

Brief report of 'In Service Training and Sensitization Programme of Key Functionaries Central and State Governments, Local Bodies and Other Service Providers' funded by RCI, New Delhi during the financial year 2015-2016

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India has taken the responsibility to create awareness and sensitivity amongst various stakeholders. It was felt that there is an urgent need for in service training of the various stakeholders to create awareness about the rights and entitlements of PwDs, provisions in various schemes, development programmes, and ways and means to access their specific entitlements and those that they are entitled to as equal citizens. Therefore, in order to realize the above objectives, the Govt. of India has made a provision for training and sensitization of key functionaries of Central / State Govt. under the XII Five-year plan through DEPwD, Govt of India. This is envisaged to be achieved by organizing short term training programs through workshop at State/ District / Block level on regular basis amongst public representatives at all level. Accordingly, Department of Empowerment of Person with Disabilities has developed a new central sector plan scheme i.e. "In-Service Training and Sensitization of Central and State Govt., Local Bodies and other Service providers at the national level".

This RCI sponsored program was organized by the School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University for the financial year 2015-16 (01 program), in the Nadia & North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal. In our state Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata is entrusted to conduct the programs with 40 participants (college & University teachers, have been trained and sensitized on the issues of disability, diversity, policies, education and rehabilitation. The program was of three-day duration, starting from 10am-5pm. The inaugural session witnessed a galaxy of luminaries. Dr. A. N Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU presented the welcome address. Prof. Nimai Chandra Saha, DPI, WB Higher Education Dept was the Chief Guest. He delivered his precious address hinting at the policies and legislations related to disability and education. Prof. SubhaSankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU presided over the inaugural session and deliberated upon the roles played by RCI and the education system thereby ensuring education, rights and entitlements of the children with special needs. Sri. A. Panigrahi, Coordinator of the Workshop proposed the vote of thanks. As per RCI mandate, resource persons from Disability field were engaged for the technical sessions. Hands-on training on specific areas of disability was well taken care of. The sessions were carried out meticulously through PPT slides, A-V clips and related Teaching-Learning resources to enhance interaction between participants and speaker. At the end of each program, the participants were provided with all e-resources and a handout on resource material on disability & rehabilitation issues. The intended outcome of such programs was fulfilled as teachers are the greatest disseminators of knowledge & information to the society.

The idea of inclusion and inclusive setting gained momentum through such motivated schedule of programs. The in-house faculties of Special Education field were actively involved in organizing and creating environment for successful completion of each program. The Faculties

from Education field supplemented to the overall management of the technical sessions with due effort on the context. Director, SoE was the brain behind chalking out each program and its technicalities thereof with all precision. The feedback from the participants showed us the path of encouragement and adding enthusiasm to conduct such programs. The workshop concluded with distribution of certificates to all participants.

Program Coordinator: Sri. AbhedanandaPanigrahi, Faculty Consultant, SoE, NSOU

Organizing Committee: All faculty members and Staff of SoE, NSOU

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