

KINGS

ENGINEERING COLLEGE

An Autonomous Institution

Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai



BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

As per the Approval of Governing Council

(Updated in 2025)

PREFACE

Kings Engineering College firmly believes that education should be accessible, inclusive, and equitable for all individuals irrespective of their physical, sensory, intellectual, or learning abilities. An inclusive educational environment not only enhances academic growth but also promotes dignity, equality, confidence, and social integration among all members of the institution. In line with this vision, the institution is committed to creating a barrier-free campus environment that supports the needs and aspirations of differently abled persons and ensures equal participation in all academic and non-academic activities.

The Barrier Free Environment Policy has been formulated to establish a framework for accessibility, inclusiveness, and equal opportunity within the institution. The policy aims to eliminate physical, environmental, communication, and attitudinal barriers that may hinder the participation and mobility of differently abled students, faculty members, staff, and visitors. It reflects the institution's commitment to providing a safe, supportive, and user-friendly campus environment where every individual can function independently with dignity and confidence.

The institution continuously strives to improve infrastructure, learning facilities, support systems, and accessibility measures in accordance with the principles of universal design and inclusive education. The policy also emphasizes the importance of awareness, sensitivity, cooperation, and social responsibility among all stakeholders in building an inclusive campus culture.

Kings Engineering College recognizes that accessibility is a shared responsibility and that the successful implementation of this policy requires the collective support of management, faculty members, staff, students, parents, and the community. Through this policy, the institution reaffirms its dedication towards promoting equality, inclusiveness, and holistic development while ensuring that no individual is denied educational opportunities due to physical or environmental barriers.

This policy shall serve as a guiding framework for strengthening accessibility standards and fostering a welcoming and barrier-free educational environment for all.

1. PREAMBLE

Kings Engineering College is committed to providing an inclusive, accessible, safe, and barrier-free environment for all students, faculty members, staff, visitors, and differently abled persons. The institution firmly believes that every individual has the right to access education, infrastructure, facilities, and services without discrimination or physical barriers.

The college strives to create a campus environment that promotes equality, dignity, independence, and full participation for persons with disabilities and special needs. The Barrier Free Environment Policy is framed in accordance with the principles of inclusiveness, accessibility, and universal design to ensure that all members of the institution can access academic and non-academic facilities comfortably and safely.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Barrier Free Environment Policy are to:

- Ensure equal access to educational opportunities and campus facilities for differently abled persons.
- Eliminate physical, architectural, communication, and attitudinal barriers within the campus.
- Promote an inclusive and supportive learning environment.
- Facilitate independent movement and participation of persons with disabilities.
- Provide necessary support systems and assistive facilities for differently abled students and staff.
- Comply with government norms and accessibility guidelines wherever applicable.

3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Students
- Faculty members
- Administrative staff
- Non-teaching staff
- Visitors
- Parents
- Service providers

- All differently abled persons visiting or studying in the institution

The policy covers all academic blocks, laboratories, library, administrative offices, seminar halls, examination halls, transport facilities, hostels, restrooms, pathways, parking areas, and digital infrastructure within the campus.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Kings Engineering College is dedicated to maintaining a campus that is accessible and user-friendly for all individuals irrespective of physical, sensory, intellectual, or learning disabilities. The institution shall continuously strive to improve accessibility standards and provide reasonable accommodations wherever necessary.

The institution shall ensure that differently abled persons are treated with dignity, respect, equality, and sensitivity at all times.

5. PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

The institution shall take necessary measures to provide barrier-free physical infrastructure within the campus. The following facilities shall be maintained and improved periodically:

5.1 Ramp Facilities

- Ramps with appropriate slope and handrails shall be provided at key entry and exit points of buildings.
- Academic and administrative blocks shall be made accessible to wheelchair users wherever feasible.

5.2 Accessible Pathways

- Smooth and obstruction-free pathways shall be maintained for easy movement of differently abled persons.
- Campus walkways shall be properly illuminated and maintained for safe access.

5.3 Lift and Mobility Access

- Elevators or alternative mobility support facilities shall be provided in multi-storied buildings wherever possible.
- Priority access shall be given to differently abled persons.

5.4 Accessible Restrooms

- Separate and accessible restroom facilities shall be provided for differently abled individuals.
- Restrooms shall include support rails and sufficient movement space.

5.5 Signage and Display Boards

- Clear directional signage and identification boards shall be displayed across the campus.
- Important locations shall be properly marked for easy navigation.

5.6 Reserved Parking

- Reserved parking spaces shall be allocated near important buildings for differently abled persons.

6. ACADEMIC ACCESSIBILITY

The institution shall ensure equal academic opportunities and support for differently abled students through the following measures:

- Provision of accessible classrooms and seating arrangements.
- Extra support during teaching-learning processes wherever required.
- Flexibility and assistance during examinations as per university norms.
- Availability of learning materials in accessible formats whenever feasible.
- Encouragement for participation in academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.

Faculty members shall extend necessary cooperation and academic support to differently abled students without discrimination.

7. DIGITAL AND COMMUNICATION ACCESSIBILITY

The institution shall promote accessible communication and digital practices by:

- Providing user-friendly digital platforms and online learning resources.
- Ensuring important notices and academic information are communicated effectively.
- Extending reasonable assistance for accessing digital services.

Efforts shall be taken to improve accessibility of institutional websites, e-learning platforms, and online services as per applicable standards.

8. TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

The institution shall strive to provide convenient transportation support for differently abled students and staff wherever feasible.

Necessary assistance shall be extended during boarding and alighting from college transport facilities.

9. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT

The institution shall ensure that emergency response systems consider the needs of differently abled persons.

- Emergency exits shall be clearly marked and accessible.
- Staff members shall be sensitized to assist differently abled persons during emergencies.
- Safe evacuation procedures shall be planned wherever necessary.

10. PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION

No differently abled student, staff member, or visitor shall be subjected to discrimination, exclusion, humiliation, or harassment on the basis of disability.

The institution promotes an inclusive culture that respects diversity, equality, and human dignity.

Any grievance related to discrimination or accessibility barriers may be reported to the institutional authorities for necessary action.

11. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTITUTION

The institution shall:

- Periodically review accessibility measures and infrastructure.
- Promote awareness regarding inclusiveness and disability sensitivity.
- Encourage participation of differently abled persons in institutional activities.
- Allocate resources for improving accessibility facilities.
- Ensure compliance with applicable accessibility regulations and guidelines.

12. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

All students and staff members shall:

- Respect the rights and dignity of differently abled persons.
- Extend support and cooperation whenever required.
- Avoid obstructing accessibility facilities such as ramps and reserved spaces.
- Promote inclusive behavior within the campus.

13. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Any issue related to accessibility, discrimination, or barrier-free facilities may be reported

to:

- Head of the Department
- Principal
- Grievance Redressal Committee
- Equal Opportunity Cell

The institution shall take appropriate measures to address such grievances promptly and fairly.

14. REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Barrier Free Environment Policy shall be reviewed periodically by the institution to ensure continuous improvement in accessibility and inclusiveness.

Necessary amendments may be incorporated based on institutional requirements, technological advancements, and regulatory guidelines.



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