



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

**INAUGURATION OF THE DIGITAL TALKING LIBRARY FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED
PERSONS**

Date: 15th July 2011

Place : Central Library, BDU

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Now, differently abled students can learn with improved sounds



The Digital Talking Library, the first library dedicated to differently abled individuals, was inaugurated by Smt. Jayashree Muralidharan, IAS, District Collector of Tiruchirappalli, and Dr. K. Meena, Vice-Chancellor of Bharathidasan University. This pioneering initiative was launched to enhance accessibility and learning opportunities for persons with disabilities, particularly those with visual impairments.

Dr. M. Prabavathy, Head of the Centre for Differently Abled Persons and Coordinator of the Digital Talking Library, highlighted the learner-friendly features enabled by technological advancements. The library boasts enhanced sound quality, and users can conveniently navigate to specific sections of audio books through forward and rewind functions. By converting content from analog to digital formats, the system ensures efficient access to information for visually challenged individuals.

One of the notable features is its dual accessibility—users can access materials online or offline. The interface is designed for hassle-free use, incorporating specialized switches in place of a traditional mouse, making it easier for users with limited mobility. The system also supports adjustable settings for color, contrast, and text size, aiding students with low vision and dyslexia.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

Facilities include e-books, talking multimedia browsers, and access to internet library portals. The library was made possible through generous contributions—computers donated by educationist Mr. Ravindran, and software provided under the UGC-sponsored scheme of Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN). The Digital Talking Library is expected to instill a sense of self-confidence and independence among learners. Key features such as bookmarking, navigation between paragraphs, and footnote access further enhance the user experience, making it a significant step toward inclusive education. On the eve of the inauguration ceremony two sewing machines were being donated for the empowerment of the Differently Abled by the Honorable District Collector and Vice Chancellor





Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

WORKSHOP ON

“RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION”

Date: 10th Oct 2011

Venue: IECD Hall Bharathidasan University, Trichy

Organized by: IECD & CDAP

In collaboration with: National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Chennai



A one-day workshop on “Right to Education for the Differently Abled in Higher Education” was successfully conducted on 10th October 2011, in collaboration with the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Chennai. The workshop aimed to raise awareness and promote inclusive educational practices for differently-abled

students in higher education institutions.



The event was formally inaugurated by Dr. K. Menna, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, along with the Director of NIT, Trichy. In their inaugural addresses, both dignitaries emphasized the importance of equal access to education and the need for institutions to adopt inclusive policies and infrastructure.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

The function was further graced by Mr. Pandi, a recipient of the President's Award and Director of the Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Blind, and Advocate Martin, who felicitated the gathering and shared insights on legal rights and practical challenges faced



by differently-abled individuals in accessing education. The digital manual on "Rights to education for Differently Abled " developed by Dr.M.Prabavathy was released by Vice Chancellor.

The workshop witnessed active participation from over 110 students and faculty members, including students from Sweden, adding an international perspective to the discussions. Various sessions addressed themes such as inclusive curriculum design, assistive technologies, legal frameworks, and case studies of best practices in India and abroad.

The workshop concluded with a valedictory address delivered by Dr. P. Prema, Dean of Education at Alagappa University, who appreciated the collaborative efforts and stressed the significance of sustained dialogue and action in promoting inclusive education. The event was well-received by all participants and served as a meaningful platform for knowledge sharing, advocacy, and strategic planning for a more inclusive academic environment.





Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

WORKSHOP ON
“IDENTIFICATION OF LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ENHANCEMENT OF HEALTH AND STUDY HABITS “

Date: 31st October 2011

Venue: Idhaya Residential School, Manayeripatti, Thanjavur

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons & Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University



The Centre for Differently Abled Persons in association with the Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University, organized a one-day workshop on “Identification of Learning Disabilities and Enhancement of Health and Study Habits” on 31st October 2011 at Idhaya Residential School, Manayeripatti, Thanjavur.

The primary objective of the workshop was to sensitize teachers, caregivers, and students about the early identification of learning disabilities and to promote healthy study habits and well-being among school children. The sessions were designed to provide practical tools and techniques for identifying learning challenges and strategies for improving academic performance and personal health.

Dr.Jerida eljofrom Dept of Social Work and Dr,M.Prabavathy,CDAP served as exeprts and Conducted interactive sessions focusing on:

- Types and symptoms of learning disabilities
- Early identification and intervention strategies
- Nutritional and mental health support for school-aged children
- Techniques to improve concentration, memory, and study skills



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

Participants included school teachers, staff members, and students from Idhaya Residential School. The sessions also encouraged discussion and Q&A, allowing participants to share their experiences and seek expert guidance. The workshop concluded with positive feedback from both participants and facilitators, highlighting the need for continued training and awareness programs on inclusive education and student well-being. The event reaffirmed the commitment of Bharathidasan University to supporting differently abled individuals and promoting inclusive academic environments.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON “AN INTRODUCTION TO ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED”

Date: 24th January 2012

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons & Department of Social Work,
Bharathidasan University

Venue: Bharathidasan University
Library



The Centre for Differently Abled Persons, organized a one-day training programme titled **“An Introduction to Assistive Devices and Technology for the Differently Abled”** on 24th January 2012.

The programme aimed to provide participants with foundational knowledge about the latest assistive devices and technological tools that support individuals with disabilities in education, communication, mobility, and daily living activities.

The training featured expert sessions by:

- **Mr. Shankar Subbiah**, Director of **Agate Infotech, Chennai**, who demonstrated various assistive technologies developed to enhance digital accessibility for the visually impaired and individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Mr. Navrasen** from **Loyola College, Chennai**, who spoke on the practical implementation of assistive technologies in academic institutions and their impact on inclusive education.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

The training was attended by students, faculty members, special educators, and social work professionals. Interactive demonstrations and hands-on sessions allowed participants to explore and understand the functioning of key assistive devices, including screen readers, mobility aids, and communication tools.



Participants appreciated the practical orientation of the programme and expressed a strong interest in integrating assistive technologies into their respective academic or professional settings. The event concluded with a discussion on the need for

greater awareness, accessibility, and institutional support for differently abled individuals.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON “RECENT TRENDS IN WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS: RIGHT, WELFARE, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND MAIN STREAMING”

Date: 24th February 2012

Venue: BUTP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons:



Rights, Welfare, Social Integration and Mainstreaming” was held on 24th February 2012 at BUTP Hall, Bharathidasan University. The seminar aimed to highlight emerging developments, policy shifts, and best practices related to the empowerment, rights, and inclusion of differently abled individuals in society.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. K. Meena, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, who emphasized the university’s commitment to promoting inclusive

education and social justice. The programme was felicitated by distinguished guests including Dr. Elango, Dean of Arts, Bharathidasan University, and Dr. Shanmugasundaram, Dean, Department of Social Work, Chennai. Each speaker shared valuable insights on the need for integrated policy frameworks and community-based rehabilitation models.

A key highlight of the seminar was the release of a booklet on the rights of persons with disabilities, developed by Dr. M. Prabavathy, the organizer of the seminar. The booklet was designed in both print and adapted formats, making it accessible to individuals with visual and other impairments. Copies were distributed to the differently abled participants as part of the university’s ongoing commitment to accessibility and rights-based awareness.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023



The seminar brought together academics, social work professionals, students, and representatives from NGOs and disability rights organizations. It served as a platform for dialogue on the social integration and mainstreaming of differently abled persons and concluded with a call for inclusive policies and community participation in creating a barrier-free society.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

NATIONAL SEMINAR CUM PANEL DISCUSSION ON
“DIFFERENTLY ABLED: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION”
&

AWARENESS RALLY ON “PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES”

Date: 6th March 2012

Venue: Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University & Jamal Mohamed College



The Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University, in collaboration with Jamal Mohamed College, organized a National Seminar cum Panel Discussion on “Differently Abled: Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education”, followed by an Awareness Rally on the Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 6th March 2012 at Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli.

The seminar aimed to highlight the systemic barriers faced by differently abled students in higher education and explore opportunities for greater inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment through policy, pedagogy, and institutional support.

The event was graced by Dr. K. Meena, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, who delivered the inaugural address and reaffirmed the university's commitment to inclusive education. Other dignitaries included the Controller of



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

Examinations and the Principal of Jamal Mohamed College, who extended their support and welcomed collaborative efforts to promote equitable access to education.



A special address was delivered by Mr. Deepak Nathan, a prominent differently abled rights activist, who shared personal experiences and challenged institutions to move beyond tokenism toward real inclusion. His address inspired students and faculty alike to reflect on the importance of rights-based education and social responsibility.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023



The panel discussion brought together experts, educators, and students to deliberate on **key topics such as:**

- Physical and digital accessibility in higher education institutions
- Inclusive curriculum design
- Assistive technologies and support systems
- Legal rights and advocacy strategies

Following the seminar, an awareness rally was conducted to promote public understanding and support for the rights of persons with disabilities. Students, faculty members, and differently abled participants took part in the rally, holding placards and raising slogans to advocate for inclusion, equality, and dignity for all.

The programme was impactful in raising awareness, encouraging institutional introspection, and promoting active dialogue around the challenges and opportunities for differently abled persons in higher education.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

WORKSHOP ON

“EFFECTIVE PARENTING SKILL” FOR PARENTS OF SPECIAL CHILDREN

Date: 9th March 2012

Venue: Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University & Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College

The challenges faced by parents of special children are multifaceted—ranging from emotional stress to lack of support systems. To address these concerns and strengthen the parenting framework for children with disabilities, a one-day workshop titled “Effective Parenting Skills” was organized on 9th March 2012. This collaborative initiative between the Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University, and the Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College, aimed to empower parents particularly mothers with effective tools, strategies, and emotional support.



Objectives of the Workshop

The primary objectives of the workshop were:

- To sensitize parents to the developmental, educational, and emotional needs of their special children.
- To equip them with evidence-based parenting skills and coping strategies.
- To promote physical and emotional well-being among parents through interactive sessions and recreational activities.
- To create a forum for shared experiences, networking, and mutual emotional support.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

Participants

The workshop was attended primarily by 48 mothers of children with disabilities from various special schools and support centers in and around Tiruchirappalli. Their participation brought a personal and emotional dimension to the sessions, leading to deep engagement and interaction.

Resource Persons and Expert Speakers

The sessions were conducted by eminent professionals and experienced educators in the field of special education and rehabilitation:

Rev. Sr. Josephine Ligory, Headmistress, Blossom Special School Spoke on the emotional and psychological journey of mothers raising special children and the role of patience, love, and structured learning environments. Mr. JYCE. P. Manickam, Assistant Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College provided an academic perspective on behavioral management, parent-child communication strategies, and the importance of early intervention. Ms. Geetha, Director, Pravag Special School addressed community-based support systems and offered practical advice on coordinating with schools, therapy centers, and peer groups. Dr. M. Prabavathy, Head, Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University delivered the keynote address on institutional support for special children and outlined the role of the university in extending services to families.

Program Highlights

a. Technical Sessions

Experts conducted sessions focusing on specific areas:

- Understanding the Needs of Special Children
- Parenting Strategies for Children with Autism, ADHD, and Learning Disabilities
- Emotional Resilience for Parents
- Importance of Structured Routines and Positive Reinforcement
- Navigating Educational and Social Systems



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

The talks were supported with case studies, videos, and real-life examples that resonated with the audience.

b. Interactive Session and Open Forum

A dedicated open forum allowed parents to share their stories, ask questions, and clarify doubts. The session served as a peer-support initiative, where many parents drew strength from each other's journeys.

c. Recreational Activities: Sports and Games for Mothers



Understanding the mental and physical toll caregiving can take, the organizers included a vibrant session of recreational games and sports exclusively for mothers.

Activities included:

- Team-building games
- Light aerobic exercises
- Stress-relief activities like balloon games and group

laughter therapy

This segment was not only refreshing but also crucial in reinforcing self-care and community bonding.

Feedback and Response

Feedback collected at the end of the workshop indicated a high level of satisfaction among the participants. Key takeaways as reported by participants included:

- Increased confidence in managing behavioral challenges.
- Greater awareness of institutional and community support systems.
- Emotional relief through peer interaction.
- Renewed motivation through games and recreational engagement.



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

The “Effective Parenting Skills” workshop proved to be a valuable intervention for parents of special children. The combination of expert insights, emotional support mechanisms, and recreational therapy created a holistic and empowering experience for participants.

TRAINING PROGRAM ON
“KNOW HOW OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY”

Date: 26th April 2012

Venue: Central Library, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli

A hands-on training program titled “*Know How of Assistive Technology*” was conducted to introduce participants to modern assistive devices and software aiding persons with disabilities. The program, held at the Central Library of Bharathidasan University, aimed at promoting inclusivity through technology.



Objectives

- To offer exposure to assistive technology for diverse disabilities
 - To promote inclusive practices through technological interventions
 - To build awareness among educators and professionals
- To foster collaboration and innovation in assistive tech solutions

Dr. Ramganesha, Professor, Dept. of Educational Technology, BDU, inaugurated the session. He highlighted the growing relevance of accessible technology in enhancing learning and quality of life for people with disabilities. **Mr. Sharma** (BarrierBreak Technologies,



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Tiruchirappalli-620023

Mumbai) demonstrated screen readers (JAWS, NVDA), magnifiers, speech-to-text tools, and inclusive educational platforms. **Mr. Shankar Subbiah** (Director, Agate Infotech, Chennai) presented Indian-developed assistive solutions, mobile accessibility apps, and discussed challenges in mainstreaming these technologies.

Participants engaged with assistive tools firsthand, including Braille devices, screen



reading software, and tactile educational materials. Sessions allowed for Q&A and personal trials. The session drew over 60 attendees including special educators, university faculty, and rehabilitation. Participants expressed strong appreciation for the practical nature of the training and requested similar

future events. Many reported an increased understanding of assistive tech applications and implementation strategies. The event successfully built foundational knowledge and generated enthusiasm for assistive technology. It reinforced the university's commitment to inclusive education and disability empowerment through innovation.