

Inclusive Development in Kerala

Vision 2031: Persons with Disabilities
From Welfare to Participation

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The Autism Centre



A real-life story

- A child with autism.
- A mother who left her job.
- A family planning life around therapy, schooling, and the future.

One question remains:

“What will happen to my child after us?”

Why disability inclusion matters

5–7% of the population directly affected

Impacts nearly one-fourth of households

Inclusion improves:

Workforce participation

Productivity

Social stability

Urban quality of life

Where Kerala stands today

Strengths

- Strong public health system
- High literacy and awareness
- Active government schemes
- Civil society institutions

Gaps

- Late diagnosis, intervention
- Schooling without support

Five lived challenges

1. Late start in early intervention
2. School admission without inclusion
3. Training without employment
4. Mobility and access barriers
5. Caregiver exhaustion

Vision 2031: The shift

Schemes → Systems

Protection → Participation

Dependency → Productivity

Goal:

A complete pathway in every district by 2031.

Six flagship moves (2026–2031)

1. District Disability Pathway
2. Early Intervention Guarantee
3. Inclusive Education Reform
4. Skills-to-Jobs Mission
5. Accessible Kerala Program
6. Caregiver Support Network



Governance model

State: Inclusive Development Mission Cell

District: Pathway hubs + employer councils

Local bodies: Inclusion plans and monitoring

Vision 2031 Inclusion Scoreboard

- Early screening before age 3
- School support plans
- Job placement in 6 months
- Accessible public buildings
- District respite services
- Employment retention rates



The Kerala we can build

Education

Skills

Employment

Independent living

Dignity



A closing thought

Inclusion

is the

next human development frontier.