



Centre for Differently Abled Persons
Bharathidasan University
Report of the events 2018-2019

**Two-Month Residential Training Program on
Employability skill and
Basic Computer Applications for Persons with Vision Impairment**

Date: 09-06-2018 to 28-07-2018

Venue: National Federation for the Blind (NFB), Coimbatore

In alignment with the mission of empowering persons with disabilities through skill development and technology integration, the Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University, in collaboration with the National Federation for the Blind (NFB), Coimbatore, successfully organized a two-month residential training programme on *Basic Computer Applications* for persons with vision impairment.

Programme Overview:

- **Duration:** 09 June 2018 to 28 July 2018
- **Venue:** NFB Campus, Coimbatore
- **Number of Participants:** 137 visually impaired individuals from various districts across Tamil Nadu
- **Nature of Training:** Fully residential, inclusive, and adapted to the needs of persons with vision impairment

Objectives:

1. To equip visually impaired individuals with essential computer skills to enhance employability.
2. To prepare participants for competitive examinations through ICT-based learning.
3. To promote self-reliance and digital inclusion through hands-on practice.
4. To provide accessible learning materials in multiple formats.



Training Components:

- Basic Computer

Applications:

- Skill Enhancement:
- Life Skills and Soft Skills Modules:



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Accessibility and Support Materials:

- **Study Materials** were meticulously prepared and disseminated in **Braille, Large Print, and Audio formats**, tailored to the varied needs of the trainees.
- These materials were developed by **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Head of the Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University, ensuring inclusivity and learner-centric design.



Outcomes and Impact:

- Participants gained foundational ICT skills, boosting confidence and independence.
- Many trainees reported improved ability to access digital content and navigate online platforms.
- The program created awareness among the visually impaired community about available technologies and support systems.
- Several participants showed readiness to appear for competitive exams and seek employment in both public and private sectors.

The two-month residential training programme served as a transformative platform for 137 visually impaired individuals, enabling them to participate meaningfully in the digital world. The collaboration between Bharathidasan University and the National Federation for the Blind exemplifies the spirit of inclusive education and empowerment.



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Students Induction Training Programme

Date: 16-07-2018 to 21-07-2018

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

To facilitate a smooth transition into higher education and to create an inclusive, supportive learning environment, the Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP), Bharathidasan University, organized a **Students Induction Training Programme** from **16th to 21st July 2018**. This program was designed especially for the newly enrolled students in the **Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA)** and various **Diploma programmes** offered at the Centre.



Objectives:

- To orient first-year students to the academic environment and available support systems.
 - To develop basic communication skills and instill values and positive attitudes.
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- To foster self-awareness and confidence among students with disabilities.
 - To assess the specific needs of students and provide appropriate rehabilitation support.

Programme Highlights:

- **Communication Skills Development:**
Basic English communication sessions were conducted to enhance students' verbal and written skills.
- **Value Education & Attitudinal Training:**
Sessions focused on fostering ethical behavior, discipline, self-motivation, and respect for diversity.
- **Sensitization and Orientation:**
Students were introduced to the academic structure, support services, assistive technologies, and the inclusive philosophy of the Centre.
- **Audiological Assessment:**
All students underwent hearing screening to identify support needs and facilitate referrals for assistive devices or therapies if required.



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Resource Persons:

The sessions were handled by experienced professionals from diverse backgrounds:

- **Ms. Leema Rose** – Rehabilitation Professional
- **Dr. R. M. Prabavathy** – Head, Centre for Differently Abled Persons
- **Dr. P. Kannan** – Faculty Member, Department of Social Work
- **Ms. Vijayalakshmi** – Special Educator

These experts delivered interactive sessions, motivated the students, and shared valuable insights to help them adapt to university life.



Outcomes:

- Students reported improved confidence and a better understanding of academic expectations.
- Identified special needs through audiological assessment helped tailor further support.
- A positive peer network and sense of belonging began to emerge among the participants.



The **Students Induction Training Programme** was a crucial initiative in ensuring that students with disabilities are welcomed into a supportive and enabling environment. By addressing both academic and personal development aspects, the program laid a strong foundation for the students' future success.



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Awareness Program on
“Human Resilience and Achievement on Helen Keller”

Date: 28-06-2018

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP) observed **Helen Keller Day** on **28th June 2018** to honor the extraordinary life, resilience, and achievements of **Helen Keller**, the renowned American author, political activist, and advocate for persons with disabilities. The day served as a reminder of the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity and aimed to inspire students and participants through her legacy.

Programme Highlights:



- The event commenced with a tribute to Helen Keller and a brief presentation on her life and contributions.
- **Dr. Subha**, Assistant Professor, **Department of Women's Studies**, delivered an insightful talk emphasizing the **nuances of human**

resilience, especially in the context of gender, disability, and social empowerment.

- **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Head, **Centre for Differently Abled Persons**, shared an inspiring address about **Helen Keller's journey**, her advocacy for the rights of people with disabilities, and the relevance of her work in today's inclusive education and empowerment movements.
- Visual media, including a reference to the famous street art of Helen Keller in



Montreal, was showcased to enhance engagement and inspire discussion.

Participants:

30 students with disabilities from CDAP and other departments of Bharathidasan University actively participated in the programme.

The interactive session following the talks allowed students to share their

reflections on perseverance, role models, and personal goals.

Outcomes:

- Students were deeply motivated by the life story of Helen Keller and the discussions on resilience and self-determination.
- The program reinforced the values of **perseverance, inclusivity, and empowerment**, encouraging students to believe in their potential regardless of challenges.

The observance of **Helen Keller Day** was not only a tribute to an iconic figure but also an opportunity to reaffirm the power of **human grit, hard work, and hope**.



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Workshop on Vocational Training for Students with Speech and Hearing Impairment

Date: 27-07-2018

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

As part of its ongoing initiatives to promote skill development and self-reliance among students with disabilities, the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)** organized a **Workshop on Vocational Training** on **27th July 2018**. The workshop was specially designed for students with **speech and hearing impairment** and focused on equipping them with practical skills for future livelihood opportunities.

Objectives:

- To introduce students with speech and hearing impairments to various vocational skills.
- To raise awareness on the importance of skill-based training for economic independence.
- To encourage creativity, sustainability, and self-expression through craft-making activities.

Resource Persons:

- **Mr. N. Alex** and **Mrs. Kalpana Venkatesan**, educators from the **Indian School, Muscat**, conducted the core training sessions. They engaged the students through practical demonstrations and interactive activities tailored to their communication needs.
- **Mrs. V. Premalatha**, Special Educator from **Mother Trust, Karur**, delivered a motivational session highlighting the significance of vocational training for persons with disabilities.



Workshop Highlights:

- Hands-on training in making **beautiful crafts from waste materials** was the central activity, allowing students to explore their creativity while learning valuable recycling and craft

techniques.

- The sessions were supported by visual aids and gestures to ensure effective communication with students with hearing and speech impairments.
- The workshop created an inclusive and participatory learning environment that fostered teamwork and enthusiasm.



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Outcomes:

- Students demonstrated excellent creativity and active participation throughout the workshop.
- The training boosted their confidence and introduced them to new avenues of self-employment and entrepreneurship.



- The event emphasized **“learning by doing”**, reinforcing the value of vocational education in the holistic development of students with disabilities.
- The **Workshop on Vocational Training** was a meaningful step toward enhancing the skills and

independence of students with speech and hearing impairments. Through collaborative efforts, the Centre reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive education and empowerment. The students left the workshop with both inspiration and practical skills that can contribute to their personal and professional growth.



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Teacher's Day Celebration

Date: 05-09-2018

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP) celebrated **Teacher's Day** on **5th September 2018** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, a renowned scholar, philosopher, and former President of India. The event was an opportunity for students to express their gratitude and appreciation for their teachers and mentors who play a vital role in shaping their academic and personal lives.



Objectives:

- To honor the contributions of teachers in nurturing students with disabilities.
- To celebrate the teacher-student relationship built on respect, guidance, and learning.
- To encourage students to reflect on the importance of education and character building.

Programme Highlights:

- The event was **organized entirely by the students** of CDAP, showcasing their organizational and creative abilities.
- Students shared heartfelt messages emphasizing the role of teachers in helping them grow as **good human beings, responsible citizens, and empowered individuals**.
- A variety of **cultural and recreational performances** were staged by the students, including songs, skits, and dances dedicated to teachers.
- The celebration highlighted the theme that **teachers not only impart knowledge but also inspire values and resilience**, especially in the lives of students with disabilities.



Outcomes:

The celebration created a joyful and respectful atmosphere, strengthening the bond between students and faculty. Teachers were deeply touched by the thoughtful gestures and creative performances of their students. The program fostered a sense of appreciation, belonging, and community within the Centre.

The **Teacher's Day Celebration at CDAP** was a heartwarming tribute to the dedication, commitment, and compassion of teachers. The students' active participation and meaningful expressions made the event truly memorable. It reinforced the belief that **education is a powerful tool for transformation** and that teachers play a pivotal role in guiding every student towards their fullest potential.



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**Observance of International Week for Persons with Hearing Disabilities and
Workshop on Sign Language**

Date: 24-09-2018 to 28-09-2018

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)** observed the **International Week for Persons with Hearing Disabilities** from **24th to 28th September 2018**, in solidarity with the global initiative to promote the rights, inclusion, and empowerment of individuals with hearing impairments. The week-long event included a series of interactive activities, awareness programs, and a **Workshop on Indian Sign Language (ISL)**, fostering inclusive communication and understanding among students from diverse backgrounds.

Objectives:



- To celebrate the identity, culture, and contributions of persons with hearing disabilities.
- To create awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with hearing impairments.
- To promote inclusive communication through the learning

of **Indian Sign Language**.

- To facilitate peer-led learning and encourage mutual respect and empathy.

Programme Highlights:

- **Competitions and Cultural Events:**
Students with hearing impairments actively participated in various competitions such as drawing, craft-making, storytelling through gestures, and cultural performances. These events highlighted their creativity and talents.
- **Sign Language Workshop:**
A five-day **intensive workshop on Basic Indian Sign Language (ISL)** was conducted for students without hearing impairments to build communication bridges.
- **Trainers and Resource Persons:**
 - **Ms. Sindhiya**, Special Educator
 - **Mr. Kuman**, Sign Language Interpreter and TrainerThese experts led the sessions with clarity and enthusiasm, using interactive methods to teach basic ISL.



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- **Peer Teaching:**
Students with hearing impairments enthusiastically **taught their peers** basic signs, promoting peer-to-peer learning and building camaraderie.
- **Participants:**
A total of **38 students** from various disciplines participated in the training sessions and were successfully oriented in basic ISL.
- **Outcome Evaluation:**
The outcome of the training was **evaluated by Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Head of CDAP, who noted significant progress in the participants' ability to understand and communicate using basic sign language.

Outcomes:

- Participants gained **functional knowledge of Indian Sign Language**, improving their ability to engage with peers with hearing disabilities.
- The workshop fostered a **spirit of inclusion, empathy, and mutual respect** among



students.

- Students with hearing impairments experienced a sense of pride and leadership as they took active roles in teaching and guiding.
- The event successfully **promoted accessibility, equality, and communication inclusion** in the university environment.

The observance of the **International Week for Persons with Hearing Disabilities** and the accompanying **Sign Language Workshop** at CDAP was a powerful step towards fostering **inclusive education and awareness**. It not only celebrated the abilities and contributions of persons with hearing impairments but also empowered the wider student community to become more inclusive, understanding, and communicative.



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Children's Day Celebration

Date: 14-11-2018

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)** celebrated **Children's Day** on **14th November 2018** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, the first Prime Minister of India, who was known for his deep affection and commitment toward the well-being and development of children. The day was observed with joy, enthusiasm, and a range of cultural activities led by the students.

Objectives:



Nehru.

- To provide an opportunity for students to express their talents and creativity.
- To promote a sense of joy, inclusion, and celebration among children with disabilities.
- To reinforce the values of love, care, and respect for children as envisioned by Pandit

Programme Highlights:

- The celebration began with a **brief introduction** on the significance of Children's Day and the legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Students actively participated in a variety of **cultural performances**, including:



- **Skits** depicting values such as friendship and kindness
- **Dance performances** filled with energy and enthusiasm
- **Musical and group activities** that encouraged collaboration and expression
- Teachers and staff members distributed **cakes and sweets**, making the day memorable and joyful for all

the children.

- The atmosphere was festive, and every child received appreciation for their participation



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Outcomes:

- Students experienced a **sense of belonging and joy**, enhancing their social interaction and self-confidence.
- The celebration served as a platform for students to **showcase their abilities and creativity**.
- The event strengthened the teacher-student bond and highlighted the commitment of the Centre to celebrate every child's potential and individuality.

The **Children's Day Celebration at CDAP** was a delightful and meaningful event that brought smiles, joy, and togetherness among the students and faculty. It reinforced the Centre's ongoing commitment to nurturing the talents and well-being of children with disabilities in a supportive and inclusive environment.



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**One Week Skill Enhancement Training and Observance of International Week for
Persons with Disabilities**

Date: 03-12-2018 to 09-12-2018

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)** observed the **International Week for Persons with Disabilities** from **3rd to 9th December 2018**, by organizing a **week-long skill enhancement training program** for students with disabilities. This initiative aimed to empower students with relevant skills for personal, academic, and professional growth, while also promoting inclusion and awareness. The event also aligned with broader national and global observances such as **Armed Forces Flag Day**.

Inauguration:

The event was formally inaugurated by **Dr. Govindarajan**, Syndicate Member, Bharathidasan University.

- He symbolically **planted saplings** to mark the beginning of the program, emphasizing environmental responsibility and growth.
- He also distributed **sweets to the students**, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere.

Skill Enhancement Sessions:



Throughout the week, **expert resource persons** conducted sessions on various skill areas, which included:



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- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Basic computer and digital literacy
- Career guidance and employability skills
- Life skills for independent living

The sessions were designed to be interactive, accessible, and tailored to the specific needs of students with different types of disabilities.

Valedictory Function:



The week-long program culminated with a **valedictory function** on 9th December 2018.

- **Dr. Gopinath Ganapati**, Registrar, Bharathidasan University, and **Prof. Somasundaram**, Syndicate Member, presided over the ceremony.
- **Certificates of participation** were distributed to the students who completed the training.
- **Awards of Excellence** were presented to **differently abled individuals Dr. Prabhakaran, Director, Holy cross service Society and Mr Marikannu for their significant contributions to society**, highlighting their achievements and serving as role models.



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Special Observance – Armed Forces Flag Day:

In observance of **Armed Forces Flag Day**, a **signature campaign** was organized:

- Students, faculty, the Registrar, and Syndicate Members participated actively by signing in support of the armed forces.
- This activity instilled a spirit of **patriotism and solidarity**, linking the empowerment of persons with disabilities with national pride and civic responsibility.



Outcomes:

- **Enhanced skills and self-confidence** among participating students with disabilities.
- Promotion of an **inclusive, skill-oriented, and supportive educational environment**.
- **Recognition of excellence** among persons with disabilities, reinforcing the message of ability beyond disability.
- Strengthened community engagement through participation in national observances like **Armed Forces Flag Day**.

The observance of the **International Week for Persons with Disabilities** and the accompanying **skill enhancement training** was a resounding success. It provided a platform for learning, empowerment, recognition, and community building. The initiative reaffirmed the Centre's mission to foster **inclusive growth, capacity building, and social responsibility** among students with disabilities.



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OBSERVANCE OF WORLD BRAILLE DAY AND WORKSHOP ON BASICS OF BRAILLE

Date: 04.01.2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

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

World Braille Day is celebrated annually on January 4th to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**, the inventor of the Braille system. This day serves to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

To mark this occasion, the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)**, Bharathidasan University, organized a **one-day workshop** titled *"Basics of Braille and Assistive Technology for Visually Impaired Learners."* The objective of the workshop was to introduce participants to the Braille script and equip them with foundational skills in reading and writing Braille, as well as to familiarize them with modern Braille-related assistive tools and technology.

Objectives of the Workshop

- To commemorate World Braille Day and create awareness about Braille literacy.
- To provide **hands-on training** on reading and writing Braille for students, educators, and volunteers.
- To demonstrate the use of **assistive technology** for Braille printing and digital Braille tools.
- To promote inclusive practices in education and communication for persons with visual impairment.

Participants

A total of **35 participants**, including:

- Students of special education
- Rehabilitation professionals
- Volunteers and faculty members
- Persons with visual impairment

Participants came from various departments of Bharathidasan University and affiliated institutions.

Programme Highlights

- **Inaugural Session:**
The workshop commenced with a brief inaugural session, where **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, CDAP, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of Braille literacy and inclusive education.



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- **Technical Session I – Introduction to Braille:**
Conducted by **Dr. P. Kannan**, a specialist in visual impairment education, this session covered the **history, structure, and principles of the Braille script**. Participants were introduced to the **6-dot Braille cell**, the English Braille alphabet, and basic punctuation.
- **Technical Session II – Hands-on Braille Training:**
This practical session included training in:
 - Reading raised Braille letters and words
 - Writing Braille using the **Braille slate and stylus**
 - Use of **Braille typewriters** and **Perkins Braille**
 - Exercises in forming words and short sentences
- **Technical Session III – Assistive Technology in Braille:**
This session introduced participants to modern tools and software used in Braille printing, including:
 - **Braille translation software** (e.g., Duxbury Braille Translator)
 - **Embossers** and **refreshable Braille displays**
 - Demonstration of how digital content can be converted into Braille formats
- **Interactive Q&A Session:**
Participants actively engaged with the experts, asking questions and seeking clarification about Braille transcription, usage in education, and technology support for visually impaired individuals.

Resource Persons

- **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Differently Abled Persons, Bharathidasan University – Workshop Organizer and Trainer
- **Dr. P. Kannan**, Expert in Visual Impairment and Special Education – Co-facilitator and Subject Expert

Both resource persons brought in-depth academic and practical experience, ensuring a rich learning environment.

Outcome of the Workshop

- Participants gained **basic proficiency in Braille reading and writing**.
- Improved understanding of **assistive technologies** available for visually impaired individuals.
- Increased motivation among students and professionals to promote **inclusive practices**.
- Feedback received indicated a high level of satisfaction and enthusiasm for future advanced workshops.





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“THANKSGIVING DAY TO MOTHER NATURE”

Date: 11.01.2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

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

In recognition of the deep-rooted cultural tradition of paying tribute to Mother Nature, the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)**, Bharathidasan University, organized a celebration titled **“Thanksgiving Day to Mother Nature”** on 11th January 2019. The event was organized in connection with the **Pongal Festival**, the Tamil harvest festival that signifies gratitude towards nature, particularly the sun, rain, soil, cattle, and farmers.

The event aimed to **sensitize students with disabilities and their families** to the value of environmental conservation and to deepen their understanding of the **cultural significance of Pongal**. It was also a celebration of community, tradition, and inclusion.

Objectives

- To educate students on the importance of **environmental conservation** and sustainability.
- To highlight the **cultural and traditional** significance of Pongal.
- To foster a sense of **respect and gratitude** towards natural resources.
- To encourage **participation in traditional games and cultural practices** that promote physical activity and cultural identity.

Programme Details

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- **Welcome Address:**

The event began with a warm welcome by **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, CDAP. She explained the purpose of the day and the connection



between cultural festivals and environmental respect.

- **Sensitization Talk:**

A short awareness session was held where students were sensitized on:

- The **importance of preserving nature** – air, water, land, and biodiversity.
- The **role of traditional festivals** like Pongal in expressing gratitude to nature and the farming community.
- Encouragement for **sustainable lifestyle practices** such as planting trees, avoiding plastic, and protecting animals.

- **Cultural Segment:**

The highlight of the program was the organization of **traditional Tamil games and activities**, which were enjoyed by both students and parents. Activities included:

- **Silambattam** (Tamil martial art demonstration)
- **Uriyadi / Uriyattam** (traditional pot-breaking game)
- Folk music and dance
- Rangoli (Kolam) competition with natural powders and flowers

- **Participation and Inclusion:**

The event was marked by **enthusiastic participation from students with disabilities, their parents, faculty, and staff**. The games were adapted wherever necessary to ensure inclusivity, and volunteers supported students throughout the event.

Outcome and Impact

- Students gained a deeper understanding of **cultural traditions** and their relevance to **environmental awareness**.
- The program promoted **physical activity, teamwork, and cultural expression** in an inclusive environment.



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- Parents appreciated the initiative as it provided an opportunity for **community bonding** and **inclusive celebration** of heritage.
- Students expressed a commitment to taking small steps to **protect the environment** in their daily lives.



“Thanksgiving Day to Mother Nature” served as a meaningful and joyous occasion for celebrating **nature, culture, and inclusion**. The Centre for Differently Abled Persons successfully merged **environmental education** with **cultural heritage**, reinforcing the message that **respect for nature is an essential part of life and tradition**.

The event concluded with a traditional sweet Pongal distribution and a collective pledge to conserve nature and celebrate culture with responsibility and gratitude.



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“Awareness Campaign on National Voters Day”

Date: 25.01.2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

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

In observance of **National Voters Day**, the Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP), Bharathidasan University, organized an **awareness campaign** on 25th January 2019. The aim was to educate and empower students—especially those with disabilities—on the importance of **active and informed participation in the democratic process**. The event emphasized the significance of voting as not only a right but a **fundamental duty** of every eligible citizen.

Objectives

- To create awareness among students about the **importance of voting** in a democracy.
- To encourage **young voters** to enroll and participate in elections after attaining 18 years of age.
- To promote the message of **inclusive and accessible elections** for persons with disabilities.
- To reinforce **civic responsibility** and participation in the democratic process.

Programme Highlights



- **Welcome and Opening Remarks:**
The program began with a brief welcome address, highlighting the relevance of National Voters Day, which is observed annually on January 25th to commemorate the foundation day of the **Election Commission of India**.



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- **Lecture on Electoral Literacy:**

An informative session was delivered by **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, CDAP, and **Dr. Kannan**, expert in civic education. Topics covered included:

- The **constitutional right to vote**
- **Eligibility criteria** and voter registration process
- **Role of youth** in strengthening democracy
- The need for **ethical and informed voting**
- Importance of **accessible polling** for persons with disabilities

- **Interactive Session:**

The session was interactive, encouraging students to ask questions related to voting procedures, use of voter ID, and how elections are conducted. Queries specific to **accessibility arrangements at polling booths** were addressed.

- **Voters Pledge:**

All participants took the **National Voters Day pledge**, affirming:

"We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair, and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language, or any inducement."

- **Distribution of Awareness Materials:**

Pamphlets and visual materials related to **voter education** and **electoral participation** were distributed among students.





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Outcomes

- Students gained a **clear understanding of their voting rights and responsibilities**.
- The campaign succeeded in **motivating first-time voters** to register and participate in the electoral process.
- It instilled a sense of **national pride and civic responsibility** among the student community.
- Special emphasis was placed on **inclusive voting practices** for persons with disabilities, aligning with the RPwD Act and Election Commission guidelines.

The Awareness Campaign on National Voters Day was a **significant step toward promoting electoral literacy** among students with disabilities. By instilling democratic values and encouraging active citizenship, the Centre for Differently Abled Persons reinforced its commitment to building an **inclusive and participatory society**.



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OBSERVANCE OF “MARTYRS' DAY”

Date: 30.01.2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

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

Martyrs' Day is observed every year on **30th January** to pay solemn tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi**, the Father of the Nation, and to honour the **brave martyrs** who sacrificed their lives for India's freedom and sovereignty. On this day in 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, and the nation collectively observes a moment of silence in his memory.

To mark this significant occasion, the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)**, Bharathidasan University, organized a program on **Martyrs' Day** to instill patriotic values and inspire students through the ideals of **truth, non-violence, and sacrifice**.

Objectives

- To pay homage to **Mahatma Gandhi** and the martyrs who laid down their lives for the country.
- To educate students about the **freedom struggle**, Gandhiji's principles, and the role of the armed forces in national security.
- To inculcate the values of **peace, patriotism, and non-violence** among students.

Programme Highlights



- **Visual Presentation on Mahatma Gandhi's Life:**
Students were shown **pictures and visual narratives** depicting the life history of Mahatma Gandhi — from his early days, involvement in the freedom movement,



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Promotion of **truth and non-violence (Satyagraha)**, to his leadership in India's independence.

- **Tribute to Armed Forces and Martyrs:**

A special segment was dedicated to recognizing the **sacrifices made by Indian soldiers** who guard the nation's borders. Their **valour and commitment** were acknowledged through short video clips and stories shared by the facilitators.

- **Talk by Resource Persons:**

- **Dr. M. Prabavathy**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, CDAP, spoke about **Gandhiji's philosophy**, his simplicity, and his lasting impact on the world.
- **Ms. Sinthiya**, faculty member, elaborated on the **importance of remembering martyrs** and emphasized the relevance of Gandhi's ideals in contemporary society.

- **Moment of Silence and Homage:**

A **two-minute silence** was observed by all participants at **11:00 AM** to honour the memory of all martyrs. Students and staff collectively paid floral tribute to a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi.

Participants

A total of **30 students** participated in the observance, along with faculty members and volunteers. The program was inclusive and engaging, encouraging reflections and discussions.





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Outcomes

- Students gained a deeper understanding of **Gandhiji's life and philosophy**.
- The program instilled a strong sense of **patriotism and respect for national heroes**.
- It encouraged students to adopt **non-violence, unity, and peace** as core values in their personal and academic lives.

The observance of **Martyrs' Day** at CDAP served as a poignant reminder of the **sacrifices made for India's independence and sovereignty**. The event not only commemorated the memory of Mahatma Gandhi but also inspired students to reflect on the true meaning of **freedom, courage, and peace**. Such programs play a crucial role in **nurturing socially responsible and value-driven citizens**.



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**“INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLEGIUM ON EMERGING PARADIGMS IN
DISABILITY AND SOCIAL WORK”**

Date: 15.02.2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP) in collaboration with the
Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University

The Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP) in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University, organized a landmark event titled “International Research Collegium on Emerging Paradigms in Disability and Social Work” on 15th February 2019 at the CDAP Hall. This collegium brought together leading



academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students from India and abroad to explore innovative approaches and evolving paradigms in the interdisciplinary domains of **disability studies and social work**. The event served as an international platform to foster dialogue, exchange best practices, and identify collaborative opportunities

for inclusive and socially relevant research.

Objectives

- To explore and discuss **emerging paradigms in disability studies and social work research**.
- To promote **international academic collaboration** in the field of social inclusion and rehabilitation.
- To provide a platform for researchers to **present queries, share insights**, and receive expert feedback.
- To highlight the **role of interdisciplinary approaches** in addressing the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

Programme Highlights

- **Inaugural Session:**
The collegium was formally inaugurated by **Dr. P. Prema**, Former Dean, Department of Education, Alagappa University. In her address, she emphasized the **importance of inclusive education and research** for social transformation.

International guests of honor, **Professor Crazenet** and **Professor Magnet Mathew** from the **Department of Applied Psychology, University of Applied Sciences**,



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Belgium, delivered keynote addresses. They shared global perspectives on **psychosocial interventions, participatory research**, and the evolving landscape of **disability support systems** in European contexts.

- **Theme Presentation:**

Dr. M. Prabavathy, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, CDAP, welcomed the gathering and introduced the **theme of the collegium**. She stressed the need for **cross-cultural research collaborations**, the integration of **technology and social work**, and the inclusion of **disability perspectives** in mainstream academic discourse.

- **Research Dialogue and Panel Interaction:**

A vibrant and interactive session followed where **panel experts addressed queries** raised by researchers from across **India and abroad**. Discussions focused on:

- Innovations in disability rehabilitation and social inclusion
- Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) frameworks
- Policy gaps and advocacy strategies
- Ethics in disability research
- Role of lived experiences in participatory research

- **Felicitation: Dr. Elango**, Head of the Department of Social Work, **Dr Sethuraman**, Prof, Dept of Social Work and **Dr. Shanmugasundaram**, senior faculty member, offered felicitations and acknowledged the **international scholarly presence** and the academic relevance of the program.

Participants



The collegium witnessed the participation of:

- Over **100 researchers, scholars, and faculty members**
- Delegates from **universities across India and international institutions**
- Practitioners and disability advocates

Outcomes

- The event fostered **interdisciplinary and international collaboration** in research on disability and social work.
- Researchers received **valuable feedback and mentorship** from distinguished scholars.
- It strengthened the academic positioning of CDAP as a **hub for disability research and innovation**.



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- Participants expressed the need for **regular knowledge exchanges** and follow-up workshops in this domain.

The **International Research Collegium** was a **significant academic milestone** in advancing research on disability and social inclusion. It reinforced the belief that collaborative knowledge-sharing can lead to impactful outcomes in the lives of persons with disabilities. The Centre for Differently Abled Persons remains committed to promoting **inclusive research, international dialogue, and evidence-based practice**.



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TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON “INNOVATIONS FOR PROMOTING INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Date: 15th & 16th February 2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

Organized by: Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP), in collaboration with Dept of Social Work, Bharathidasan University

The **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)**, Bharathidasan University, organized a prestigious **Two-Day International Symposium** on the theme “*Innovations for Promoting Inclusive Sustainable Development*” on **15th and 16th February 2019**. The symposium served as a global platform for academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students from India and abroad to deliberate on inclusive practices, emerging innovations, and sustainable solutions for persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.

Inauguration Ceremony



The symposium was formally inaugurated by **Thiru Shanmugasundaram**, Former Director, The State Commissionerate for the Disabled, Government of Tamil Nadu. In his keynote address, he emphasized the need for **policy-level innovations, empowerment through technology, and community-based inclusive strategies** for sustainable development.



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Dr. P. Prema, Former Dean, Alagappa University, and **Dr. Sethuraman**, Professor and Head, Dept of Social Work delivered an inspiring address on the role of education and social work in achieving inclusive growth.

The inaugural session saw active participation of experts from:

- **Dr. Karam Veer Singh**, Representative from the *District Happiness Department*, Government of NCT of Delhi
- Faculty members and students from **Howest University, Belgium**
- Delegates from **Sri Lanka and Muscat**
- Experts, educators, and researchers in the field of disability studies and development

Technical Sessions and Paper Presentations

Across two days, several **technical sessions and research presentations** were conducted under sub-themes such as:

- Assistive Technologies and Innovation
- Inclusive Education Models
- Disability Rights and Sustainable Policy
- Livelihood Development for Persons with Disabilities
- Cross-cultural approaches to inclusion

Highlights included:

- **Research presentations by persons with disabilities**, many of whom used **sign language** or **assistive technologies** such as screen readers and Braille displays, embodying the very spirit of inclusion and accessibility.
- Thought-provoking sessions on how **social innovation** and **technology transfer** can bridge development gaps for persons with disabilities across developing and developed nations.



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Valedictory Session



The Valedictory Ceremony was held on **16th February 2019**, presided over by **Major Dr. Somasundaram**, Syndicate Member, Bharathidasan University.

A moving tribute was paid to the **brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Kargil War**, reaffirming the values of courage, service, and national commitment.

Certificates were distributed to participants, and select papers were recommended for publication in upcoming conference proceedings and journals.

Impact and Outcomes

- The symposium fostered **international academic collaboration** and knowledge exchange in the field of **inclusive development**.
- It provided a **platform for persons with disabilities** to present their research and innovations using **accessible mediums**, breaking barriers of communication and stigma.



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- Discussions laid emphasis on the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially SDG-4 (Quality Education), SDG-10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).
- Action points for future research, policy recommendation, and community engagement were drafted and shared with stakeholders.



The **Two-Day International Symposium** on *Innovations for Promoting Inclusive Sustainable Development* marked a **milestone event in advancing inclusion, accessibility, and global dialogue**. The CDAP reaffirmed its commitment to continue promoting **education, research, and advocacy** to ensure that no one is left behind in the development process.



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DOWN SYNDROME DAY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Date: 26.03.2019

Venue: CDAP Hall, Bharathidasan University

The Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP) observed **Down Syndrome Day** on 26th March 2019 with a focus on awareness and empowerment. The program included **adaptive yoga training** and **music-based activities** for students with Down syndrome to support their behavioral and emotional development.

Mrs. Shella, Special Educator and Adaptive Yoga Trainer, conducted an engaging yoga session tailored to the students' abilities. A **music session** followed, using rhythm and singing to improve communication and social interaction.

The event created awareness among parents, caregivers, and educators on inclusive practices and the importance of early interventions. Participants expressed great enthusiasm, and the sessions provided both therapeutic benefits and joyful participation.





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“Fifteen Days Employability Skill Training for Persons with Disabilities”

Date: 30.04.2019 to 15.05.2019

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

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

In Collaboration with: Youth4Jobs Foundation, Hyderabad and Madurai

Employment is a vital aspect of **independent living and socio-economic empowerment** for persons with disabilities. Recognizing the need for targeted interventions in this area, the **Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)** at **Bharathidasan University** organized a **fifteen-day intensive training program** on employability skills exclusively for **students with disabilities**.

The training was held from **30th April to 15th May 2019**, with the goal of equipping students with **essential workplace competencies** and bridging the gap between education and employment.



workplace culture and employer expectations.

Objectives

- To prepare final-year students with disabilities for the transition from academics to employment.
- To enhance core **employability skills**, including communication, technology use, and interpersonal behavior.
- To instill **confidence, motivation, and independence** among participants.
- To familiarize students with

Target Group

The training was tailored for **15 final-year students with disabilities** enrolled at **Bharathidasan University and its affiliated colleges**. The participants included individuals with **visual impairment, hearing impairment, locomotor disabilities, and mild intellectual disabilities**, ensuring diversity and inclusion.

Training Structure and Modules

The training program followed a structured, **activity-based, and participatory model**. It included group discussions, hands-on tasks, role-plays, mock interviews, and individual mentoring.



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Key modules covered were:

1. Communication Skills
2. ICT Skills
3. Attitude and Motivation
4. Workplace Behavior
5. Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking
6. Interview Readiness and Job Search Skills

Resource Persons

The sessions were facilitated by **experienced trainers from the Youth4Jobs Foundation**, a nationally recognized organization working in the area of **inclusive employment**. Trainers from **Hyderabad and Madurai branches** conducted the sessions using accessible and inclusive methods suited to the needs of persons with disabilities.



Outcomes and Feedback

- Participants showed **visible improvement in confidence**, communication, and professional readiness.
- Several students completed their **first formal resume** and participated in a **mock interview** for the first time.
- Students with disabilities were introduced to **assistive technologies** and support systems available in the workplace.
- Positive feedback was received from all participants, many of whom expressed **enthusiasm for employment opportunities**.

The **Fifteen Days Employability Skill Training** proved to be a **transformative experience** for the participating students. The program effectively addressed the barriers to employment faced by persons with disabilities and enabled them with skills and strategies for **independent living and career success**.

The Centre for Differently Abled Persons continues to work toward **inclusive education, training, and employment**, reaffirming its mission to empower persons with disabilities and promote equality in higher education and workforce participation.