

To

Date: 30.10.2013

Hon'ble Minister for School Education & Higher Education,

Government of Tamil Nadu

Dear Sir,

**Sub:** Special teacher eligibility test for Persons with disabilities proposed to be conducted by Government of Tamilnadu - request to issue the guidelines for conducting special TET and to include details of granting relaxation in the TET pass percentage marks in guidelines.

Nethrodaya, established as a social service organization on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2002, has been working for the welfare of the visually impaired community of Tamilnadu for the past 11 years. In recognition of its outstanding services to the differently abled community in Tamilnadu, Nethrodaya received the "Best Institution Award 2012" from the hands of our Honorable Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha, Government of Tamilnadu. We are grateful to the Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu for considering differently abled candidates specially and for announcing special TET for the differently abled persons appearing for BT assistant posts.

In this connection we wish to bring it to your kind notice that the Department of School Education, have not yet issued any guidelines for conducting the special TET, even after the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu. While framing the guidelines for conducting the special TET the Government shall include the relaxation in the percentage of pass marks to be granted to visually impaired candidates, which is the foremost demand in the recent protest of visually impaired candidates.

While issuing the guidelines, NCTE has carefully considered the pros and cons and have found that that there is adequate justification for giving powers to State Governments for granting relaxations in qualifying marks to the persons with disabilities taking into consideration various other important factors. As suggested in the NCTE guidelines, many state Governments have already announced concession in TET pass marks for persons with disabilities Viz 20 percent concession In Andhra Pradesh, 10 percent in Orissa and Manipur and 5 percent in Uttar Pradesh. We are certain that the quality of children education will not be affected by granting the relaxation in the pass percentage for visually impaired persons. Relaxation in marks has also been allowed for the visually impaired persons in CTET examinations conducted for CBSC schools. The Government of Tamilnadu has also agreed to follow the guidelines of NCTE Vide G.O. (Ms).No.181 Dated 15.11.2011.

Chapter v and Chapter VI of Persons with disabilities Act 1995 (Equal opportunities protection of rights and full participation) stipulate that the Central and State government should make special efforts to provide education and employment of persons with disabilities.

The NET and SLET tests conducted by UGC for college lectures in Tamilnadu provides for relaxation in percentage of pass mark as 40 percent in respect of persons with disabilities.

The State Commissioner for the welfare of Differently Abled Persons through his Letter No. 2877/ WDAP/ 3.1/2012 Dated on 22.11.2012 has issued a recommendation with regard to relaxation in Pass percentage marks for TET examination.

There are around 9, 42,000 visually impaired persons in Tamilnadu who are underprivileged and economically poor. By providing relaxations in the pass percentage in the TET examination, these deprived visually impaired graduates facing great hardships will get an opportunity to get employment and contribute to the growth of our nation.

We, therefore, request you to kindly arrange to issue the guidelines for conducting the special TET for visually impaired candidates, after incorporating the relaxation in pass percentage of marks, on a top priority basis without further delay.

Looking forward your positive response.

Thanking you

For Nethrodaya

C. Govindakrishnan

Founder