

# Annual Activities Report (April 2013 to March 2014)

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## Handicapped Development (HD) Foundation, Manipur.

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## INTRODUCTION

HD Foundation Manipur is a non-profit making NGO established in 1999 and got the status of a registered trust under the India Trust Act 1882 under registration number 387 of 2002 in the state of Manipur, India. Our motto is Live, Liberty & Sacrifice. Our Objective is the Social Inclusion of Persons With Disabilities by providing educational assistance, livelihood promotion activities, community awareness, health care services, parents counseling, legal aid, etc working with the PWDs and their family members, village community and social activist of the State and national & international Non- Government Organization. HD Foundation envisages a welfare society where poorest of the poor, weaker section and especially the handicapped persons of the society could enjoy with full justice and democratic values in life,

In the past 15 years of our dedication, commitment, & meaningful intervention have improved the quality of life for hundreds of the persons with disability across the state. We recognized the rights of every individual irrespective of their physical strength and mental ability to lead a life of dignity and self respect in a just and equitable society, and the need to develop the capacities of individuals and communities to improve the quality of their lives and enhance their ability to negotiate from a position of strength that would come from being educated, in good health and having the capacity to be engaged in productive works.

Our biggest achievement for the year (April 2013 – March 2014) is the productions of our journal entitle Matamgi Shingnaba – the first journal of its kind in the state which focuses on the issues related to disabilities.

**Our Activities at a glance: - (April 2013 to March 2014)**

- Release of Journal – MATAMGI SHINGNABA (22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013)
- Annual General Assembly 2012 – 2013 (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013)
- Reception Ceremony of P. Julia – the 4<sup>th</sup> position holder in spite of being A person with low Vision & hearing impaired (25<sup>th</sup> May, 2013).
- Embroidery Training (30<sup>th</sup> May 2013)
- Public Awareness and distribution of Aids & Appliances on the 133<sup>rd</sup> birth Anniversary of Hellen keller (27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013).
- Formation of DPO & advocacy on disabilities right's (3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 2013)
- Health Care & Rehabilitation Centre (HCRC)
- Workshop on Domestic Violence (16<sup>th</sup> October 2013)
- Barrier Free poster Campaign (17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013)
- Post metric Merit scholarship (18<sup>th</sup> October 2013)
- Direct Child Assistance (DCA)
- Handicapped Welfare Month in connection with International Day of Persons with Disabilities & Louiis Braille Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 2013 to 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2014)
- Computer training.
- Parents Training programme on Identification and management of Children with Disabilities (16<sup>th</sup> December 2013)
- Workshop on Human Rights (26<sup>th</sup> December 2013)
- Digital library
- New Disability Bill
- 16<sup>th</sup> Lok-Sabha Election



## OUR ACTIVITIES IN DETAILS

### RELEASE OF JOURNAL – MATAMGI SHINGNABA (22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013)

The First edition of our Journal entitle Matamgi Shingnaba (Manipuri edition) which literally meant Challenging Time was released by Km. **A.K. Mirabai**, Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister, Govt. of Manipur on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April,'13 at 1:30 p.m. at her Office Chamber, New Secretariat Block, Imphal, Manipur. The Journal Matamgi Shingnaba is a special journal focus on the Disability related issues and it is produced quarterly (every 3 month) in a year. The Journal is the first journal of its kind in our region and we do hope the journal will help the masses to create awareness about the persons with disabilities and their responsibilities so that they can be mainstreamed. In the releasing ceremony of the journal Km. A.K. Mirabai also assure that she will do her best to appoint the Disability commissioner of the state as early as possible. So far, we have produced upto the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (January 2014 to March 014 Edition).



*Photo: Km. A.K. Mirabai, Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister (Middle Lady), P. Gopendro & Dr. Sapam Jasowanta, Vice chairman and Secretary General (from left) & Ph. Kripa – Editor, matamgi Shingnaba (in wheelchair on right).*

### ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012 -2013 (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013)



*Photo: Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh presenting keynote address in the assembly.*



*Photo : Presidential member presenting Tabala.*



*Photo: Dr. Ch. Rupachandra presenting tape recorder.*



HD Foundation has distributed Aids & Appliances to children with disabilities in the Annual General Assembly 2012 – 2013 which was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Manipur Press Club, Imphal. The Assembly was inaugurated with the candles lighting by Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, Chairman - HD Foundation and Welcome address by P. Gopendro Singh, Vice Chairman- of the foundation. Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh – Secretary General Presented the Annual Report for 2012 – 2013 and it was followed by the Group Discussion open to all the participants on the topic: - The problems face by the persons with disabilities and how can it be minimized and how to increase social participation to bring them to the mainstream life.





Aids & Appliances distributed: Tape recorders for visually impaired students, Wheelchair, Hearing Aids, Tabala for vocational Class and financial support for study to 12 children for their studies. The Assembly gives a message to interact frequently to jointly solve the hurdles that comes more frequently to persons with disability or in their family. The peoples departed after the lunch at the end of the assembly.

### **RECEPTION CEREMONY OF P. JULIA – THE 4<sup>TH</sup> POSITION HOLDER IN SPITE OF BEING A PERSON WITH LOW VISION & HEARING IMPAIRED (25<sup>th</sup> May, 2013).**

Miss Pukhrabam Julia Devi, D/O P. Shantikumar Singh and P. (O) Hemolata Devi of Naranseina Awang Leikai, is a person with low vision and hearing impairment. Handicapped Development Foundation has conducted a “Reception Ceremony” on 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013 at the Office premises for her grand success in the Higher Secondary (+2) Exam 2013 conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM). She has achieved the fourth position in the Exam and subject topper in Philosophy. She had done her secondary education at Tamphasana Girls’ (T.G.) Higher Secondary School. The Foundation congratulates her on her grand success. A “Letter of Appreciation” has been facilitated to her on the occasion by Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, the Chairman and Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh, Secretary General of the Foundation. The Foundation will provide Merit Scholarship for every 3(three) Months to her for her further studies till she continues to study. The Foundation hearty congratulates her and gave the best wishes for a colourful career ahead.



*Photo : P. Julia (girl in uniform) receiving “Letter of Appreciation” from the Chairman and Secretary General of the Foundation.*

### **EMBROIDERY TRAINING (30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013).**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013, HD Foundation upgraded its Embroidery training centre and started its training class. The training programme have provided 30 individuals and gives placement to 4 (four) of them in the production unit of the foundation.



**PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF AIDS & APPLIANCES ON THE 133<sup>RD</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF HELLEN KELLER (27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013).**

The Handicapped Development Foundation, Manipur in association with the Domini English School organized a “One Day Public Awareness cum Distribution of Aids and Appliances”, in connection with the 133<sup>rd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Hellen Keller, to create awareness among the people for the works that Keller in spite of being a deaf and blind had done, at Domini English School Longmai-3 (Noney), Tamenlong District. The programme was graced by Meidon Gangmei, Chairman, Longmai Village Authority as the Guest of Honour, Kenen Kamei, Chairman Longmai Area Village Authority Council as the Chief Guest and presided by Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, Chairman, HD Foundation.

Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh, Secretary General of the HD Foundation highlighted the importance of the Observation of the birth anniversary of Hellen Keller in his key note address as such will motivate People with Disability to come forward to enable them to live independently with dignity in the mainstream society. He also highlighted the scenario of People with disability in the district. There are 800 numbers of disabled in the district though there are many more people



*Photo : Dignitaries of the function.*



*Photo : Participants at the Programme (Hellen Keller)*

without Disability Certificate and depriving from various schemes and facilities to the Persons with Disabilities. Only one person from the district is availed with the Unemployment Allowance for the Disabled. He, in his speech, explained briefly the Rights conferred to the People with Disability through the PWD Act, 1995.

Gailanchung Kamei, Secretary of the Domini English School also highlighted the importance of such awareness programmes in the district. He added that the school is running inclusive education. Meidon Gangmei, Chief Guest of the programme expressed his gratefulness to be present in such programme and he expressed his attitude and willingness to extend help from the village Authority to

disabled People to make them financially independent and social inclusion. Kenen Kamei who graced the Programme as the Chief Guest appreciated the organizer and expressed that the Village Authority will look up what can be done.

During the programme Felicitation of Miss Pukhrabam Julia Devi who obtained fourth position in the Higher Secondary Exam 2013 conducted by the COHSEM and also subject topper in the Philosophy and Mr. Khwairakpam Budhinanda Singh, Gold Medalist in the 68 kg category of the 5<sup>th</sup> IBSA National Power Lifting Championship at New Delhi. The Organization presented Miss Julia the first payment of the Merit Scholarship which will be conferred to her till her studies continues. Mr. Budhinanda was presented a Track-suit and a Letter of Appreciation.



*Photo : The distribution of wheelchairs to the beneficiaries at Domini English School, Longmai - 3, Tamenglong*

Dr. Ch. Rupachandra who presided the session appealed in his speech to the people of the Longmai Area to motivate and encourage People with Disabilities to enable themselves to stand at their own instead of concealing them in the homestead. During the programme, 14 numbers of Wheelchairs, 3 numbers of Hearing Aids and 2 White Canes were distributed to the Persons with Disabilities of the Tamenglong District.

## **FORMATION OF DPO & ADVOCACY ON DISABILITIES RIGHTS (3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 2013)**

Handicapped People Front (HPF) - a DPO (Disable People Organization) for the Tamenglong District was formed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug,'13 at Noney, Tamenglong District under the sponsorship of HD Foundation. The main objective of forming HPF is to promote the rights of the persons with disabilities in the district. HD Foundation would provide the moral, financial and physical support to this newly form DPO till they are capable to stand on their own. With this theme HD Foundation also conducted an advocacy programme on the rights of persons with disabilities on the same day. We also experience that many of them have become a disabled person due to lack of awareness and lack of proper medication in time. We nominated and send some representatives of the DPO to various training programmes for exposing them and for human resource development.



## **HEALTH CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER (HCRC)**

As a step towards health sector HCRC was inaugurated. Extending its Service from centre base to community base rehabilitation, HCRC is providing service to more than 15 children with disabilities at their home. HCRC also provides its services to the centre. The team also gets the children to hospitals for that needy family who cannot afford for fees and vehicle fare. HCRC also helps in identification of children with disabilities and providing the instruction to parents on how to manage their children with disabilities.



### **SERVICES OF HCRC**

- 1. Orthopedics and Sports Injury Rehabilitation*
- 2. Neurological Rehabilitation*
- 3. Geriatrics Rehabilitation*
- 4. Pediatrics rehabilitation*
- 5. Integumentary Rehabilitation*
- 6. Speech Therapy.*
- 7. Consultancy.*



## WORKSHOP ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (16<sup>th</sup> October, 2013)



HD Foundation has organized a workshop on Domestic Violence on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Ngairangbam. The objective of organizing such a workshop is to minimize the domestic violence which is increasing day by day in the state. The domestic violence is acted more frequently on the women and this may also lead to the cause of disability by physical harassment or psychological harassment during pregnancy. HD Foundation believes in preventing the disability from the root.



## MONTH LONG BARRIER FREE POSTER CAMPAIGN 2013

(17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)

The Month Long Barrier Free Poster Campaign was organized by the Handicapped Development Foundation Manipur for the year 2013 from the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 as the foundation used to observe since from 2008.

The Foundation has been organizing the poster campaign with the main aim of creating a barrier free environment, involving the persons with disabilities in social participation and ultimately bringing them to the mainstream life, thus contributing to the nation's economy. During the campaign volunteers of the foundation pasted posters to the walls of public and private buildings, fencings, and road sides, public places etc. Also the foundation distributed 2000 numbers of leaflets stating the need of such an environment for the persons with disabilities.



*Our posture for the poster Campaign.*

## POST METRIC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

The Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in our society is facing with many barriers in every step of their life. To reduce the barriers, empowerment to them is a much needed. But since many the PWDs are born in the poor families even though the Children have capability to learn they are deprived from learning in schools and colleges due to financial problems of the family. To help these meritorious student to get empowered, to get higher knowledge, Handicapped Development Foundation Manipur is launching a **Post metric merit scholarship for the Persons with Disability** for the student who obtained a 50% or above marks in the annual examination. The Foundation hopes the students with disability in the higher classes after completing their studies will contribute for the welfare of all.



*scholarship by chairman, HD Foundation*

The first payment of the scholarship was distributed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013 at the office premises, i.e., Sagolband Tera Pukhri Mapal, Imphal under the chair of Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, Chairman of the Organization and Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh, General Secretary of the organization for the month of August to October of 2013. The post-metric Scholarship is distributed to the students in three months intervals till the beneficiaries complete the present course of study.



*Photo: Counseling to the students at the distribution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of the merit scholarship by Secy. General, HD Foundation.*

The Foundation has also distributed the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of the scholarship i.e. for the month from November 2013 to January 2014.

Number of beneficiaries:

Category – A	Class – XI & XII	No. of beneficiaries -	4
Category – B	Class – XII & Above	No. of beneficiaries -	6

### **DIRECT CHILD ASSISTANCE (DCA)**

From the September 2012, HD Foundation has started Direct Child Assistance (DCA) under which the foundation has supported 41 children with disabilities of different types which includes all the major types of disabilities. The area of the support that is given to these children includes Health, Education, Skill training and social inclusion depending upon the individual needs of the child.



*Photo : Our youngsters & children with disabilities.*



*Photo : Mr. Roshan performing on stage. The foundation is supporting him for his skill training on Tabala.*

HD Foundation monitors the improvement of these children and we could even see the dramatic progress of some children in study, skill training and health. Some children with C.P. are able to stand without support after the support. Currently the support is undergoing to 28<sup>th</sup> Children with disabilities below 25 years. Mr. K. Premananda, one of the children with visually impaired has got selected for JRP Fellowship.



## HANDICAPPED WELFARE MONTH IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & LOIUS BRAILE DAY (3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 to 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2014)



Photo: Presidential Members at the inaugural function of



Photo: Inaugural function of the Handicapped Welfare Month (International day of

HD Foundation is celebrating the Handicapped Welfare Month from the 3<sup>rd</sup> December to the 4<sup>th</sup> January (The Loius Braille Day) since the last 4 (Four) Years. On the inaugural day of the welfare month, HD Foundation Manipur in associate with World Vision India, Imphal west (ADP) have celebrated the International Day of People's with Disabilities with the theme - "Break barriers, open doors for an inclusive society for all" at Manipur Press Club, Imphal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013. The main objective of celebrating the Handicapped Welfare Month is to promote the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to the Mainstream life by giving awareness to masses that the PWDs are also a Human diversity and deserved the same right as others. The Presidential Members of the inaugural Function were

1. Ng. Ibothoi Singh, Employment Officer, Imphal West.
2. Wangkhemcha Shamjai, President, All Manipur Working Journalist Union (AMWJU),
3. Dr. Y. Mani Khuman, President, All Manipur United Club Organisation (AMUCO),
4. Y. Nabachandra, President, United Committee Manipur (UCM),
5. Amu Kamei, President, Zeliangrong Union (Assam, Manipur and Nagaland)
6. Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, Chairman, HD Foundation, Manipur.

More than 120 PWDs and other participants were present in the function. The Welcome Address was given by P. Gopendro Singh, Vice Chairman, HD Foundation and giving the Keynote address, Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh, Secretary HD Foundation, said the main reason for inviting the Prominent Community leaders in the programme is to draw their attention to the Persons with Disabilities. Without the help of Community organisations the mainstreaming of PWDs will be only a half way. He further describes the necessary for PWDs to be brought out to include them in the society. He continued the Disability Commissioner has not yet appointed in spite of several promise from the government. He demands to change some of the criteria so that it makes easier for the government to appoint the Commissioner and to frame state policy for Persons with Disability. He appeal to the parents to treat their Children with disability same as they do with the other children.

The Employment Officer of Imphal West, Ng. Ibothoi Singh said - In the context of Manipur as per census report 2001 there are 28370 PWDs out of which only 64% have got the disability certificates. The other presidential members present in the function encourage such a awareness program and assured to the Foundation to help in its activities for the mainstreaming of the PWDs.

During the celebration, the Website [www.hdfmanipur.org](http://www.hdfmanipur.org) of the Handicapped Development (HD) Foundation Manipur was also launched by the Chairman, HD Foundation.

## Annual Activities Report (April 2013 – March 2014)

HD Foundation also distributed leaflets to the participants in bilingual (Manipuri & English) highlighting the objective of the Handicapped Welfare Month, the activities to be done in this month and in what way they can help us. HD Foundation Manipur also awarded to 6 Persons with Disabilities encouraging for their outstanding performance as Campaigner. The Foundation also gives One Harmonium and cash support to other 17 Children with disabilities. During the Handicapped Welfare Month the Foundation has conducted:

- Street Corner Meetings.
- Parents Training Programme on Identification and management of Children with Disabilities.
- Awareness Camp on Disabilities with Community Leaders.
- Free Computer Class for Youngsters with Disabilities.
- Distribution of leaf-lets for Awareness.

The Closing ceremony of the Welfare Month was observed in connection with the Louis Braille Day at the Office premises of HD Foundation, Sagolband Tera Sayang Pukhri Mapal on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, P. Gopendro Singh and Dr. S. Jasowanta Singh who are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary



Photo: Sardhanjali to the photo of Louis Braille by a child with cerebral palsy.



Photo: Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Sing giving speech at the closing ceremony of the Handicapped Welfare

General of the HD

Foundation were the Presidential members of the function. Dr. S. Jasowanta Singh gave a memorial lecture of Louis Braille – who developed the Braille Script and for honoring him the foundation is celebrating his 205<sup>th</sup> birth day. In 1829, Louis Braille published the Method of Writing Words using six raised dots to represent the standard alphabet. The system of raised dots is called Braille and enables blind people of any age to read with the tips of their fingers.

## COMPUTER TRAINING

HD Foundation Manipur conducted a three Months certificate course on Computer Application for the youngster with disabilities from the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at the Sapam Sonia Regional Institute of Physically Challenge run by the Foundation. The computer training have provided computer skill to 8 (Eight) youngsters with disabilities including 3 (three) visually Impaired. For the visually impaired, JAWs software is used. The Foundation has also started the next phase for the computer Training at nominal rate for the PWDs.



## **PARENTS TRAINING PROGRAMME ON IDENTIFICATION & MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013)**

As a part of Handicapped Welfare Month (3<sup>rd</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January), HD Foundation Manipur have organized the **Parents Training Programme on Identification and Management of Children with Disabilities on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the Conference Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) of Manipur Press Club.**

The registration opens at 10:00 a.m. and the training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh, Chairman of HD Foundation at 11:00a.m. There were 39 parents present in the programme. The Parents Training Programme will help the parents to understand more on the needs and managements of the children with Disabilities. The programme will also help in exploring and encouraging the children with disabilities.

Mrs. L. Jeena Devi, Physiotherapist, spoke on Identification of Cerebral Palsy (C.P.) and describe in details on how the parents of a C.P. Child can take care of their children with slide show of different postures.



*Photo: Mrs. Jeena showing the position of C.P. Children on Slide*

Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh, Secretary General, HD Foundation who himself is a Visually Impaired spoke about the Visually Impaired to the participants. He mention about the types, causes and the present scenario of visually impaired persons in the state. Dr. Sapam concluded his valuable speech with message to the parents that the Children with disabilities should be brought out so that they could be in mainstream life, hiding them inside the walls will only increased their problems in future.



*Photo: Dr. Sapam Jasowanta at the training programme.*

Another resource person Ms. Rajkumari Leni Chanu who is a speech therapist and special educator spoke about the Identification and Management of Hearing Impaired Persons. She describe about the hearing impairment and its causes. She also explains about the screening of new born child and types of Hearing Aids. She also reflect on the needs of speech therapy to the hearing impaired children and children with cerebral palsy as the C.P. children have mostly associate problem with speech other than the disability one have. She encourages the parents to practice simple speech development techniques that parents can do at home.

There was also an interaction programme with the parents where Parents asked their question on the topics and the resource persons give the answers to their doubts. The Foundation also presentation of 5(five) Short Documentary Films on Disabilities. The documentary films shows how the persons with Disabilities in the state face problems in society, how they can be help to be in mainstream and how they are handling the situations beyond them. Parents have suggested to organize more of such programme in future.



*Photo: Participants in the parents trainina prooramme.*



## WORKSHOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS (26<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2013)

HD Foundation has organized a workshop on Human Rights on the 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at Ngairangbam, Imphal west against the violation of Human Rights. These violations also include Gender



*Photo: Thoithoi Devi speaking on the Human Rights at the Workshop.*

discrimination, discrimination for the PWDs and children. The Foundation organized workshop



program to ensure the people specially females for their rights. The workshop program aimed at bringing all people under one roof in spite of the individuals or gender difference.

## DIGITAL LIBRARY

Handicapped Development Foundation Manipur upgraded its Digital Library by recording 11 New books. The objective of developing the digital Library is to provide the books in audio format for the visually impaired students whose books are not printed in Braille script. There are many students with disabilities who could not get their higher education due to lack of their study materials and many of them could not afford for the reader fee. The foundation is trying to help those ambitious students with the little resource we have. The books in the audio format have been distributed to the beneficiaries at free of cost and the foundation also welcome others too to avail the same benefit.

## NEW DISABILITY BILL

HD Foundation have submitted a Memorandum to the Hon'ble President of India on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 and the same copy have also forwarded to

1. **Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. Of India.**
2. **Hon'ble UPA Chairperson.**
3. **Hon'ble Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.**
4. **Hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Govt. of India.**
5. **Hon'ble Opposition Leader (Rajya Sabha).**
6. **Hon'ble Opposition Leader (Lok Sabha).**

The Memorandum expresses our dismay over the inordinate delay in introducing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill in Parliament. With India ratifying the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007, it was expected that all the four disability specific legislations - the Mental Health Act 1987, Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992, Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 and the National Trust Act 1999 would be harmonized with the provisions of the UNCRPD.

However, while the Mental Health Care Bill has been introduced in Parliament, the Bill replacing the 1995 Disability Act is yet to be introduced. Though the process of drafting the new law started over four years back and has gone through various stages, the delay in introducing this legislation is inexplicable. More than a year has passed since the new draft of the proposed Bill was uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in September 2012.

The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment had given an assurance that the Bill would be introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament. The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the Draft Bill on 12th December, 2013. However, the abrupt end of the Parliament session on 18th December prevented the Bill from being tabled.

We demand that when Parliament is convened to pass the Vote on Account, this extremely important piece of legislation must be taken up in both houses of Parliament for enactment.

HD Foundation does hope the New Disability Bill will be passed soon and the struggle for the disabilities will be minimized.

### **16<sup>TH</sup> LOK-SABHA ELECTION**

HD Foundation also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 requesting him to make Accessibility in voting for the Persons with Disability in the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok- Sabha Election. The Foundation demanded to m to provide for Ramps (for Physically Handicapped), Braille symbols and auditory signals (for visually Impaired) and Sign board & Sign language interpreter (for Hearing Impaired) under the PWD ACT 1995 in the polling stations. The foundation also heighted about the New Disability Bill which says - The Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions shall ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable by and accessible to them. The main objectives of submitting the memorandum are to build a handicapped friendly environment, involving the persons with disabilities in social participation and ultimately bringing them to mainstream life.

### **THANKS AND BEST WISHES**

Handicapped Development Foundation Manipur shall never underestimate the role of mass media both print and electronic for making the success of our campaigns. The Foundation thanks all its members and volunteers, persons or groups or associations who have help the foundation or the disable persons in building an equal society. The Foundation specially thanks all the sponsors and donors who extend physically, morally and financially for making success our activities.

HD Foundation Manipur extended the warm wishes to all, especially to the PWDs. May their wishes for self reliability and self-dependent be fulfilled. Let's hope everyone takes the initiatives for mainstreaming the brothers' & sisters' with disabilities.

## **Handicapped Development (HD) Foundation**

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