

PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SCIENCE

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 002.

Webinar Report - 2

Name of the Activity : “The FDP - International Webinar on Challenges and Choices of Persons with Special needs during COVID 19- Action and Advocacy”

Activities Start Date : 02.07.2020

Activities End Date : 03.07.2020

Time : 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

No. of . Resource Person : 13

1. **DR.SUBODH KUMAR**
Member Secretary
Rehabilitation Council of India
INDIA
2. **DR.HIMANGSHU DAS**
Director
National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities,
Dehra Dun, India
3. **MS. BEULA SUNDARARAJAN**
Social & Emotional Coach & Student Council Advisor
New Berlin- Wisconsin
USA
4. **MS. ELSY BRAMMESAN**
Director
Compliance Centre East
Provider Approvals & Compliance Group
Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission
Sydney- NSW, AUSTRALIA
5. **DR. SABITHA PILLAI**
Associate Professor
Widener University
University in Chester, Pennsylvania.
USA
6. **DR. NAGESWARI SHINE**
Head & Intervention Specialist
Department of Special Needs
DUBAI- UAE

- 7. Ms. Rebecca Ranjani**
Behaviour Analyst, Hope Academy
CAMAN ISLANDS,
British Overseas Territory, UK.
- 8. DR. FRIGGITA JOHNSON**
Clemson University
G-02B Tillman Hall
Clemson, South Carolina, USA
- 9. DR. AMALA VIVIANI RAJAN**
Special Education Consultant
Milpitas, California
USA
- 10. MS. JOTHI THIRUNEELAKANTAN**
Special Needs Support & Autism Therapist
PLASP Child Care Services & Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board
Ontario, CANADA.
- 11. MS. GNANAPOOMPAVAI SHANMUGAM**
Special Educator in life skills & TOT Harmony Science
Academy Katy, Texas, USA.
- 12. DR. LAKSHMI DEVI**
Senior Grants Manager
Georgetown University
Washington DC, USA
- 13. SHRI NACHIKETA ROUT**
Associate Professor
Head of the Department
Department of Speech, Hearing and Communication
NIEPMD, Chennai, INDIA

Description :

We are in crisis.. this has been the phrase that has been haunting our minds since the advent of 2020. Yes certainly the Covid 19 pandemic has left us face a protracted battle and has affected every individual physically psychologically socially and economically across the globe. Sad to see that it has made life tougher for the different abled

While there's a lot of pressure and certainly a high demand to meet the COVID-19 surge, it is still crucial to make sure that the disability community is being considered. It's truly a

remarkable and challenging moment for our health system, but the needs of the disability community can't fall through the cracks. The issues of pre-pandemic care delivery only become more urgent in a time of crisis because people with disabilities have often not been considered in a disaster or pandemic planning. We need to learn from this crisis and ensure disability community is part of future pandemic planning.

Realizing this felt need the PG & Research Department of Rehabilitation Science organized a two days International FDP webinar titled Choices and Challenges and of Persons with Special needs during COVID 19- Action and Advocacy. With a strong Alumnae network across the globe the Rehab family utilized the professional expertise and knowledge of some of its coveted alumina holding distinct positions in universities and special institutions and a few manning their own Rehabilitation programs for persons with special needs to deliberate on the chosen theme. This two days webinar included a couple of invited lectures in each of the pre and post lunch sessions were in the key speakers threw light on the challenges faced by the PWDs across different ages and also experientially shared the choices and options that could be availed to them during the pandemic crisis. The webinar served as a resourceful platform bringing in 200 CRE participants pan India who joined in thru Google meet and an astounding 400 odd participants who watched the YouTube live streaming. The two day International webinar began on 2 July with our distinct Chief guests Dr. Subbodh Kumar, member secretary ,RCI and Dr. Himangshu Das , director NIEPVD who connected with us virtually along with our galaxy of resourceful alumnae, CRE participants, research scholars, students and rehabilitation practitioners from India and across the globe. The programme began with a short prayer by Dr. A. Turin Martina, associate professor of the department followed by a formal word of welcome by Dr. Sr. Lourdu Mary our head of the department. Felicitations were rendered by Dr. Sr. Christina Bridget, Principal of Holy Cross College and Mrs. Elizabeth Joseph a retired senior faculty of the department.

The two special invitees Dr Subbodh Kumar Member secretary, RCI and Dr. Himangshu Das Director NIEPVD who in their inaugural and key note address respectively acknowledged the commendable initiative of the department and also stressed on the need to address the physical emotional and social needs of the differently abled and the selfless role of Rehabilitation professionals in this pandemic crisis. The inaugural session came to a close with the note of gratitude expressed by Dr. Sheila Christopher, Senior professor of the department.

The inaugural session was followed by the most invigorating and enlightening part of the webinar were in the series of invited lectures by our distinct Alumnae from USA ,Australia, Dubai , Canada and Cayman Islands. Spanning over 2 days a record of 13 invited lectures, served to be great food for thought, diverse and intense and undoubtedly this international webinar was fortunately blessed to have best brains among our alumnae as key speakers to share their expertise and skills to reach out to the participants with the rich flow of knowledge. For every participant from far and near the lectures kindled the passion to touch the lives of the differently abled from the young to the old, from the mild to the severe and reach out to them in this pandemic crisis to alleviate their physical educational, emotional ,vocational and social needs with the effective use of technological and human resources . The curtains were pulled down on this two day event with a valedictory function. As a formal exercise Dr. P. Naga Lakshmi , Associate Professor welcomed the Chief guest Dr. Nachiketa Rout, director NIEPMD and the participants.

The hallmark of the international webinar was the short and succinct valedictory address by Dr. Nachiketa, who highlighted on the need to create a accessible and affordable environment roping in the effective use of technological innovations which cannot be given a back seat as it is the need of the hour. The two days webinar came to a close with the feedback session were in the participants shared in their overwhelming response to the productive take always from all the sessions and a final vote of Thanks by our head of the department Dr. Sr. Lourdu Mary.

Thus, the major lessons learnt from these resourceful invited lectures, the scientific were to Re-imagine the current education system and to focus on learning, and teaching following the norms of the Covid crisis

- Inculcate Real World Skills to the upcoming learners ,help them make appropriate choices and thwart challenges through effective and enhanced tutoring
- Enable student learners to leverage and update themselves with emerging technological trends in learning analytics
- Sensitize and enhance professional competence among special educators, rehab practitioners and therapists to harness new knowledge and expertise in meeting to the new demands and challenges during the post COVID era .

The best or beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt by the heart. Yes certainly indeed in this season of the Covid crisis this academic gathering made all of us realize this reality and instilled in the need to carry home the positive vibes that emerged from the two day academic deliberations and reach out to touch the lives of our differently abled brethren with better choices and thwart challenges thru effective action and advocacy.

Total No. of Participants : 200 + 600 (Google Meet + You tube)

Photo Proof of the Event :



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Tiruchirappalli - 620 002, Tamil Nadu, India.

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2nd & 3rd July 2020





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