The Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC), Kalindi College, University of Delhi

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Introduction

The XII Plan guidelines (2012-2017) of UGC for Persons with Disability Scheme in Colleges broadly posit two schemes in place, namely; 'Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs' (HEPSN) Scheme and Visually Challenged Teachers respectively. As per HEPSN Scheme, one of the key component has been the establishment of Enabling Unit for differently abled students in university colleges with a vision to raise awareness in higher education system about the special educational needs and other general issues encountered in the learning environment of university institutions.

In the light of fruitful compliance of these UGC norms, Kalindi college is fully resolved and devoted to make concerted efforts for benefiting disabled students in the best possible way through effective functioning of such facilitating body with the nomenclature; 'Equal Opportunity Cell' (EOC). Although there are 5 differently abled students enrolled in totality, but this cell of Kalindi College is firmly committed to provide an accessible, conducive and supportive environment for persons with different abilities (Divyangjan) irrespective of their low strength.

Objectives and Functions of the Cell

- The EOC of Kalindi College is a platform to ensure that all specially abled (Divyang) students are bestowed with equal educational opportunities particularly visually impaired, hearing/ speech impaired, students affected by locomotor disability, etc.
- The concerned cell of the college facilitates admission of as many differently abled students as possible in various courses by virtue of open quota and also through their reservation.
- It also provides necessary guidance/ counseling for individuals with disabilities concerning courses to be chosen and assists them to gain successful employment in public and private sectors, at a later stage.
- The cell also organizes disability awareness programmes i.e. seminars, talks, celebrating disability-oriented days; World Disabled Day and White-cane Day, and other co-academic activities from time to time and disseminate knowledge among students about the challenges vis-a-vis disabled and prospects for them.
- It Acquaints them about government academic and financial plans, scholarship schemes, job opportunities and other facilities offered by the college in detail.

The Achievements

In order to make the college campus barrier-free and academic learning more disabled-friendly, several initiatives have been taken. These shall subsume:

- Constructing ramps and hand rails in college buildings and library.
- Arrangement of wheel-chairs for easy mobility of these students throughout college spaces.
- Procurement of assistive technology of screen-reading software; NVDA or JAWS. This screen-access software generates a sense of independence among visually impaired students while studying with the help of computers.

Recently on 23rd April 2025, the cell had successfully organized a one-day disability-oriented fest: 'Samvardhan' which happens to be a pioneering initiative of that sort at the college. This event comprised of a panel discussion at the outset entitled 'the Role of Persons with Disabilities in Realising the Viksit Bharat Vision (2047)' followed by inter-college competitions (debate and talent hunt show) in the later half. Simultaneously, an eye-don ation awareness camp has also been conducted in collaboration with Sakshamn Indraprastha (NGO for Disabled) to convey the importance of donating eyes for a noble cause among students/teachers. Interestingly, about 100 students filled the resolution form and depicted their commitment for eye-donation. As a matter of fact, about 20-25 differently abled students across university got themselves registered and participated in competitions. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd rank-holders along with consolation prize have been distributed among students to promote their hidden caliber. Its been quite an enriching and indeed illuminating experience for everyone.

As per the new guidelines issued by university, complete wavier of fees for such students has been implemented. In a nutshell, this committee attempts to stimulate an overall personality development of disabled students and thereby, bringing about their academic as well as co-academic empowerment.

SAMVARDHAN - 2025
ORGANISED BY EOC, KALINDI COLLEGE