



Bharathidasan University
Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Report of events 2016-17

Launch of New Courses for the Differently Abled and Inclusive Cultural Fest

Date: 19.08.2015

Venue: Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP), Bharathidasan University

The Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP), Bharathidasan University, in collaboration with Dolphin Special School, proudly hosted a landmark event on **19th August 2015** at the CDAP campus. This event marked the **launch of new academic programmes exclusively designed for persons with disabilities**, a pioneering initiative unique in the entire nation. The event was coupled with an **Inclusive Cultural Fest**, where students with disabilities showcased their artistic and cultural talents.

Launch of New Academic Programmes



The newly launched courses were designed to cater to the **specific educational and vocational needs of students with Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Multiple Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities**. The curriculum was developed through an inclusive framework with the objective of promoting **dignified, skill-based, and accessible education** for all.



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The programme was **inaugurated** by:

- **Prof. Dr. M. Muthukumar**, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University
- **District Differently Abled Welfare Officer**, Tiruchirappalli
- **Dr. Mangaleswaran**, Head, Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University
- **Ms. Praveena Carmel**, Director, Dolphin Special School

The dignitaries expressed their appreciation for this visionary step towards inclusive education and emphasized the need for sustained efforts to empower persons with disabilities through skill development and higher education.

Programme Introduction

Dr. M. Prabavathy, Assistant Professor and Head, Centre for Differently Abled Persons, formally introduced the **newly launched academic programmes**. She highlighted the structure, content, and relevance of the courses in equipping the differently abled with practical skills for independent living and employability. She also outlined the Centre's long-term vision of **creating a national model for inclusive higher education**.

Inclusive Cultural Fest



Following the official inauguration, an **Inclusive Cultural Fest** was conducted, which witnessed vibrant and emotional performances by **students with disabilities**. The fest included:



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- **Dance and music performances**
- **Drama and skits promoting disability awareness**
- **Handicraft and art exhibitions**

The event served as a powerful platform for students to **express themselves creatively and confidently**, breaking conventional barriers and celebrating their unique abilities. The audience, comprising parents, teachers, university staff, and guests, was deeply moved and inspired by the performances.

The **launch of these academic programmes and the inclusive cultural celebration** marked a significant milestone in the journey towards **educational equity, empowerment, and societal inclusion** of persons with disabilities. The Centre for Differently Abled Persons at Bharathidasan University reaffirmed its commitment to being a **catalyst for inclusive change**, and the collaboration with Dolphin Special School set a strong precedent for future partnerships.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a shared vision of building a more **inclusive, compassionate, and capable society**.



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Workshop on “Vision Care and Sign Language”

Date: 6th January 2017

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University

A one-day workshop on “Vision Care and Sign Language” was organized on 6th



January 2017 by the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University**. The primary objective of the workshop was to **raise awareness among students and the general public** on essential aspects of **eye care** and the **language of the hearing impaired**.

The workshop featured **expert trainers** from the fields of **Rehabilitation Science and Sign Language**, who provided

participants with practical training and demonstrations.



Key Highlights:

- **Demonstrations** on **Orientation and Mobility (O&M) techniques** were conducted, enabling participants to understand the **movement and navigation methods** used by persons with vision impairment.



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- Training was provided on **basic etiquette and functional sign language**, emphasizing respectful and effective communication with persons with hearing impairment.
- Participants learned **basic functional communication skills**, enhancing their ability to

interact inclusively with persons with disabilities.

- A special session on **eye care and preventive practices** sensitized attendees to the importance of maintaining good vision health.



The workshop successfully **sensitized the participants** to the **needs and challenges** faced by persons with visual

and hearing impairments, while also equipping them with **practical knowledge and communication tools** to foster an inclusive environment.



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Mega Event: “Exhibition, Human Chain, Signature Campaign, and Workshop on Science and Technology for the Specially Abled”

Date: 28th February 2017

Venue: Government Law College, Trichy

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University in collaboration with Government Law College, Trichy

Coordinator: Dr. M. Prabavathy, Head i/c, Centre for Differently Abled Persons

As part of its continued commitment to **inclusive education, empowerment, and accessibility**, the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons**, Bharathidasan University, in collaboration with the



Government Law College, Trichy, organized a **comprehensive and impactful mega event** on **28th February 2017**. The event, which brought together students, faculty, officials, and members of the public, comprised the following components:

Exhibition on Science and Technology for the Specially Abled

the latest assistive technologies and devices designed to support individuals with disabilities in



The event began with an **exhibition showcasing** leading independent and productive lives. The exhibition was **inaugurated by Mr. A. Mayilvaganan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Trichy**, who expressed his appreciation for the thoughtful arrangements and the significance of such initiatives.

- The exhibition included a wide range of **assistive tools and adaptive technologies** such as:
 - Screen readers and magnifiers for the

visually impaired

- Hearing aids and speech-to-text applications for the hearing impaired
- Mobility aids including smart canes, wheelchairs, and prosthetic devices
- Learning support tools for children with intellectual disabilities

Dr. M. Prabavathy, the event coordinator, personally guided the dignitaries and guests through each display, explaining the **functionality and benefits** of each device. The event also highlighted the **innovations developed by research institutions and grassroots technologists** to support accessibility.



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Demonstration of Talent by Specially Abled Children



As part of the exhibition, children with special needs **showcased their unique talents** in areas such as art, music, crafts, and performance. Their skills served as a **powerful reminder of the capabilities and potential** of individuals with disabilities when provided the right support and encouragement.

The Deputy Commissioner took time to **interact warmly with the specially abled students**, offering motivational words and **presenting them with gifts** as tokens of appreciation for their courage and talent. In his keynote address, he emphasized the **importance of inclusion** and remarked that **participating in this event was a truly fulfilling experience**.

Signature Campaign for Inclusion and Equal Rights

Following the exhibition, a **Signature Campaign** was launched to express **solidarity with the cause of equal rights and inclusion** for persons with disabilities. Mr. Mayilvaganan was the **first to sign the campaign**, setting the tone for the rest of the participants.



- The campaign saw **active participation from students, faculty, professionals, and the general public**, who signed to show their commitment to supporting **accessibility, dignity, and opportunity** for the differently abled.

This symbolic act served as a **collective pledge toward building a more inclusive society**, reinforcing the constitutional and moral responsibility of ensuring equity for all.



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Human Chain for Inclusion

Immediately after the campaign, a **Human Chain** was formed—led by the dignitaries and supported by students from the Government Law College and the differently abled community. The Human Chain:

- Represented a **visible call for societal inclusion**
- Drew the attention of local communities and passersby
- Promoted the message of **unity, empowerment, and rights-based advocacy**

It was a **powerful visual statement** advocating for equal participation of the specially abled in all spheres of life—education, employment, and civic engagement.



Workshop on “Latest Technologies for the Specially Abled”

The final segment of the day was a **technical workshop** aimed at educating participants on the **emerging technologies and innovations** that support the needs of persons with disabilities.

Key highlights included:

- Demonstrations of **text-to-speech software, braille notetakers, sign language apps, and ergonomic tools**
- Discussions on **cost-effective innovations** being developed in India
- Awareness about **government schemes and accessibility policies** related to assistive technology
- Insights into the **role of higher education institutions** in promoting digital inclusion

The workshop helped students, teachers, and caregivers **understand the real-world application of science and technology** in enhancing the quality of life for the specially abled. It also opened up opportunities for **collaborative research and innovation in accessibility-focused projects**.

The mega event held on **28th February 2017** was a **resounding success**, combining **awareness, empowerment, inclusion, and advocacy**. It brought together **policy makers, educators, students, and technologists** to celebrate the strengths of persons with disabilities and to advocate for a more **accessible and compassionate society**.

Events like these underscore Bharathidasan University's **pioneering role in promoting inclusive education and equal opportunity**, in line with its vision of **empowering every learner, regardless of ability**.