs in particular. (iii) Developing health care and Rescue module at the time of natural disaster or other situations of risk for PwDs. |
| 2. | Rehabilitation | 1. New Aids and Assistive devices 2. Psycho-Social Rehabilitation/Socio-economic Studies 3. Impact Assessment Studies in Disability Sector 4. Therapeutic techniques 5. Medical/Surgical Rehabilitation procedure 6. Rehabilitation model/case studies | To improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities and to make them self sufficient, to improve the quality of rehabilitation measures being provided under various schemes, rehabilitation techniques etc.. This includes (i) Research and Development including designing of new and improvement in existing aids and assistive devices for persons with disabilities adaptable to beneficiaries with different physical built and deformities considering varying geographical conditions; |

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| | | <p>(ii) Identification of bottlenecks in the schemes/programmes of the Government and their implementation particularly, the delivery system, Development of new socio-economic models of rehabilitations.</p> <p>(iii) Research and development to develop new medical/surgical procedure to enhance the capability of persons with disabilities with the view to make them self-sufficient.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Education</p> <p>1. Education and Training modules for empowerment of persons with disabilities</p> <p>2. Home based education for PwDs</p> <p>3. Education methodology/e-literacy.</p> | <p>To develop new techniques/tools and generate adequate awareness to promote education amongst persons with disabilities.</p> <p>This include:-</p> <p>(i) New module for training of teachers/trainers for PwDs.</p> <p>(ii) Development of mechanism for promoting e-literacy/e-learning.</p> <p>(iii) Module/technique for inculcating skill development among PwDs to enhance scope of employment.</p> <p>(iv) Software/programme/device development to enhance interactions between the teacher and student with disabilities.</p> <p>(v) To develop awareness and sensitisation programmes/tools</p> |
| 4. | <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>1. Implementation of PwD Act</p> <p>2. Market Research for aids and assistive devices for PwDs</p> | <p>Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities depends on effective enforcement of the legislation and Government schemes and programmes. The study/research project</p> |

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| | <p>3. Standardisation of aids and assistive devices</p> <p>4. Empowering PwDs for participation in sports/recreation activities</p> <p>5. Problem is being faced in timely issuance of disability certificates in the States.</p> <p>6. Any other area relating to disability</p> | <p>should therefore focus on identifying shortcomings in the implementation system, suggesting transparent mechanism for effective implementation, eliminating the scope of use of sub-standard devices, developing module for full participation of PwDs in recreational activities etc</p> |
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