

Giant Leaps

Forward...

Building a world of equal opportunities

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF SWABHIMAN

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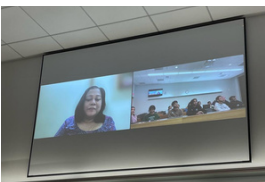
IN THIS QUARTER THE FOCUS WAS ON AWARENESS PROGRAM



Disability Sensitization Program



Prerana Samman 2023



Sharing of experiences of PwDs in India, with a special focus on the treatment of students with disabilities



Spinal Cord Injury Mela



Towards a Sensitive World'



TEDxIMI New Delhi

Disability Sensitization Program at NISWASS

11/10/2023: A disability sensitization program was organised for students of BSW (Bachelors in Social Work) and MSW (Masters in Social Work). This interactive session was organised to provide a deeper understanding of the concept of disability and the daily life of students with disabilities, along with the appreciation of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, specifically students with disabilities in schools and colleges. As the National Education Policy-2023 emphasises on Inclusive Education, facilitating students with and without disabilities to study in an inclusive environment, NISWASS also adheres to this philosophy. NISWASS being a school of social work supports inclusion and diversity so the efforts made by Swabhiman to bring inclusion were well accepted by the school authorities.



58 students of MSW and BSW from two different campuses NISWASS attended the program. The students were aged between 19 to 23 years. In the beginning of the session students shared their understanding of Disability which was rudimentary. Swabhiman trainers thoroughly explained the concept of disability and the types of disabilities. A simulation activity of foot painting and mouth painting was done by the students after the introduction, where the students were asked not to use their hands while painting. It proved to be an eye opener for them. The activity was fun but it also forced them to think about the challenges that the students with disabilities faced on an everyday basis and the accommodations they needed for a better living.

Examples of great personalities with disabilities were shared which inspired the students. The different causes of disabilities were explained and also that there are disabilities that are including invisible disabilities. The impact of stereotyping on a person with disability as a victim or a hero could be very adverse and that is why the unaccepted and the accepted terminologies were explained.

The existing laws in India for the persons with disabilities were explained briefly so that no rights of

any persons with disability could be breached at any point of time. In conclusion, the relevance of social work and disability and the career options in studying about disability was informed. Internship opportunity at Swabhiman where explained to the students.

The sensitization program was a great success as each student could learn about disabilities, inclusion and social work in disability.

Disability Sensitization Program at NISWASS

18/10/2023: A similar sensitization program was held for new students.



Participation in WASH Sector Reflection Dissemination Workshop towards achieving

06/10/2023: A WASH sector follow-up reflection workshop was organised by Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department GoO, UNICEF, IRC, WaterAid, Water for People, and the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance. It deliberated on policies, processes, financial resources, institutional capacities, water resources management, climate change, and learning and adaptation. Anurag Gupta from WaterAid presented the recommendations from the WASH sector reflection done in May 2003 and Bhavesh Kumar Nayak, Additional Secretary from PR&DWSD gave the keynote address.



During this workshop Swabhiman suggested adaptation of gender and disability perspective to make WASH sector inclusive and sustainable. This was accepted by the participants at large, as it is not the issue of a minority section of the society but the issue of every individual. Inclusion is rather an essential component for sustainable development. The group developed strategies for advancement of the SDG 6.

Prerana Samman

13/10/2023: 9th Prerana Samman ceremony was held at Jaydev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar to celebrate the success of children with disabilities in matriculation examination. Initiated in the year 2014, it was conceptualised to recognise top scoring students with disabilities in Class X and XII examinations, in the state of Odisha. It is an effort at creating awareness about the potential of students with disabilities in Odisha and simultaneously motivating the students to improve their performance.



116 students with various disabilities were honored from across the thirty districts who will score above 80% of marks. They received a scholarship of Rs.1200 for the academic session. Besides 12 students who secured 90% and above will receive a gold medal and books worth rupees 3000; 104 students who secured between 80-89% received silver medals and books worth rupees 500 rupees. The medals, certificates, and books they were awarded at the function.

Bratati Harichandan (Disability Commissioner, Odisha), Sulochana Das (Mayor, Bhubaneswar), Retd. Cmd. Ajay Patnaik, Dr. Sruti Mohapatra (Founder and CEO Swabhiman), Brishunucharan Sutar (Joint Director of Inclusive Education) along with other dignitaries felicitated children. Each awardee was presented a certificate and badge. The awardees spoke about their struggles, about their life and achievements that became inspirational for all.

Collaborative Efforts for Pediatric Rehabilitation and Surgery in Bhubaneswar

14/10/2023: France Pepper, the co-executive director of CCPF, an American organization that provides

free surgery and rehabilitation to orphans and children with disability from impoverished families had a discussion with Sruti Mohapatra, to organize a trip for doctors and therapists to go to Bhubaneswar and collaborate with Swabhiman to identify children for various surgical therapeutic services. In early January 2024, a rehabilitation camp will be held and in September a surgical camp will be organized with parents and local partners trained for follow up services. In early January 2024, a rehabilitation camp will be held and in September a surgical camp will be organized with parents and local partners trained for follow up.

Orientation of Officer Trainees at LBSNAA during its 98th Foundation Course

Dr. Sruti Mohapatra's presentation at the invitation of LBSNAA to the Officer Trainees of the 98th Foundation Course focused on the imperative theme of "Towards a Sensitive World." Delving into the discourse, she comprehensively explored the four foundational pillars of a Sensitive Society Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Sensitivity. She offered profound insights into each pillar, particularly in the context of disability. This session, being her ninth address to officer trainees since 2004, underscores her sustained commitment to fostering awareness and understanding. Noteworthy was the selection of 13 officers with disabilities among the 560 officer trainees, emphasising the significance of Dr. Mohapatra's initiative in sensitising top-ranking officers and advancing the cause of inclusion in development efforts.



Addressing UConn Indian Students

02/11/2023: The Philanthropy Chairs of the UConn Indian Students Association extended an invitation to Dr. Sruti Mohapatra at 5:30 AM Indian Standard Time (9:00 PM US Eastern Time), to discuss the experiences of individuals with disabilities in India, with a specific emphasis on students with disabilities and the challenges they faced by SwDs. Dr. Mohapatra shared valuable insights into her ongoing efforts and



students with disabilities and the challenges they faced by SwDs. Dr. Mohapatra shared valuable insights into her ongoing efforts and initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities during the virtual meeting.

The University of Connecticut (UConn) operates as a public land-grant research university system, with its main campus situated in Storrs, Connecticut. Originally established in 1881 as the Storrs Agricultural School, the institution underwent a name change in 1939 to become the University of Connecticut. Acknowledged as an R1 research institution, UConn holds a significant role as a founding member of the Hartford/Springfield regional economic and cultural partnership alliance, recognized as New England's Knowledge Corridor. Competing in the Big East Conference as the Huskies, UConn has gained notable acclaim for its women's and men's basketball programs, boasting a total of 23 NCAA championships.

Orientation of potential volunteer in Anjali festival

05/11/2023: 44 students from nine colleges, including RDWU, BJB Autonomous, U N College, S B Women's College, Arka College of Management (Kendrapara), IIMC Dhenkanal, Bijupattnaik College of Social Work, and NISSWAS, underwent



an orientation session. The purpose was to familiarize them with various disabilities and the necessary accommodations needed for children across different disability categories. They were sensitized through talks, simulation activities and informative presentations.

Anjali Children and Youth Festival 2023

14/11/2023 - 16/11/2023: Anjali is a movement for an equal India. It is India's first and only International Children and Youth Festival which aims to bridge gaps for making society more inclusive and restore fun-filled childhood by joyful learning. With a core mission to bridge social exclusion, foster inclusivity, and rekindle the joy of learning for a delightful childhood, the transformative celebration took place at Bhubaneswar's Kalabhumi ground.

The event hosted esteemed guests including Swami Suddhananda Giri ji, Bishnupada Sethi (IAS), Bratati Harichandan, State disability commissioner Manoj Mishra (IAS), Arvind Padhee (IAS), Poly Pattnaik, Priyadarshi Mohapatra, Sabyasachi and Archita Sahu. Taking 366 in-house participants, teachers, parents over 1000 visiting students, and participated in different competitions, workshops and activities. The festival, with its diverse range of participants and activities, successfully fostered an environment of inclusion, and celebration of diversity.



The highlights include inspiring guest speeches, the recognition of scholars, educational city tours, exposure to media houses, and a diverse array of inclusive workshops spanning science, fine art, traditional art, dance, magic, storytelling, pottery, and more. Inclusive competitions, school visits, the celebration of the festival of joy, and Sambit's selfless donation of his initial monthly salary to support a deserving youth with a disability. The varied cultural extravaganza left a lasting memory for all participants.

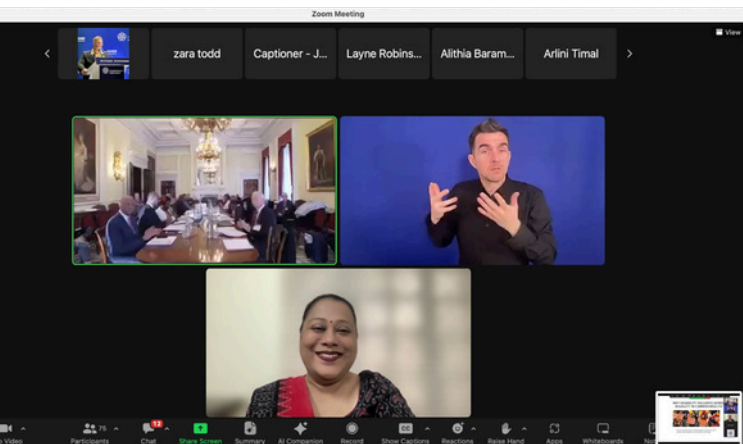
Selection of State Awardees

21/11/2023: Dr. Sruti Mohapatra was a jury member to select state awardees for International day of Persons with Disabilities on 03/12/2023. The other

jury members were Principal secretary to Government Bishnupada Sethi chairing the meeting along with Niyati Pattnaik, OAS (SS) Director, SSEPD and other members from civil societies and Government.

Addressing Commonwealth Round Table

30/11/2023: The Commonwealth Round Table was conducted in a hybrid mode at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. This format seamlessly blended both physical and virtual participation, with 87 attendees joining virtually and approximately 27 individuals present in person. Madam Patricia Scotland, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, delivered a welcoming address, extending her best wishes for the highest levels of success to people with disabilities.



Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, the Vice Chair of Commonwealth Disabled Peoples International, was invited to make a presentation on the status of disability in India. She spoke on the current challenges, and strategies to address gaps in program implementation. Additionally, she discussed the commonwealth Womens minister Summit 2023 outcome on inclusion of women with disabilities held in the Bahamas. Her presentation received applause from all attendees., focusing on providing insights into the facts about disabilities in India.

Talk in Berhampur University

09/11/2023: On the Invitation of the Department of Women's Studies, Berhampur University, Dr Sruti Mohapatra delivered a talk to the above 200 students on "Towards a Sensitive World". She spoke on the issues of disability, barriers the disabled suffer and the steps to be taken to create a sensitive world which is inclusive and based on equity.



National Disability Policy Consultation meeting

20/11/2023 and 23/11/2023: On the invitation of the Principal Secretary SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha, experts in the disability sector met at SIDR conference hall to discuss the draft document on National Disability Policy. Dr Sruti Mohapatra, Tanmayee Sahu and Satyajit Behera represented Swabhiman and gave suggestions on inclusive education, accessibility, social security schemes and inclusion, health and modern slavery. The suggestions were incorporated in the Draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.



Display Booth

03/12/2023: During the three-day celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2023, organized by the SSEPD Department at Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, Campus-13 of KIIT, Swabhiman played an active role by setting up a display booth. The primary objective was to showcase research publications, disaggregated data, and print materials related to disability sensitization, along with engaging in simulation activities to raise awareness.



The booth, strategically positioned and managed by young volunteers from various colleges who are active members of Sandhaan, received guidance from the experienced team members of Swabhiman. This initiative aimed to capture the attention of both individuals with and without disabilities.

The simulation activities conducted at the booth proved to be particularly engaging for non-disabled visitors, offering them insights into the experiences of people with disabilities. Additionally, the booth served as a focal point for activists and researchers interested in accessing valuable research data and publications related to disabilities.

Overall, Swabhiman's presence at the event successfully drew the attention of a diverse audience, contributing to the broader goal of fostering awareness, understanding, and inclusivity for persons with disabilities. The combination of informative materials, interactive simulation activities, and the dedication of young volunteers made the booth a noteworthy and impactful component of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebration.

MOU signed with Berhampur University

09/11/23: Berhampur University (Barrier Free Access to Person with Disability Cell) signed an MOU with Swabhiman to implement and solve real life problems of the disability community with commitment and vision coupled with passion, energy and intelligence; to jointly take up action on different projects; conduct research works etc. The MOU was signed by Prof. Geetanjali Dash, Vice Chancellor, on behalf of Berhampur University and Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, CEO, on behalf of Swabhiman.



Week long Celebrations of IDPD

ICRC-3

01/12/2023: International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) was celebrated in a distinctive manner in 2023 by organizing a series of events. The festivities kicked off with school programs hosted at Inclusive Child Resource Centers (ICRCs). The goal of observing the day was to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of individuals with disabilities. The overarching theme for the year was "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world."



ICRC-3 is situated at Mumtaz Ali High School in Nayapalli. The IDPD celebration at ICRC-3 featured engaging activities aimed at fostering a sense of connection for everyone involved. The program commenced with a session emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and the appreciation of differences. A quiz competition was held. Swarnalata Sahoo, the Headmistress of Mumtaz Ali High School, graced the occasion.

ICRC-1

02/12/2023: IDPD celebration continued at ICRC-1, located at BJB College Colony UGUP School in Bhubaneswar. The event had once again meticulously planned by Swabhiman and actively supported by school authorities, ensuring the active participation of students spanning grades 3 to 7.

The IDPD celebration at ICRC-1 included a talk, a quiz focused on disabilities and cluterl program.

In total, 113 students actively participated in the event, comprising 64 girls and 49 boys. Eight students with disabilities (four boys and four girls) actively participated, underscoring Swabhiman's commitment to establishing an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued.

Bijay Sahoo, the Headmaster of the School, graced the occasion.

Celebration Of IDPD at Berhampur University

02/12/2023: Swabhiman, in collaboration with the Barrier-Free Access to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Cell at Berhampur University, celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The theme for 2023 was "United in Action to Rescue and Achieve the SDGs for, with and by Persons with Disabilities."

The celebration at Berhampur University included a range of activities. An awareness booth was set up featuring displays of books, reports, bookmarks, and information related to disabilities.

The Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University, Prof. Geetanjali Dash, inaugurated the booth. Following this, participants, including faculty and students, engaged in simulation activities such as a wheelchair challenge and blindfold activities to gain insights into the challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

Prof. Dash shared her own experience, expressing the difficulty she encountered during the wheelchair simulation activity. Students explored the awareness booth with enthusiasm, eager to acquire knowledge about disabilities.

The stage program commenced with Berhampur University anthem and the lighting of the lamp. Dr. Sharada Prasanna Rout, Convener of the PwD Cell at BU, introduced the distinguished guests. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. B. Anjan Kumar Prusty, Chairman of the PwD Cell at BU, in the presence of dignitaries, including Rtn. Pradyumna Kumar Bisoyi, President of the Rotary Club of Berhampur, Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, and Sabita Sahukar, Member of District Legal Services Authority, Berhampur.

Dr. Sruti Mohapatra shared her life journey and experiences with disabilities, motivating the students. Rtn. Pradyumna Kumar Bisoyi and his team distributed assistive devices to the PwD Cell at BU, while Swabhiman provided Braille kits, alternative formats of the RPwD Act, Sashakt reports, etc, to the PwD Cell.

The event also featured film screenings on inclusion, followed by an engaging quiz session for students with attractive prizes. The highlight of the program was the "Colours of Love" celebration, where students enthusiastically played with colors, marking a joyous culmination of the day



Signing of MOU with RD Women's University

03/12/2023: Rama Devi Women's University celebrated its 9th Foundation Day in Bhubaneswar, coinciding with the International Day for Persons



with Disabilities. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of His Excellency, the Governor of Odisha, Shri Raghubar Das, who also serves as the Chancellor of Rama Devi Women's University. Notable figures serving as guests of honor included Shri Ven. Shim San, the Head Monk of Hongbeopsa Temple in South Korea, and Dr Sruti Mohapatra.

During the celebration, Dr. Mohapatra delivered an illuminating speech, sharing insights into her own life and the challenges she encountered. Her motivating words resonated with the students, urging them to aspire for big dreams, work diligently to achieve those dreams, and remain resilient in the face of failures. Her inspirational message aimed to instill a positive mindset and determination among the student community.

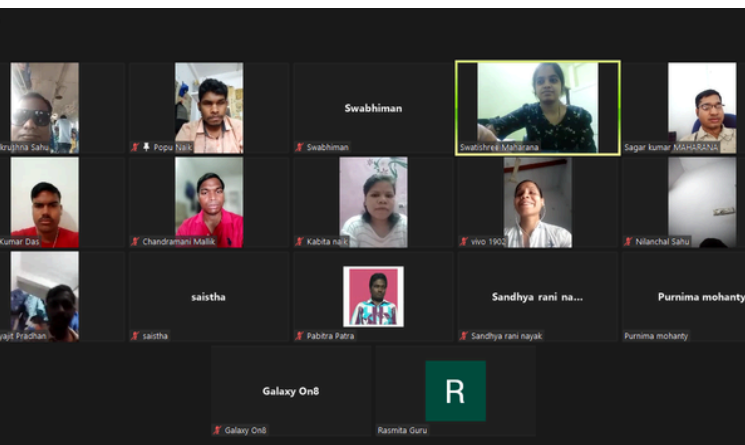
On that significant day, Rama Devi Women's University and Swabhiman solidified their dedication to fostering inclusion by officially signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This partnership is designed to support collaborative initiatives such as organizing seminars, symposiums, workshops, research, and various other activities aimed at promoting inclusivity in academic settings.

The ceremonial signing of the MOU was conducted with Smt. Shyamali Mohapatra, the Registrar of Rama Devi Women's University, representing the university, and Dr Sruti Mohapatra, representing Swabhiman.

The event attracted a diverse audience, including students of the university, alumni, distinguished guests, volunteers, staff and faculty members, and representatives from the media. The convergence of academic institutions and advocacy organizations marked a noteworthy step towards fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment for the betterment of education and society at large.

Scholar Enrichment Classes

03/12/2023 and 23/03/2023: Two sessions were held in the month of December for 26 youths with disabilities. These sessions were conducted by Sambit Das, a visually impaired banker.



The topics covered were the Constitution of India and various legislative acts. As the session concluded, Sambit Das extended heartfelt congratulations to the participants on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, sharing his inspiring life journey. The students left the session thoroughly motivated by his impactful discourse. On December 23rd the session covered

specific sections such as Part 1 – Union and States, Part 2 – Citizenship (Article 5 to 11), Part 3 - Fundamental Rights (Article 12-35), and Part 4 – Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 36 to 51).

Spinal Cord Injury Mela

05/12/2023: Spinal Cord Injury Mela was held Thee Trust, premises, on December 5 at Nuasasan Canal Road Karimul, Pipili. The event aimed to empower individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI), providing a platform for sharing experiences, accessing comprehensive medical check-ups, discussing socio-economic issues, and showcasing talents and achievements.

Commencing with a warm breakfast, the day fostered a sense of community among participants. Efficient registration processes ensured the inclusion of all attendees in diverse planned activities. Concurrently, sample collection for health assessments began, marking the initiation of the Mela's health-focused agenda.

A total of 33 person with SCI and 40 escorts were present. Participants shared experiences, challenges, and triumphs, creating a sense of unity and solidarity. These exchanges not only strengthened the community but also provided valuable health tips for better living.

A significant highlight was the provision of comprehensive medical checkups through collaboration between Thee Trust and doctors team Dr Ashima Sarkhel, Dr Stephy Elisa Kunju, led by Dr Abhishek Kumar Sanyal.



In collaboration with Cure Bay Health Care, a free eye check-up event identified and addressed vision-related issues. Regular blood sugar and blood pressure checks were conducted, ensuring a holistic approach to health.

Ms. Thappi's (a budding singer and Youtuber) soulful musical performance added an artistic touch, creating an enjoyable and engaging environment. The event served as a platform for showcasing talents, challenging stereotypes surrounding disabilities. Various artistic displays, performances, and exhibitions celebrated the diverse skills of individuals with SCI.

Conversations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016 and entitlements for individuals with SCI aimed to enhance awareness. Experts explored topics such as accessibility, RPwD Act provisions, entitlements, employment opportunities, and overall inclusion. Dr. Amit Khatriya. shared valuable insights on managing specific health challenges like urine infection, managing bed sore etc.

The inauguration of a new building, led by Swati, a girl with intellectual disability, marked a significant moment. Among other guests were Padmalochan Mohanty, K L Mohanty, Pankaj Mohanty, Chairman and Managing Director MGM etc.

Dr. Abhishek Sanyal's inaugural speech, coupled with a group dance by the nursing staff and success story sharing by Rakesh Pradhan, added inspiration to the event. A captivating ramp show showcased the abilities and resilience of individuals with SCI, challenging societal perceptions. A lively group dance on wheelchairs by all the participants with SCI celebrated unity and showcased the diverse talents within them. At the end, a musical performance on keyboard by Master A. Sanyal added a vibrant touch to the evening's festivities.

Expressing gratitude to participants, collaborators, Tanmayee Sahu conveyed appreciation for the

collective effort in making the event a success. The event was collaboration between swabhiman and pipili health center

Odisha Vikash Conclave

07/12/2023, the Odisha Vikash Conclave hosted six impactful sessions at Mayfair Convention, Bhubaneswar. Representatives from Swabhiman joined the session on Youth Skilling and Employment. It had two segments.

In Session 1, led by Ratnakar Panigrahi, discussions on inclusive employment for marginalized youth and a transformative vision for Odisha in 2036 took place. Shashank Grahacharya, Director of the Center for Good Governance, facilitated an interactive segment addressing market needs. In Session 2, titled "Future-Ready Skills: Aligning Education with Society Needs," Ansuman Jena welcomed participants, and experts like Babu Shankar and Dr. Gangadhar Sahoo shared insights on the future of jobs and regional youth skilling initiatives, making it a dynamic and engaging interactive session.



The sessions ended optimistically, foreseeing the development of future-ready skills, marking the beginning of transformative changes in Odisha's youth skilling and employment. Tanmayee Sahu and Satyajit Behera actively participated, emphasizing inclusion and highlighting how inaccessibility affects leaving many potential youths unskilled, unemployed, and underpaid in most of the cases.

Celebration of International Day of PwDs at IIMC Dhenkanal

07/12/ 2023: Swabhiman, in collaboration with IIMC Dhenkanal, celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at IIMC, Dhenkanal. The event featured various activities, including the distribution of bows, badges, bookmarks, and materials on disability etiquette. The program encompassed a talk on disability, quizzes, an awareness booth, and simulation activities, all playing a significant role in promoting awareness and inclusivity.



Dr. Sruti Mohapatra delivered an impactful speech emphasizing the importance of creating a sensitive world. She encouraged students to be well-informed about reporting on disability, drawing motivation from her own life journey. Dr. Mohapatra highlighted the crucial role of media in focusing on individual stories rather than group dynamics. The "Issues in Public Interest" published across various media channels aim to raise awareness about disabilities and related issues, contributing to a more informed and compassionate society. The subsequent question-and-answer session with students further enriched the discussion.

The quiz session, featuring 25 questions and various prizes, added an engaging element to the program, making it both educational and enjoyable for all participants. The awareness booth, showcasing books, reports, bookmarks, and disability-related information, provided an informative experience for attendees. Additionally, simulation activities of wheelchair mobility, blindfold exercises, and mouth or leg painting, were conducted to enhance empathy and awareness among participants, including students and faculty.

Celebration of International Volunteer Day

10/12/2023: In commemoration of International Volunteer Day which falls on 5th December, Swabhiman observed it on 10th December 2023, joyously celebrating the essence of selflessness and the remarkable contributions made by the dedicated volunteers associated with it. Acknowledging their pivotal role, volunteers were defined as the backbone of Swabhiman, where their talents,



skills, involvement, experiences, enthusiasm, and positivity collectively created a substantial impact.

All the volunteers who had work in Najli 2023 were felicitated. Many games, dance and music and delicious lunch ended the day

Mr. & Miss India Divyang

14/12/2023: Parivartan and Swabhiman jointly unveiled the poster for the upcoming "Mr. & Miss India Divyangs" event in Odisha, scheduled for 2024. The initiative aims to challenge stereotypes in the fashion industry and redefine conventional beauty standards by showcasing the talents and distinctive fashion sense of both men and women with disabilities.



The launch event, held in Bhubaneswar, was attended by talented individuals with disabilities from various categories and witnessed the presence of inclusion advocates.

Capacity Building Programme on Equitable and Inclusive Education

22/12/2023: Tanmayee Sahu, Program Manager at Swabhiman, led a comprehensive session titled "Acts and Laws Supporting Equitable and Inclusive Education" on December 22, 2023, at the Regional Institute of Education (RIE) in Bhubaneswar. This session was an integral part of the Capacity Building Programme on Equitable and Inclusive Education organised by the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) from December 18 to December 22, 2023, held at the Conference Hall of RIE campus in Bhubaneswar.



The participant comprised teacher educators hailing from various schools across four states and two Union Territories. Notably, these educators were selected on the basis of not having exposure and training in special/inclusive education from the foundational stage to the secondary stage, representing diverse educational institutions such as government and government-aided schools, those under CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, and Eklavya Model Residential Schools. The intention is to build the capacity of these trained

participants to evolve as Key Resource Persons (KRPs)/Master Trainers within their respective states/UTs/Organizations, further disseminating their knowledge to train other teachers.

The primary aim of the session was to impart participants with a nuanced comprehension of concepts pertaining to Equity and Inclusion in Education. In-depth discussions were conducted on inclusion provisions, covering international frameworks such as the Salamanca Declaration of 1994, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4). Concurrently, the discourse delved into critical national initiatives, including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan 2001, the Right to Education Act of 2009 (RTE Act-2009), the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPWD Act 2016), and the formulation of the National Education Policy in 2020 (NEP-2020).

TEDx IMI New Delhi

28/12/2023: TEDx IMI New Delhi, independently organized TED event, featured six dynamic speakers who ignited profound discussions and connections within a small group setting. The event showcased a diverse range of multidisciplinary topics, with each speaker delivering a compelling 20-minutes talk.

Themed "Beyond Limits," the TEDx event provided a platform for speakers to share their unique perspectives and insights. Among the speakers, Dr. Sruti Mohapatra delivered a talk titled "AGAINST ALL ODDS" to an enthusiastic audience. Her captivating presentation on the trials and tribulations of her life's journey resonated deeply, emphasising how she overcame formidable barriers.

Dr. Mohapatra's talk received resounding applause, with attendees collectively acknowledging her as the standout speaker of the evening. Her inspiring narrative not only sparked meaningful conversations but also left a lasting impression on everyone present, aligning perfectly with the overarching theme of pushing boundaries and transcending limitations.



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