

The Director,  
Directorate of Government Examinations,  
DPI, College road,  
Chennai,

Dear Madam,

Subject (Most Urgent) Request to remove the shortcomings /lacunae found in the format and content of online application form for State Board Examinations.

Reference

1. Management of Government of India Websites, Guidelines for IT Managers
2. Chief Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,

Letter Ref No 9-2(BFE) /CCD/2005(Vol ii) dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012

3. <http://www.dge.tn.nic.in/hscprivate/webadddetail.aspx>
4. TNPSC one-time online registration copy

7 Notification issued by the Director of Government Examination, regarding the procedure to be followed by the Differently able Direct private candidates ,published in Tamil daily “ Dina Thandhi” dated 12/2/2013 on page 10

Nethrodaya ,has been providing food and hostel facilities completely free of cost to many visually challenged and physically challenged students hailing from rural areas of Tamilnadu hereby enabling these students to continue their academic pursuits without break and other difficulties .

Explanation

In the Guidelines for IT managers relating to Management of Government of India Websites, first read above, it has been mentioned that a Government website being universally accessible would imply that a broad range of software, hardware and audience including physically challenged citizens can, not only access the online content and services on the website but are also able to actually make use of it It was also mentioned therein that the world Wide Web consortium 's (W3C), Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) is an internationally agreed recommendation for website accessibility for

with special needs and it is expected of the Government websites to follow these standards .However it is observed that the website of the Directorate Of Government examinations, Government of Tamilnadu has been designed in violation of some of the above guidelines /instructions.

In the letter read second above, written by the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, he has instructed that Government websites should be made accessible by complying with the least web content accessibility guidelines. These instructions were also not complied with by the Directorate of Public Examination in their website

In the online application read third above, there is no provision for ascertaining the following details from the candidates:

Whether differently able	yes/no
If yes nature of disability	-----
Do you require the help of scribes	yes/No

This lacuna goes against the spirit of the Persons with disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of rights, and full participation) Act 1995

In the guidelines read fourth above, issued by the Tamilnadu Public Service Commission, a body constituted under the provisions of Constitution of India, for conduct of various recruitment examinations ,equal rights and equal opportunities have been provided to the differently abled candidates as could be seen from the following questions incorporated in the online line application;

Are you a differently abled person -----  
Type of disability -----  
Percentage of disability -----  
Do you need a scribe -----

In the instructions read five above, issued to the Direct private candidates appearing for Higher Secondary Examination, March 2013,there are no special instructions in respect of differently abled candidates. Scribes must be provided to the differently abled direct private candidates, especially the visually impaired candidates appearing for the examination, free of cost, as it is their basic right as per the spirit of the PWD act 1995.This omission amounts to violation of their right to equality.

In the Guidelines, read sixth above, issued for the conduct of Higher secondary examination, there is special mention of fee concession and provision of scribes to the blind candidates .However these facilities are not mentioned in the guidelines for the guidelines for the direct private candidates .There is neither a mention of concession in examination fees nor the option of availing free scribe facility for the visually impaired private direct candidates, in the guidelines, nor about the remuneration to be paid to the scribes.

In the notification issued by the Directorate of Government Examinations, read seventh above, there is no entry/ fields for obtaining data , in the online application form to find out whether the direct private candidate is a differently abled person ,and the nature of disability .Non inclusion of these essential information with regard to differently abled candidates in the online application form has confused these hapless candidates and made them to go from pillar to post to fill up the online application form. There is no entry or data field anywhere in the application form to know whether the candidate is a differently abled person or not and the nature of disability.

On the basis of the above explanations, we appeal and seek the following immediate redressal measures;

- 1 The differently abled private direct candidates appearing for government examinations must be given their rights to register the details regarding their disability etc in the online application form itself. These entries /data fields must be included in the online application form in the website
- 2 The last date for submission of online application form for appearing for the higher secondary examination by the direct private candidates, which is on 18/01/2013 at present, must be suitably extended to enable them to record the details regarding their disability etc in the online application form after the form is reformatted after adding the required data fields.

Thanking you

For Nethrodaya

C.Govindakrishnan

Founder