

*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 2019-2020*

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India has taken the conscientiousness to generate responsiveness 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". In our state Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata is entrusted to conduct the programs with 40 participants (School teachers & Headmasters).

This RCI sponsored program was organized by the School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University for the financial year 2019-20 with 09 programs. The 09 programs were conducted in Puruliya, Bishnupur, North 24 Pgs, Krishnanagar, Kolkata, Nadia, Durgapur, South 24Pgs and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal. The objective of these sensitization programs were to train, guide, tutor and sensitize on the issues of disability, diversity, policies, education and rehabilitation. Each program was of two-day duration, starting from 10am-5pm (Inaugural session followed by technical sessions on both days). As per RCI mandate, resource persons from Disability field were engaged for all the technical sessions for two- consecutive days. Eminent experts in the field of disability studies & rehabilitation, role models, Sign language Interpreters shared their experience and academic lectures during the technical sessions. The sessions were carried out meticulously through PPT slides, A-V clips and related Teaching-Learning resources to enhance interaction between participants and speaker. Faculties from various Institute of repute like NIHH, NIMH, NGOs were also essential speakers of the various sessions of the 3-day program. Hands-on training on specific areas of disability was well taken care of. 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 outcomes of such programs were 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.

Program Coordinators:

1. Smt. Antara Choudhury, Asst Prof of Spl Ed, SoE, NSOU (1 Program)
2. Sri. PrabirNaskar, Asst Prof of Spl Ed, SoE, NSOU (02 Programs)
3. Dr. AbhedanandaPanigrahi, Coordinator, B.Ed, SoE, NSOU (03 Programs)
4. Smt. Swapna Deb, Faculty Consultant, SoE, NSOU (03 Programs)

Organizing Committee:

All other faculty members and staff of SoE, NSOU

Dr. A. N Dey,  
Director, SoE, NSOU

Prepared by  
PapiyaUpadhyay  
Asst Prof, SoE, NSOU