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HR/3

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to a letter dated 07 August 2013 sent to the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka regarding a Questionnaire on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Education.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka has the honour to transmit herewith the response received from the Ministry of Education of the Government of Sri Lanka for the aforementioned Questionnaire.

The Permanent Mission Sri Lanka would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this communication by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
(Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch)
52, Palais Wilson
Rue de Paquis
CH-1201 Geneva

**GoSL response to the Questionnaire on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities to Education**

Question No. (1)

Answer : We are providing educational facilities for all children with special educational needs. In this context regular school system, assisted special schools, programmes which are specially organized in National and Provincial level are supportive in this context. There is no restriction to access to any student with disabilities to regular schools at any level, otherwise special schools assisted for severely disabled children.

Question No. (2)

Answer : Specially, for the children of school going age (and near to it) are mainly comes under the control of the Ministry of Education and many programmes are conducted jointly with the Ministry of Social Services, the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Health in the country. Here special programmes for adults are also conducted in this way. Besides the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Services have their own programmes for adults as well as children, conducted by them-selves

Question No. (3)

Answer : As we have accepted the inclusive education policy, this ministry has to make arrangements to educate all children in non-disabled and disabled. In this context any child with special needs can learn in the regular school system and to be qualified to enter universities.

- (a) Ministry of Education allocates funds for this sector through Primary and Special Education.
- (b) After providing basic educational facilities for them, students with disabilities can receive their education with other children in regular school system and they have opportunities to face National Exams and to obtain higher education also.
- (c) Special educators have already been serving as resources to regular teachers and,
- (d) With the co-ordinations of those special educators, all the students who shows ability to learn in regular classes, are absorbed in to regular classes.
- (e) This Ministry provides special educational equipments, classrooms and human resources at the National, Provincial and School Level. Related programmes are also conducted according to the limited financial allocations.
- (f) This ministry has developed special education assessment tools to measure those children in National and Provincial Level to reach the next level of education.
- (g) Pre-Service and In-Service training is also provided to teachers so that they can deliver programmes in the classroom. Pre-Service training for 03 years for new comers as teachers and In-Service training (when they are on the job) is provided by this Ministry and provincial authorities.
- (h) School syllabus for students with special needs are matched for the necessity of those students. Necessary instructions are provided at In-Service training programmes for resource persons and teachers.
- (i) It has been accepted that the necessity of sign language to use students with hearing deficiencies. In addition to this book reading and using words are also available to make easy for communication.
- (j) These kind of students are allowed to attend a Mainstream Schools at request on individual basis and on evaluation by the responsible officials.

(k) To educate students with disabilities, various methods are being implemented, among them parent awareness programmes, community awareness programmes, workshops etc. are organized at National Level and Provincial Level by the Ministry of Education as well as with the help of relevant non-governmental organizations.

In addition to this relevant courses are also conducted by the National Institute of Education in Sri Lanka also.

Question No. (4)

Answer: Education mechanisms for students with disabilities are also implemented on certain circulars, rules and regulations, which consists responsibilities of relevant officers in the field of education at National Level, Provincial Level, Zonal Level, Divisional Level and School Level. Hence, it has accountability mechanism for monitoring exclusion, enrolment of them for suitable institute, keep them until completion.

Most of families show accountability involving directly to get education for student of them.

Question No. (5)

Answer: There are no gender impairments to access education for them and most of environmental barrier have already eliminated. Transport facilities in remote areas, accessibility for some places are yet to be established.

Some of disaggregated data on children under the Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka as follows;

- (1) (a) Number of assisted special schools = 25
- (b) Number of students in these schools = 2877

- (2) (a) Number of Education Units in Government Schools = 551
- (b) Number of students in these units = 5128

Teachers in Special Education

Government Schools

Assisted Schools

National Schools	=	132
Provincial Schools	=	417

Total		549
		=====

Total Number of Teachers = 452

Total number of teachers = 1001
=====

Number of students currently in regular schools (mainstream schools)	=	49,825
Total number of students under the Ministry of Education (in mainstream schools and other institutes) [(1)b +(2)b above + 49,825}	=	57,830