

Activity Report

Interaction with Students with Disabilities (PwD)

Date: 21 February 2017

Time: 11:30 AM

Venue: Library, Shyam Lal College

The Enabling Unit of Shyam Lal College organized an interaction session with students with disabilities (PwD) on 21 February 2017 at 11:30 AM in the College Library. The programme was attended by all members of the Enabling Unit along with eleven students with disabilities.

The primary objective of the interaction was to familiarize students with the facilities and support services available to them in the College and to provide a platform for them to share their concerns and suggestions.

During the session, students were informed about the facilities available for them, including the newly established PwD Room in the Library, which was equipped with computers installed with screen-reader software for visually impaired students. They were also informed that additional computers had been procured for installation in the facility. Information was provided regarding the availability of a flatbed scanner and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, enabling students to convert printed material into accessible digital text.

The Enabling Unit encouraged students to actively participate in academic, cultural, sports, and co-curricular activities of the College and assured them of continuous institutional support. Students were informed that notices specifically relevant to them would be displayed in the PwD Room. To facilitate effective communication, the contact details of the Enabling Unit members were shared, and a dedicated WhatsApp group comprising PwD students and members of the Enabling Unit was created.

An interactive discussion was held during which students openly shared their expectations and concerns. Visually impaired students requested computer training sessions to enable them to use assistive technologies independently, similar to training programmes organized previously by the College. Students with orthopaedic disabilities suggested that their classes be scheduled on the ground floor while preparing the timetable to minimize mobility-related difficulties. Some students also highlighted accessibility facilities available in other colleges of the University of Delhi and expressed the need for similar provisions at Shyam Lal College. The Enabling Unit assured the students that every possible effort would be made to address their concerns and further strengthen the support services available in the College.

The Unit also assured students that their placement-related requirements would receive due attention. They were encouraged to participate in the Placement Cell seminar scheduled for 28 February 2017 on *"Writing of CV and Excelling in Group Discussions and Personal Interviews,"* where their specific needs would also be addressed.

During the interaction, one visually impaired student informed the Enabling Unit about the loss of an Angel Pro assistive device that had been issued by the College on a returnable basis. The matter was discussed by the Unit after the session, and it was decided that an appropriate compensation would be sought in order to encourage responsible use and proper care of assistive devices issued by the College.

The interaction proved to be constructive and meaningful, strengthening communication between the Enabling Unit and students with disabilities while reaffirming the College's commitment to promoting an inclusive, accessible, and supportive learning environment.