



**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

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Report

On

In Service Training and Sensitization Programme of Key Functionaries: Central and State Governments, Local Bodies and Other Service Providers at the National level funded by RCI, New Delhi on 16th to 18th February 2017 at the North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society, Siliguri, Darjeeling, West Bengal

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has developed a new central sector plan scheme; viz “In-Service Training and Sensitization of Central and State Govt., Local Bodies and other Service providers at the national level”. Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi entrusted the School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata to conduct the programme in different Venues of West Bengal for the financial year 2016-17. In this connection the University has conducted the 5th Sensitization program of the series on and from 16th to 18th February 2017 at the North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society, New Town, Shushrut Nagar, Siliguri, Darjeeling, West Bengal for Thirty-Nine participants from Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal. Sri Abhedananda Panigrahi, Faculty Consultant of Special Education (H.I.), School of Education, NSOU, was the Coordinator the Programme. The inaugural session witnessed eminent persons like, Dr. Subodh Kumar, Dy Director (Acads) RCI, New Delhi, Dr. Aloka Guha, Former Chairperson, National Trust, New Delhi, Sri. Asok Chakraborty, Chairperson, EZCC- RCI and Secretary, SHELTER among others. Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. A. N. Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU. Prof. S. K. Sarkar, Head, Core faculty, SoE, NSOU, introduced the Theme of the entire programme. 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 2016-17 in the Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal 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. 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 three-day programme comprised of six hours of technical sessions divided into 3-4 technical periods each day. Each technical session had the scope of interaction by the participants and sharing of experiences in befitting context. These lauded the sessions to scale new heights of diffusion and awareness of the issues deliberated.

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 advisor and delineated each program and its technicalities with meticulousness. The feedback from the participants showed us the path of encouragement and adding zeal to conduct such programs in the future. The workshop concluded with distribution of certificates to all participants.



Group photograph of the participants during 16th to 18th February 2017 at the North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society, New Town, Shushrut Nagar, Siliguri, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Program Coordinator: Sri. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Faculty Consultant, SoE, NSOU

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