

Record of Discussion of the 'Question and Answer Session' as part of Monitoring of Implementation Phase under the Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) Cycle 3 was held for the 26 Identified Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on 21.07.2025

An online 'Question and Answer Session' was organised as part of the **Monitoring of the Implementation phase** of CBSLD by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, in collaboration with NIEPA and ChangeInkk Foundation on 21.07.2025 at 10.00 AM. This session was part of the series of activities under cycle 3 of Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs), aimed at increasing the capacities of the faculty and non-teaching staff towards inclusion of students with SLDs. The objective of the session was to discuss the questions and challenges the institutes may encounter towards creating inclusive spaces for students with learning disabilities and address them appropriately in the subsequent phases.

2. The Third Cycle of Capacity Building on SLDs program has progressed through various phases, including an Orientation Session, Sensitisation Session, Masterclasses for different departments and In-Person Workshops. This Q&A session was attended by the participating faculty members from 26 HEIs. A list of institutes that participated during the session is attached in **Annexure 1**.

3. Mr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director (HE), welcomed the participants and explained that the purpose of the Question and Answer session was to discuss challenges, interact and provide feedback about Cycle 3 of the programme. He informed the participants that a Faculty Needs Survey had been conducted across higher education institutions to understand the experiences, challenges, and support needs of educators in creating inclusive HEIs for students with SLDs. Responses from over 1,500 faculty members indicated a strong demand for more interactive engagements. He mentioned that feedback was analysed separately for two groups: faculty members who attended the CBSLD programme and faculty members who did not. A difference was noted that faculty members who participated reported that they had developed a better understanding and greater sensitisation regarding the needs of students with learning disabilities, in contrast to those who did not attend.

4. Prof. Suresh Kumar, Director (Planning and Development) at the Department of Educational Administration, NIEPA, welcomed the participants and highlighted that the faculty's commitment to creating supportive institutional ecosystems for students with specific learning disabilities has been evident through their active participation in the programme.

5. Ms Aparajita Singh, a Resource Person from the ChangeInkk Foundation, addressed concerns and challenges related to SLDs in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). She provided guidance on how academic institutions can effectively respond to these challenges. During the session, Ms Singh offered strategies for providing appropriate support, including academic and accessibility guidelines for inclusion of students with learning disabilities, resources, UDID cards, screening and identification, etc. Participants also inquired about the assistive tools and technologies, screening procedures and counselling practices, etc.

6. A faculty member from IIIT Kota requested suggestive academic guidelines that institutions could adopt to better support students with specific learning disabilities. Ms. Singh emphasised key provisions of already issued guidelines by UGC, AICTE, etc, such as ensuring equal access to degree courses, allowing substitutions for compulsory language requirements, enabling use of scribe and assistive tools, and providing extra time in examinations. She clarified that these accommodations address the unique challenges of SLDs and should be uniformly implemented to ensure inclusivity. The UGC's Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education institutions and Universities were shared with the participants.

7. A faculty member from NIT Mizoram shared the following discussions with their Director. They plan to organise a one-day workshop on specific learning disabilities at NIT Mizoram in September, inviting faculty from other colleges as well. He noted that the institute is already implementing UDID card-based provisions during admissions and will identify students with SLDs as the semester progresses. Faculty informed that faculty mentors will be appointed in a 1:15 ratio to provide closer support and identify students' needs.

8. Another faculty member from NIT Mizoram requested the resources related to the program. Ms. Singh informed that the resources related to the program are available at the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Program Website. Link: <https://mmc.ugc.ac.in/LearningDisabilities/Tutorials>

9. A faculty member from the Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya sought clarification on whether students with a UDID card must be admitted under the PwD category and how institutions can assist students suspected of having specific learning disabilities to obtain a UDID card. Ms. Singh explained that students with UDID Card must be admitted under PWD category. She further suggested, institutions can organise local camps in collaboration with the Department of Disability to help students convert disability certificates into UDID cards. Additionally, for students without prior certification, faculty should involve counsellors for initial screening and guide them towards formal medical assessment through authorised professionals.

10. A faculty member from IIT Bhilai asked about the assistive tools and technologies which can be used for students with learning disabilities. Ms. Singh encouraged institutions to leverage built-in accessibility features in existing systems like Microsoft, Google, or iOS. She suggested consulting students with disabilities in their institute to identify the most useful tools and forming student clubs to support peers who are new to such technologies.

11. A faculty member from IIT Patna asked whether there is any standard questionnaire available to screen students for specific learning disabilities. Ms. Singh clarified that such tools are meant only for initial screening and not for formal diagnosis, which must be done by a medical professional. She also mentioned that existing presentations and checklists on the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Program Website can help institutions carry out preliminary screenings.

12. A faculty member from Central University of Tamil Nadu asked what type of counselling can be provided to students with specific learning disabilities who face frustration or academic failure. Ms. Singh explained that there is no single prescribed therapy for SLDs, as the needs vary for each student. She emphasised the importance of first understanding the root causes of behavioural challenges and addressing them individually. She recommended an open approach to identify whether the difficulties stem from academics, social interactions, or daily life management, and tailoring support accordingly.

13. The session ended with a vote of thanks.

Annexure 1

List of Participants in ‘Question and Answer Session’ under Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs)- Cycle 3 on 21.07.25

S.No.	Name of Institute	S.No.	Name of Participant
1	ABV- IIIT&M Gwalior	1	Rahul Kala
		2	Vishal Vyas
2	Central University of Tamil Nadu	3	Dr. Amit Kumar Bajhaiya
		4	Renuka Devi V
3	Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalayas	5	Dr Manoj Kumar
		6	Krishna Balodi
		7	Manish Kumar Gupta
		8	Prem Nath Kamlesh
		9	Manorama
4	IIIT Kota	10	Ajaynehra
		11	Gyan
		12	Parikshit Kishor Singh
		13	Dr. Amit Garg
5	IIITD&M Kurnool	14	Noel
6	IIM Lucknow	15	Ravindra Gour
		16	Ram Baran
		17	Anand Seth
7	IIM Nagpur	18	Admission Office
		19	Binoy P
		20	Soma Shekar
8	IIM Sambalpur	21	Dhananjay Dewangan
		22	Dipak Maharana
		23	Sumedha
9	IIT Bhilai	24	Neelima
		25	Nihar Ranjan Barick
		26	Santosh

		27	Suchetan Pal
		28	Vishwesh Jatala
		29	Jagendra
		30	Vinayak Banakar
10	IIT Hyderabad	31	Dasharath
11	IIT Patna	32	Present
12	IIT(ISM) Dhanbad	33	Anurag Jayswal
		34	Dr A Chandra Sekhara Rao
		35	Dr. Alakesh Kalita
		36	Gaurav Jha
		37	Kalyan Chatterjee
		38	Manu Kurian
		39	Prof. Vinay Kumar Rajak
		40	Rajendra Pamula
		41	Suresh Pandian Elumalai
		42	Swati Rajput
13	National Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology (NIAMT) Ranchi	43	Dr. Madhu Kumari,
		44	Ratnakar Das
		45	Sumit Raj
		46	Vikas Kumar
14	National Institute of Technology Meghalaya	47	Assoc. Dean Sw
15	National Institute of Technology Mizoram	48	Dr. Rajkumar Shufen
		49	Dr Sukanta Roy
		50	Dr. Sushanta Bordoloi
		51	Sandeep
16	National Institute of Technology Puducherry	52	Dr. Seenuvasan
		53	Dr. Suresh
		54	Hemachander

17	National Institute of Technology Rourkela	55	Dr. L. P. Roy
		56	Prof Kumud Kant Mehta
		57	Prof. Usharani Subuddhi
		58	Supratim Giri
		59	Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak
		60	Tapan
		61	Manas Ranjan Pattanayak
		62	W Routray
		63	R C Pradhan
18	National Institute of Technology Silchar	64	Prabina Pattanayak
		65	Dr Lalit Chadra Saikia
		66	Kumar Mithilesh
		67	Dr. Debjit Bhowmik
		68	Rupak Dutta
		69	Dr. Ripon Patgiri
19	NITTTR Chandigarh	70	Dr. Ashok Kumar
		71	Dr P Rao
		72	Dr. Suniti Dutt
20	Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology Surat	73	Dr. Rakesh Maurya
		74	Dr. Shweta Shah
		75	Dr. Sanjay R Patel,
		76	Dr. Vaidurya Jain
21	School of Planning and Architecture Bhopal	77	Abhinav Shrivastava
		78	Anand K Singh
		79	Dr Parama Mitra
		80	(Computer Center)
		81	Anand Wadwekar
		82	Dr Nayana R Singh

		83	Kamlesh Chaure
		84	Varsha Mishra
	Unidentified	85	A Murali
		86	Anand
		87	Dr. Pallavi Tiwari
		88	Lijith K P
		89	Rajat
		90	Ranjay Hazra
		91	Saurabh Popli

Additional Attendees

Affiliation Details	Name of Attendees
Ministry Officials, Resource Persons	1. Mr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director (HE) 2. Prof. Suresh Kumar, Director (Planning and Development) NIEPA 3. Aparajita Singh, ChangeInkk Foundation 4. Akansha Yadav, Consultant MMTTP, MOE