

# ISSUE-1 Newsletter

MARCH 2016



**Social Welfare and  
Bait-UI-Maal Department**  
Government of the Punjab

## **Punjab Social Welfare Department Celebrates the International Day for Persons with Disabilities**

Punjab Social Welfare Department held a function in connection with International Day of Disabled Persons on 3rd December 2015 at 90 Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam.

MNA Pervaiz Malik was the chief guest. Haroon Rafique Secretary Social Welfare & Bait ul Maal, Dr. Amjad Saqib President Punjab Welfare Trust, Mr. Amir Ashraf President Pakistan Association of the blinds, Secretary Deaf Association, Secretary LABARD, Secretary MileStone, GM Cash & Carry and a large number of disabled persons attended the ceremony.



Secretary Social Welfare congratulated disabled persons on international day of the disabled and said that the aim of observation of this day at international level is recognition to their importance and their place in the society. He said that Punjab government is making efforts for active role of disabled persons in national development and taking all out steps for this purpose.

Haroon Rafique told the participants that due to patronage of Chief Minister and efforts of Social Welfare, a comprehensive policy has been evolved for the rehabilitation of the disabled persons under which opportunities of education, professional training, technical expertise and entrepreneurship will be provided to them.

Provincial Secretary said that advertisement of over 3600 vacancies under 3% quota for the disabled this year in Punjab is a big achievement of Social Welfare Department.

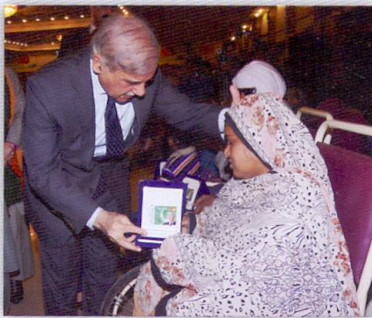
He thanked GM Metro Cash & Carry on recruitment of disabled persons and appreciated the services of Mile Stone and Punjab Welfare Trust.

MNA Pervaiz Malik said that Punjab Chief Minister has soft corner in his heart for the disabled and considers resolution of their problems as his prime responsibility. He said that he is representing Chief Minister Punjab and will convey the messages of disabled persons to him with full responsibility.

## **Social Protection Initiatives of SW & BMD.**

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif launched the Punjab Khidmat Card Programme on 29.12.2015 for providing interest-free loans, free technical training, rehabilitation and welfare and financial assistance to the special persons by distributing the cards among some of them.

"The Khidmat card has been initiated to make the disabled active and useful members of society," he said while addressing the function to launch the programme.



A sum of Rs. 2 billion has been allocated for the first phase of the scheme by the Social Protection Authority which is targeting 200,000 beneficiaries in the province. An amount of Rs3,600 will be given to the each needy person on a quarterly basis through designated branches of the Bank of Punjab or ATM machines.

"Through the Khidmat card, the government is trying to enable the disabled to stand on their own feet and earn their livelihood through financial help and technical training," said the chief minister.

He promised transparency in disbursement of the financial assistance through district committees.

One-window service for disbursement of Khidmat Card had been set up by the Social Welfare Department. In every District, Office of the District Officers (Social Welfare) has been designated to provide one window facility for issuance of Khidmat Card to registered disabled persons. An amount of Rs. 1,200 will be given to each registered disabled person on monthly basis through designated branches of the Bank of Punjab at their respective districts.

## **White Cane Safety Day**

Lahore celebrated "International White Cane Safety Day" on dated 19-10-2015 at Social Welfare Training Institute, Township, Lahore.



## **Minimum Caring Standards for Child Caring Institutions**

Social Welfare Department has taken an initiative for the development of Minimum Caring Standards for Child Caring Institutions included Gehwara, Model Children Home, Nigheban, Chaman, Dar-ul-Falah and Kashna. A capacity building workshop on May 15, 2015 in this connection was organized for department officials involved in the process.



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## INITIATIVES OF SW&BMD FOR DISABLED

Vibrant societies are not oblivious of the needs of their marginalized people and create conducive and enabling environment for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The PWDs are specifically catered in a manner that disability, instead of becoming a barrier for them, turns into an opportunity through various enabling actions of the public, private and NGO sector in the countries around the world. Pakistan and the province of Punjab is no exception in this regard. The lead department to assist the

PWDs is the Social Welfare and Bait ul Maal Department (SW&BMD). Currently the department is assiduously engaged in working on many aspects related to policy, strategy, legal and procedural, recruitment, training, and rehabilitation of PWDs. The Department has developed the first provincial policy and attendant strategy for the disabled persons. This policy will be the guiding document for future course of orchestrated planning and implementation.

The Policy concerns creation of educational facilities, skills development, employment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and disability inclusive disaster risk reduction. This policy envisages at integrating the work of all government departments through a synergistic relationship. The department has also completed the task of revising its law and Rules in consonance with the international obligations and contemporary realities.

The implementation of 3% employment quota for the PWDs had been a challenge in the public sector. The Department undertook this gigantic task to coordinate with all the public sector entities to make them identify and recruit PWDs and resultantly most of the provincial departments and districts have now advertised more than 3600 posts against which more than 2800 PWDs have been recruited so far. All three categories of

PWDs, i.e. visually impaired, physically disabled and hearing impaired persons are being employed.

The SW&BMD did not remain complacent only with public sector recruitment and also consistently endeavored to coax the private sector to complement the governmental efforts. As a result, Metro cash and carry has

**"Our government is fully alive and conscious of its duties towards the special persons. This is a people's friendly administration and special persons being the most vulnerable segment of the society are paid special attention by this government."**

Minister for Social Welfare & Bait Ul Maal Punjab

come forward to offer employment to PWDs in Lahore and Rawalpindi followed by Faisalabad. The Department has also made efforts to collect fines from those private entities which show slackness in implementing the PWDs employment quota. These funds are spent on the welfare and rehabilitation of PWDs. There are 36 special district facilitation cells have been created in all districts to provide information to the PWDs and facilitate them in employment process. A provincial facilitation cell is working at Lahore to coordinate with all these cells to clear the bottlenecks on daily basis and monitor the employment process. In order to augment these efforts an active website for the disable has also been created and upgraded.

Reforming assessment of disability and identification of soft jobs for PWDs has also been initiated by the department since the existing assessment system required changes and there was no system of identification of soft jobs for the PWDs. These initiatives are under way and are expected to complete soon.

**"The Social Welfare Department, under the directions of the Chief Minister of the Punjab, has reoriented its priorities in consonance with its obligations towards PWDs. Relevant significant aspects of PWDs are in focus."**

Secretary Social Welfare & Bait Ul Maal Department

The Department has also initiated the much needed data gathering project of PWDs and have started by registering the visually impaired persons and so far some 32000 VIPs have been registered. The data is being statistically analyzed to feed into policy actions for the PWDs. In order to tap the potential of NGO sector

for the benefit of PWDs the department is channelizing the governmental grants to progressive NGOs through Punjab Welfare Trust for the Disabled.

The training prowess of renowned NGOs is being utilized to train the PWDs. This year alone the training budget has been substantially enhanced. The department is also extending financial assistance to the needy PWDs and 10% funds have been earmarked by the Punjab Bait ul Maal for the disabled. Department is also coordinating with Zakat and Usher Department to provide financial assistance to the needy PWDs. This year low vision clinics are being established in 13 districts to prevent blindness. This project, in collaboration with the Health Department, will be expanded to other districts.

In addition to this many other rehabilitative and welfare actions taken for PWDs are as follows:

- No age limit for taking admission in any Educational Institution of Punjab.
- All educational Charges including Tuition fee, Hostel fee and Utility Charges will be waived off on admission
- One seat reserved for admission in Higher education i.e. MPhil and Ph.D.



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- On admission at Public University, a laptop will be awarded to PWDs as an incentive and Wheel Chair will be provided on passing out from University.
- Access to banking services as it was not available to blind persons before.
- Allow for Helper to sit in CSS and other competitive exams.
- Provision of Special pathways/Ramps/ Parking and Toilets in all Government \ Buildings and Wheel Chair will be provided at the entrance of each office.
- Issuance of Special CINCs to PWDs.
- 50% concession in Air, Rail and Road fare.
- Facility to import duty free car/disability friendly vehicle for persons with disabilities.
- Provision of free medical treatment to PWDs and their family members in all Government Hospitals/Dispensaries.
- Age relaxation up to 10 years in the upper age limit of PWDs for entering into Government Service.
- Government has recently launched Khidmat Card Scheme for the disabled under which stipend for over 0.2 million disabled is underway which also includes over 32,000 visually impaired individuals.





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## Services Under Social Welfare Bait-ul-maal Department

The mandate of Social Welfare Department is to uphold a 'people-oriented' approach, striving to provide members of the public with a wide range of welfare services, including services for the impoverished strata that includes disabled and the elderly, rehabilitation and medical social services as well as family and child welfare services. Our welfare services cover a range of preventive, nurturing, supportive and remedial measures. We seek to allocate resources to the destitute to meet their basic needs and help them move from welfare to self reliance.

SW&BM has a number of institutions under it rendering welfare services to the underprivileged

### Women Welfare Services

- Women Shelter Homes (Dar-ul-Aman)
- Mother & Children Homes (Dar-ul-Falah)
- Socio-Economic & Rehabilitation Center (SERC) for Women and Juvenile Prisoners
- Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Human Rights Centers for Women (Crisis Centers)

### Child Welfare Services

- Abandoned Babies Homes (Gehwara)
- Model Children Homes (Orphanages)
- Home for Destitute Girls (Kashana)
- Centre for Lost Runaway & Kidnapped Children (Nigheban)

### Welfare Services for Disabled Persons

- Center for Mentally Retarded Children (Chaman)
- Home for Disabled (Nasheman)
- Half Way Home (Dar-ul-Sakoon)

### Skill Development

- District Industrial Home (Sanatzar)
- Skill Development Institute (Qasar-e-Behbood)

### Welfare & Rehabilitative Services for Drug Addicts

- Drug Rehabilitation Centers
- Model Drug Abuse Centers

### Community Development Services

- NGOs Registration
- Community development projects in rural and urban areas of each district.

### Beggars' Rehabilitation

- Beggars' Home

### Elderly Welfare Services

- Old Age Homes (Aafiat)

### Medical Social Services Projects

- 110 Medical Social Services Projects working at DHQs and THQs Hospitals in the Punjab.



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 Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal Department, Government of Punjab

