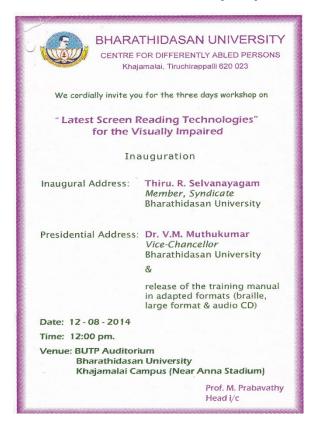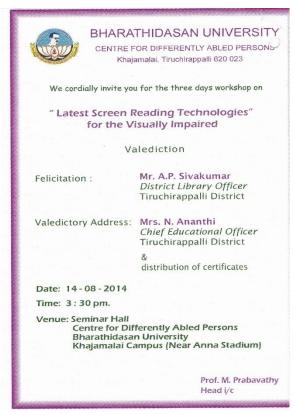# Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Bharathidasan University
Report of the Activities of
Three days Workshop on
"Latest Screen Reading Technologies for the Differently Abled"
12/08/2014 to 14/08/2014

The workshop planned for Visually Impaired Teachers in Tiruchirappalli District was inaugurated by Hon. Vice Chancellor, Bharathidasan University as the Chief Guest and Thiru Selvanayagam, Syndicate member as Guest of Honour. The Hon. Vice Chancellor emphasized in his Chief Guest on the

role of Computers in daily life today, its importance as teaching and learning tool. Particularly, in the context of Visually Impaired on Computer serving them more effectively for access to information resources. Dr. M. Prabavathy, Assistant Professor and Head of Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University gave the welcome address and presented the expected outcome of the Workshop and how it would be beneficial for the Visually Impaired Teachers and Students of Bharathidasan University who would be participating.

The Workshop began with an introduction to Assistive Technology, particularly, how Computer installed with Screen Reader software could help the Teachers and Students use it as a tool in education. The instructional session of the Workshop then moved on to introduction of Screen Readers, how they work and how they could use for creating their Lesson plans, take notes and save it for future reference.

In the Afternoon, the participants were given introduction to the structure of the Computers, orientation on its parts and particularly more in detail about the Keyboard, it key mappings. The participants

were assigned with individual volunteers and trained intensively on Key mappings.

The Second day, the participants were given access to NVDA, the popular open source screen reader software and its settings and characteristics were explained. The participants given practice on alphabets, special characters, numerals typing and also on operation of control, command keys. The participants were given training to type various words, sentences and save the file in Notepad application of Windows. And, also how to read, edit, copy and paste contents, navigate within a document aided by voice of NVDA

The participants further learned the File save, rename concepts, Folder creation and rename on Third day, today.

At the end of the morning Session, the participants learned to create, edit, save a document, do basic operations in Desktop and Windows. This provided them a complete learning experience with each step related to their living and teaching environment, for easy understanding with enough time given for practice.

In the afternoon, the participants were given an introduction on how Visually Impaired persons use Internet and Email and gave them a hope that they could also work on Internet and its rich contents one day.

The participants were briefed on the facilities and services of the Centre, like Braille, Audio production for their book resource requirements, certificate programmes on computer and other vocational skills being conducted, assistive technology resources available in the centre for their services by the Centre Head.