

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

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Schooling of Disabled Persons

As per the Census 2001, there were a total of 21.9 million persons with disabilities in the country, out of which 10.8 million nearly 50% were reported to be literate. 6.5 million persons with disabilities were in the age group of 5-19 years, out of which 3.3 million which is also nearly 50% persons with disabilities were attending educational institutions. The Register General of India's decadal census data conducted neither included data on disabled persons who have never been to school nor data on children with disabilities attending schools regularly.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) ensures that every child with Special Needs (CWSN), irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education. Hence, SSA has adopted a zero rejection policy. This means that no child having special needs should be deprived of the right to education and they should be taught in an environment, which is best suited to his/her learning needs.

Under SSA, out of the total of 31.49 lakhs CWSN identified, 26.93 lakhs CWSN are enrolled in schools.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri D. Napoleon in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.
