In the Court of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
National Capital Territory of Delhi
25-D, Mata Sundari Road, Near Guru Nanak Eye Centre, New Delhi-110002
Phone: 011-23216003-04, Email: comdis.delhi@delhi.gov.in
[Vested with powers of Civil Court under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016]

Case No. 3243/1041/2023/11/1278-1279 **Dated:19-12-2023**

In the matter of:

Ms. Varsha **…… Complainant**

Versus

The Vice Chancellor,
Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University,
GNCT of Delhi. **…… Respondent**

ORDER

The complainant, a person with 99% Hearing Impairment filed a complaint dated 24.11.2023 under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Act, 2016, hereinafter referred to as Act. The complainant is a student of respondent University and pursuing B.A. in Digital Media and Design under PWD seat from December, 2020.

2. The complainant submitted that she was not provided the services of Sign Language Interpreters (SLI) and other reasonable accommodations as per the RPwD Act, 2016 and thus facing discrimination. After consistent persuasion with the respondent, the complainant was permitted to engage interpreters whose remuneration was to be paid by the University. However, the university did not provide a concrete timetable which lead to interpreters frequently quitting the classes. After taking up the matter with the respondent continuously, the university decided to hire two permanent interpreters. But the situation did not improve due to poor working conditions, lack of support and guidelines. No interpreters continued for long and there was the issue of lack of competence of the hired interpreters. It was further added that out of 5 semesters, the complainant had access to 2 full time interpreters for 2 semesters only which severely affected her studies. She requested

this court to provide interpreters for the rest of her classes, exams and internship period.

3. The matter was taken up with the respondent vide this court letter dated 25.11.2023. The respondent university vide reply dated 29.11.2023 submitted that RPwD Act, 2016 does not make it mandatory to provide SLI on an individual student basis at his/her convenience. There was no sanctioned post of SLI at University and no SLI was there on a full time basis. Further, providing SLI to the individual differently abled student would require creation of post and financial support from GNCTD. In the absence of any standing guidelines of GNCTD in such matters, this would need prior concurrence of GNCTD. The complainant had not been discriminated.

4. The complainant vide letter dated 15.12.2023 reiterated her submissions that she was not satisfied with the reply of the respondent.

5. The Court observed that respondent has not been sensitive towards the PwD student besides not being clear about the RPwD Act, 2016. Section 16 (v) of the Act clearly states that *"education to persons who are blind or deaf or both is imparted in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication"* . Under this clause, it is imperative that the University provide requisite SLI to this student with disability and grant her Equal Opportunity Policy with due diligence and dignity. All possible steps need to be taken by the University authority for this purpose.

6. Taking into account the submission of the complainant and the reply of the respondent, the Court directs Respondent university to engage Sign Language Interpreters at the earliest so that the studies of complainant PwD student do not suffer and confirm to this Court within 60 days from the date of issue of this order.

7. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 19th day of December, 2023.

Ranjan Mukherjee

Digitally signed by Ranjan Mukherjee
Date: 2023.12.28 13:25:26 +05'30'

(Ranjan Mukherjee)
State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities