



25 February 2013

To

P. Sivasankaran, IAS
Secretary to Government,
Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department,
Government of TamilNadu

Dear Sir,

Sub: Request for approval of suitable scribes for the visually impaired students appearing for the State Board 10th and +2 public examinations.

Nethrodaya is a social service organization dedicated to the welfare of the visually impaired community in Tamil Nadu, which is been recognized by Government of TamilNadu award for the "Best Institution 2012" in recognition of its outstanding services towards the differently abled persons. Our interventions are designed to elevate the standard of living of the visually challenged in all walks of life and to assist them with the latest technology and assistive devices to enable them to lead a trouble free life.

Visually impaired students who appeared for the state Board 10th / +2 examinations in the past had to face various hardships in writing theses examinations on account of selection and appointment of inappropriate scribes and due to lack of qualified scribes. In this connection we wish to bring it to your kind attention the following negative factors in the present system of selection and appointment of Scribes, which prevented these disadvantaged students from giving their best in the examinations;

- 1) As well qualified and appropriate persons were not appointed as scribes, the visually impaired students were compelled to tell the spellings of ordinary English words like, his, is, was etc, thereby wasting valuable examination time which could have been used to answer the question in detail and in depth.

47/1, Nolambur Phase II, Mogappair West, Chennai-600037,

Tamil Nadu, India. Phone :+ 91 44 26565012/26563680

Mobile :+ 91 93828 96636 E mail :nethrodaya@gmail.com Website :www.nethrodaya.org

DONATIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 80G OF THE I.T. ACT, 1961



- 2) The Scribes in most cases were not writing in full as per dictation of the visually impaired examinees, but were only writing short summaries in their own words and as a result the examinees could not score full marks. Scribes are expected to write verbatim what all the visually impaired examinees dictate and not to use their discretion in modifying, editing or summarizing the answers.
- 3) Subjects like Science, Mathematics and Accountancy which involve symbols, equations, drawings and other technical way of representing facts require knowledgeable scribes in the respective subjects to write the examinations accurately as per the dictation of the visually impaired examinees. However it has been found that most of the scribes were not able to write these technicalities correctly such as misquoting of equations and formulae, for example “a squared instead of a^2 , as they have no basic knowledge of the subjects concerned which had deprived the visually impaired students valuable marks in the examinations.
- 4) Time management is of crucial importance to the visually impaired students with scribes and therefore every minute is valuable. In most of the cases, the scribes are found to be late in arriving at the examination hall and sometimes leave the hall before the end of the examination time. As a result these students could not get full marks by not answering all the required questions. In spite of the extra time allowed by the State Government, the visually impaired students could not utilize the time fruitfully due to lack of commitment of the scribes.
- 5) At present there is no system of posting invigilators exclusively for the visually challenged examinees and the scribes and the examinees are seated separately in other rooms without any supervision. Lack of supervision may lead to undesirable malpractices to the detriment of the examinees as a whole. We fail to understand the reason for the present practice of not allotting exclusive invigilator for the visually impaired while the Department has a system of appointing invigilators for the sighted students.

47/1, Nolambur Phase II, Mogappair West, Chennai-600037,

Tamil Nadu, India. Phone :+ 91 44 26565012/26563680

Mobile :+ 91 93828 96636 E mail :nethrodaya@gmail.com Website :www.nethrodaya.org

DONATIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 80G OF THE I.T. ACT, 1961



- 6) Government of Tamilnadu has facilitated scribes by enhancing the scribe allowance and also extra examination time for the visually impaired vide WDAD G.O. Ms. No. 73 dated 22.6.2012 (copy enclosed).

We, therefore, request you to kindly arrange to take corrective steps in selecting and appointing qualified and appropriate scribes for the respective subjects with necessary instructions to be followed by the scribes. We request you to accord top priority to the matter as these examinations are scheduled to be held in March 2013.

Thanking you

For Nethrodaya

C. Govindakrishnan

Founder

47/1, Nolambur Phase II, Mogappair West, Chennai-600037,
Tamil Nadu, India. Phone :+ 91 44 26565012/26563680

Mobile :+ 91 93828 96636 E mail :nethrodaya@gmail.com Website :www.nethrodaya.org
DONATIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 80G OF THE I.T. ACT, 1961