
Report on Awareness Workshop on Disability Laws in India and Career Exploration for Students with Disabilities at the Integral University

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A Brief Report on Awareness Workshop on Disability Laws in India and Career Exploration for Students with Disabilities at the Integral University

Office of Dean, Student's Welfare, Integral University in collaboration with National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), New Delhi, hosted a day long Awareness Workshop on **'Disability Laws in India and Career Exploration for Students with Disabilities'**, on 24th September 2023 at its campus. The programme organised by NCPEDP was aimed to promote equal rights, access to education, better future prospects and support sensitization on disability laws in India. The workshop was supported by Bajaj Finserv Limited.

The day started with student registrations and an introductory note by Ms. Asifa Parveen, Program Manager about NCPEDP and the Workshop. This was followed by a brief address by Professor Monowar Alam Khalid, Dean, Students' Welfare, Integral University, who warmly welcomed the guests of the day and expressed the commitment of Integral University to providing a barrier free accessibility setting to the differently abled students at the university campus. He reiterated the continued commitment of Integral University to integrate students with special needs to the curriculum and provide special provisions in admission procedures. He invited NCPEDP and similar organizations to host more such programmes/workshops at Integral University on a larger scale in times to come. He also reiterated that suggestions from the workshop will be used for augmenting academic achievements and the right educational environment for the disabled students at Integral University and professed that every disabled should be empowered through education with scholarships so that no student sits at home.

The first speaker of the day was Mr. Akshay Jain, Assistant Program Manager- Advocacy, NCPEDP, who gave an overview of the Disability Laws in India with special focus on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ACT 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016). His lecture focussed on 'India's Invisible Majority', which helped in finding answers to many questions on the challenges for people with disabilities. He highlighted the lack of accessibility and inclusion, delayed education, gaps in education, gaps in skill/social skills, delayed employment, sub-optimal jobs and wages disparity amongst the disabled groups in India. He explained the meaning of disability by giving relevant examples from real life. He talked on various problems/challenges faced by a disabled person in everyday life. He provided a vision on various types of disability benefits to be included in the form of reasonable accommodation, equal opportunity policy, voting rights, accessibility provision, access to justice, non-discrimination and equal rights for the disabled. He stressed on the legal justice system to be accessible and policy makers must provide services, facilities to help them. It is the duty of every disabled to empower themselves, to avail and allow laws to be implemented for their entitlements. A sensitization programme on their behalf is the need of the hour.

The subsequent speaker was Mr. Amar Jain, Co-Founder, Mission Accessibility, who himself being visually impaired, disseminated valuable knowledge on Accessibility tools for the disabled in various digital contexts like audio description for videos and caption/text description for digital images. He furnished information on 'how to identify jobs' for financial stability. He stressed that disabled should be aware and inclined to access all guidelines, websites and online searches for the fulfilment of their rights. He gave an insight on the law

making bodies like Chief/State Commissioners for Person with Disabilities for reporting all redressals and gave information on various available guidelines and panels at district level, for help.

The last speaker was Mrs. Mridu Goel, Co-Founder HANDICARE and herself with locomotor disability, gave an insightful talk engaging and involving the large gathering of differently abled participants about various activities for providing support and assistance to people with special needs. She advocated on the rights of females with disabilities, which is a cause of concern in present times. She briefed on various types of disabilities, Right to Education for Girls, RPwD Act 2016 and Education, Distribution of Educational Status among Population with Disability in India in 2011, Disabled Students in Higher Educational Programmes, Reservation Policies, various Educational Programmes and Inclusive Schools like Sparsh, Sanket, Mamta, Prayas, Bachpan etc taken up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. She concluded by putting emphasis on education as the key to empowerment and advancement for women and girls with disabilities as it provides access to information, enables them to communicate their needs, interests and experience and empowers them. The program was also attended by Mr. Suraj Yadav, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch U.P., Lucknow.

The workshop was highly interactive in nature, which extended a peep into the mental, intellectual and emotional faculties of the impaired, who showcased a great sense of awareness, emotional and social sustainability which is worth praising. Entire programme was supported by interpreters of sign language who kept taking turns to enable people with special needs to fully participate in the workshop. The programme ended by Vote of Thanks given by Ms. Asifa Parveen of NCPEDP who thanked all the participants, parents, volunteers and the management of Integral University in particular, for providing them a platform for conducting such a grand and successful program at Lucknow.

Few Glimpses of the Program:









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For Records and updates on AQAR.
Thanks,

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