



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
TO EVOLVE A NATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEERING
FOR AND AMONGST PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY**



The Memorandum of Understanding between REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA, a statutory body (acronym as RCI hereafter) and IYV, UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (acronym as IYV, UNV hereafter) is signed herewith on the Twentieth day of March 2002, that both the RCI & IYV, UNV agree to collaborate to promote volunteering in the field of disability. The national program for promotion of volunteering for and amongst persons with disability shall have the following objectives: -

1. To promote volunteering in society to change the attitudinal barriers towards persons with disabilities.
2. To promote volunteering among various professionals who could give time to work with people with disabilities.
3. To promote the spirit of volunteering among people with vocational expertise who could give time to work with people with disabilities and train them.
4. To promote volunteering in rural areas, both for the purpose of imparting better education to children with special needs as well as to promote vocational development in these areas so that the image of people with disabilities could improve and economic independence enhanced.
5. To promote volunteering amongst persons with disabilities so that the process of inclusion can be accelerated
6. To evolve various tools of mass communications to create awareness on the need to volunteer for persons with disabilities and achieve the above objectives.
7. To evolve schemes and programs related to different sections of the society like retired persons, persons with disabilities, students, etc for promotion of volunteering.

Role of Rehabilitation Council of India

1. RCI will promote volunteering efforts through its training institutions (approx. 200). These institutions will act as facilitators in organizing sensitization programmes in their zones.
2. RCI will encourage volunteering through rehabilitation professionals/ personnel/PHC doctors (around 20,000) spread all over the country.
3. RCI will work with IYV, UNV in developing reading materials for the volunteers.
4. RCI will organize, where necessary, short orientation courses and capacity building programs for achieving the objectives of the program.
5. RCI will work with voluntary organizations in the field of disability to evolve volunteer promotion efforts.

6. RCI will work out schemes and programs in partnership with IYV, UNV related to different sections of the society like retired persons, persons with disabilities, students, etc for promotion of volunteering.

Role of IYV United Nations Volunteers (IYV, UNV)

- 1) To give inputs and help in publishing of relevant literature/posters in association with RCI
- 2) To help organize short orientation courses and capacity building programs to achieve the above objectives
- 3) In partnership with RCI, coordinate with other agencies, national and international for promoting volunteering efforts in the field of disability.
- 4) To generally take such measures as are possible through technical expertise to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities.
- 5) Assist RCI to organize Seminars/Workshops in different parts of the country for exchange of ideas and development of new concepts.
- 6) To gradually strive to expand this concept and its implementation throughout South Asia.
- 7) In Partnership with RCI, work with various other organizations to create mass awareness through this national program.

Target Groups

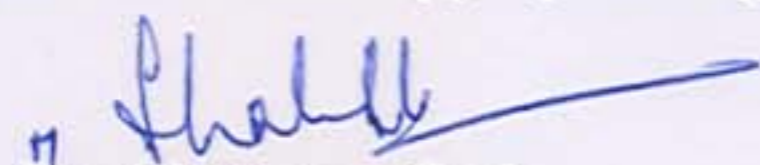
- i) All professionals being trained by various universities in India
- ii) Ex-servicemen, retired post masters, revenue officers, etc.
- iii) Voluntary organizations
- iv) NCC Cadets and Scouts
- v) Special and Regular Schools through participatory discussions
- vi) Media

Apex Advisory Committee

There will be an apex Advisory Committee, which will co-ordinate and guide the phases of activities to be undertaken for this national program.

Financial arrangements

Although the effort will be to promote volunteering for and amongst the persons with disabilities, there may be some expenditure involved. RCI and IYV, UNV could consult with other appropriate agencies and funds would be raised accordingly.



Dr. Shantum Seth
Volunteer Promotion Advisor
on behalf of IYV, UNV
20th March, 2002



Dr. J.P. Singh
Member Secretary
on behalf of RCI
20th March, 2002