



White Paper – Charity for the Disabled

There are few charitable organizations / trusts that are large, self-dependant and well organized. Though these are generally managed/ supported by corporate houses / wealthy individuals it is nearly impossible for them to cover the entire spectrum of needs in the society. The society therefore needs all kinds of charitable organizations. And, despite the fact that there are leakages / gaps / suspicion and problems in the charity ecosystem, the larger objective of meeting unaddressed needs of the society should not be given up. Educated and prosperous people must come forward and ensure that the gaps are minimized if not eliminated and most importantly these organizations despite all odds are alive, enhancing, expanding, flourishing and growing with the socio-eco-techno development and scientific achievements.

The major challenges:

1. The charity eco-system in India primarily focuses on Food, Education and Health. There are very few charitable organizations that focus on the poorest of the poor, the disabled, the/ mentally challenged/ abnormal children/ elders, probably due to the complexities involved in addressing to the special needs of such individuals.
2. The physically and mentally challenged individuals, including the hearing/ visual/ speech impaired from across the social classes, are amongst the worst impacted. These conditions, whether resulting from accidents or congenital, require special care and treatment that cannot be provided by regular establishments – those that offer conventional education / vocation courses or medical/ healthcare facilities.
3. Advancement in Science and Technology now allows skilling and equipping people with special needs so that they can be made physically and financially independent/ less dependent. However, the few charitable organizations that cater to the needs of this category of people lack the financial means to access/ provide the aforementioned solutions.
4. There are thousands of unorganized / small / neglected charitable organizations in India that are unable to meet the standard norms / rules and have a continuous struggle for survival. Despite the circumstances, and the severely limited resources at their disposal, these organizations are doing a remarkable job.
5. Among the challenges that these charitable organizations face, the largest is the absence of a permanent source of income/ financial aid. This often leaves them with no option but to consider shutting down the establishment, and consequently this aggravates the conditions of the physically and mentally challenged individuals.

It is evident that the continued existence of these smaller/ unorganized charitable organizations is of paramount importance – as they serve sections of the society that are usually neglected. Following are recommendations for creating a sustainable model for such organizations:

Provide support for:

- A. Financial Planning:
 - a. Assessment of financial requirements to run their operations
 - b. Projection of future expenses
- B. Financial Independence
 - a. Setting up a Corpus or a Pool of Donors
 - b. Investment in suitable low-risk financial instruments (Sharia Compliant)
 - c. Setting up monthly cash flows to meet expenses
- C. Governance
 - a. Committee for oversight on A & B above
 - b. Committee to have fresh blood – young dynamic volunteers well versed with advanced technologies and management skills.
 - c. Annual audits