

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) Cycles 1 & 2 was held for the 60 Identified Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on 20.08.2025

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 20 August 2025 at 10:00 AM. This session involved 60 HEIs participating under cycle 1 & 2 of Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs), focused on increasing the capacities of faculty and non-teaching staff towards the inclusion of students with SLDs. The objective of the session was to discuss the initiatives undertaken and challenges that institutions may face in creating inclusive spaces for students with learning disabilities. A list of 153 faculty members who participated in the session is attached in **Annexure 1**.

2. Mr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director (HE), highlighted the progress of the CBSLD Program so far. He informed that three program cycles had been completed and the fourth had recently been launched. He stated that the objective of the session was to review learnings from the program, understand progress within institutions, and discuss the implementation of inclusive practices for identifying and supporting students with SLD. He also shared findings from a faculty needs survey conducted in higher education institutions by DoHE to understand the experiences, challenges, and support needs of educators in creating inclusive HEIs for students with SLDs, which revealed a marked difference in awareness and attitudes between those who had attended the CBSLD program and those who had not, underlining the importance of sustained engagement. Following this, the floor was opened for participant discussion and feedback.

3. Prof. Suresh Kumar, Director (Planning and Development), NIEPA, noted that three cycles of the SLD program had been completed with NIEPA as the coordinating body. He observed that interactions revealed gaps in faculty awareness about SLD, while the sessions provided exposure. The program has significantly improved understanding. He emphasised that identifying students with SLD is complex, but institutions must assume such cases exist and work towards developing inclusive systems.

4. Representing NIT Sikkim, a faculty member shared that as part of student career development, the institute has introduced practical training sessions and aptitude tests. However, a key challenge remains the identification of students with specific learning disabilities, which continues to be difficult. To address learning needs, the institute is planning to adopt assistive technologies such as text-to-speech converters, particularly to support students with dyslexia. In line with program suggestions, mentoring initiatives have been introduced where senior students and faculty provide guidance to students.

5. Dr. Avik Mukherjee, representing CIT Kokrajhar, shared that the institute currently runs tutorial, remedial, and doubt-clearing sessions to support students struggling with academics, alongside group and community activities that contribute to holistic development. The institute also follows a mentorship system where each faculty member mentors a group of 15 students, ensuring continuous engagement. He emphasised the difficulty of identifying students with SLD and outlined the institute's plans to collaborate with local healthcare providers for expert input and to organise workshops for faculty and students, which aim to enhance understanding of SLD, improve the identification process for affected students, and guide faculty on how to engage with them effectively.

In response, Mr. D.K. Sharma encouraged the institute to nominate faculty members from five departments, Admissions, Student Welfare, Academic Affairs, IT, and Placement, for inclusion in the ongoing fourth cycle of the program. He recommended that trained faculty then guide their peers. He

also offered the possibility of organising dedicated one or two-day sessions within the institute, supported by ChangeInkk as the program's resource partner.

6. Ms. Aparajita Singh, a Resource Person from the ChangeInkk Foundation, addressed that while identification of students with SLD remains a challenge, greater inclusivity in systems and proactive communication is needed. For example, declaring preparedness on institutional websites will naturally encourage more students with disabilities to enrol over time. She emphasised that inclusivity is a gradual process that strengthens with each admission cycle.

7. Prof. Anil Kumar Jain from Dr. Hari Singh Gour Central University appreciated the depth and coverage of the SLD training program and requested modular courses that could be delivered by institutional IT departments to train all faculty members. In response, resources related to the programme were shared, which are available at the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Program Website. Link: <https://mmc.ugc.ac.in/LearningDisabilities/Tutorials>

8. Dr. Sreetama from IIT Bhubaneswar highlighted that the main challenge in addressing Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) was the lack of awareness among students, faculty, and parents. To tackle this, the institute introduced faculty-student mentorship, a buddy system, counselling support, classroom observations, and alternative exam methods. They also organised awareness programs for faculty, students, and parents to overcome prejudice and misconceptions.

9. Prof. Siddharth Panda from IIT Kanpur shared that students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) have been formally identified and provided with comprehensive support systems to ensure equitable learning opportunities. Measures include the provision of assistive software, appointment of individual tutors, and lab assistance in core courses. Additionally, scribes are arranged for examinations, and accessible accommodation is provided as per students' individual needs. The institute has also conducted sensitisation activities.

10. During the session, Ms. Aparajita Singh emphasised the distinction between screening and diagnosis of Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs). Faculty and administrators can only screen students by observing possible indicators of disability, but cannot provide a confirmed diagnosis, which must be conducted by qualified medical professionals such as neurologists, psychologists, or paediatricians using standardised diagnostic tools. She highlighted that many students with SLDs are already formally diagnosed during school (often by Class 12) and enter higher education with declared disability status. For cases identified informally in classrooms, the appropriate course is referral to institutional counsellors or medical professionals. Building on this, Mr. D.K. Sharma suggested organising a recap session on the program to reinforce earlier learnings, particularly for new faculty, ensuring shared understanding of procedures and practices related to SLD identification and support.

11. Prof. Tarun Tyagi from Central University of South Bihar highlighted that through the MMTTC, plans are underway to organise a Short-Term Program (STP) on inclusive education, dedicating two to three days specifically to SLDs alongside other aspects of inclusion.

12. During the session, UGC's guidelines on Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities were shared. Link: https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/8572354_Final-Accessibility-Guidelines.pdf

13. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone from Central University of Kashmir shared that his institution has planned to conduct awareness programs for incoming UG and PG students to assess their understanding

of Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs). A short questionnaire has been developed to gauge student awareness, which will help in identifying gaps and tailoring interventions.

14. Prof. Sukumar Nandi from IIT Guwahati shared that the institute has already put in place facilities such as scribes and other support mechanisms for students with disabilities. However, a major challenge arises during the initial phase of student admission, where identifying such disabilities is difficult. To address this, IIT Guwahati has introduced a comprehensive health checkup, including psychometric assessments, to help in the early detection of students requiring special care. Faculty members have also reported cases where students struggle in class, prompting timely intervention.

15. 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 1 & 2 on 20.08.25**

S.No.	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
1	Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar, Assam.	1. Mr. Debarshi Kr. Brahma 2. Shayaram Basumatary 3. Dr. Manasi Buzar Baruah 4. Mr. Sanjib Narzary 5. Ms. Tania Sarkar 6. Nandita sharma 7. Dr. Rajesh Kondareddy 8. Ganesh Roy 9. Prof. Arunendu Mondal 10. Monideepa Brahama
2	Central University of Himachal Pradesh	11. Pardeep Kumar 12. Prof Sandeep Kulshrestha
3	Central University of Kashmir	13. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat 14. Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Lone 15. Kinjal Bagdi 16. NookaRaju Bendukurthi
4	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	17. Anil Jain 18. Dr. Rajnish Agrahari 19. Rupendra Jugal Chaurasia
5	IIIT Pune, Maharastra	20. Dr. Bhupendra Singh 21. Dr. Sumit Gupta 22. Dr. Kaptan Singh
6	IIITDM Kancheepuram	23. IIITDM Kancheepuram 24. Prof. Masilamani V 25. Harshini 26. Harikrishnan 27. Dr. Rino Nelson
7	IIM Kozhikode	28. Prof. Kambar Aidi 29. M Renjith 30. Deepak VK 31. Madhusoodan V 32. Sudhir Rajan

S.No.	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
8	IISER Berhampur	33. Jose Sebastian 34. Ritabrata Sengupta 35. Shakti Ranjan Patra 36. Nishant Kumar 37. Bodhisatta Nandy 38. Senthil Raani K S 39. Azhar Mohammed Shaikh 40. Raj Kumar Sahoo 41. Prosenjit Daw 42. Bikram Kumar Sahoo 43. Debashmit Parida 44. Tushar Mouli Chakraborti
9	IIT BHU, Varanasi	45. Avirup Maulik
10	IIT Delhi	46. Dr. Anishya O. Madan 47. Sh. Himanshu Nimesh
11	IIT Dharwad, Karnataka	48. Shri Inderpal
12	IIT Guwahati	49. Prof. Sukumar Nandi 50. Prof. Kanduru V. Krishna 51. Prof. Perumal Alagarsamy 52. Prof. Tamarapalli Venkatesh 53. Ashok Singh Sairam 54. Pankaj Tiwari 55. Prof. TV Bharat 56. PK Dutta
13	IIT Palakkad	57. Deepak Rajendraprasad 58. Kesavan D 59. Sanjukta Chakraborty
14	IIT Roorkee	60. Prof. Meenakshi Rawat 61. Sri Sahil Sardana
15	Mizoram University	62. Dr. K Lalromawia 63. RC Tiwari
16	NITTTR, Chennai	64. Mr. M. Sutaarson

S.No.	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
17	National Institute of Technology, Warangal	65. Prof. Amba Prasad Rao 66. Prof. Karthik Balasubramanian
18	NEHU Shillong	67. Dr. Rashi Bhargava
19	NIT, Sikkim	68. Dr. Sumit Saha 69. M. C. Govil 70. Dr. Ranjan Basak 71. Dr. Abhishek Rajan 72. Dr. Molay Roy 73. Dr. Sourav Mallick 74. Dr. Debajit Saha 75. Mr. Ram Prasad Nepal 76. Dr. Sumit Saha 77. Dr. Achintesh N. Biswas 78. Dr. Joy Pal 79. Dr. Pratyay Kuila 80. Dr. Bam B. Sinha 81. Dr. Varun Gupta 82. Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi 83. Dr. Biswajit Roy 84. Dr. Anirban Banik
20	NIT Patna	85. Bharat Gupta
21	NIT Srinagar	86. Dr. Malik Parveez 87. Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani 88. Dr. Prabal Verma
22	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST)	89. Director 90. Dr. M. Marjit Singh 91. Dr. Margaret Kathing 92. Mr. Dewan Rashidul Alam 93. Dr. N. N. Yadav
23	University of Hyderabad	94. Pammi Pavan Kumar 95. Chetan Shrivastava

S.No.	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
24	Central University of Haryana	96. Parmod Kumar
25	Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu	97. lakhvinder singh 98. Nandita sharma 99. Dr R P Prajapat 100.Dr Lakhvinder Singh 101.Ms Ridham Gupta
26	Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar	102.Sumnendra Singh 103.parwinder singh 104.Amod Kanhere
27	Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar	105.IIT Bhubaneswar 106.Bamadev Acharya 107.Devimoonchandh R 108.Dr. Sreetama
28	Central University of South Bihar	109.ASHOK SINGH 110.taruntyagi 111.Prof. Pawan Kumar Mishra 112.MANI PRATAP 113.Prof.Dharmendra Kumar Singh 114.Manglesh Manglam
29	Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar	115.Ms. Timir Berawala 116.Namrata Saxena
30	Central University of Andhra Pradesh	117.Govardhan
31	National Institute of Technology, Calicut	118.suja 119.Dr Sharan Kumar 120.Dr. Teja Reddy Vakamalla 121.Dr. Gopi Krishna Saramekala 122.Dr. Periasamy 123.Dr. Manju Mahipalan
32	Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati	124.IIT Tirupati 125.J.PRABHU KIRAN 126.Madhu 127.PoojaV 128.Sriram Sundar 129.Abhinay Irala
33	IIT Kanpur	130.Akash Deep 131.Ritika Gupta 132.Siddhartha Panda 133.Vaibhav SPO 134.Ashok Singh Sairam

S.No.	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
34	NIT Trichy	135.Prince Gideon Kubendran Amos 136.Dr V K Karthika 137.Prof J Jerald 138.Sivasankar 139.G Thavasi Raja
35	Pondichery University	140.Prof P.G. Arul 141.Dr. A.Chidambaram
36	MANIT Bhopal	142.Dr. Bharat Modhera
37	Rajiv Gandhi University	143.Dr. Varsha Patnaik
38	NIT Surathkal	144.Hari Mahalingam
39	IIM Bangalore	145.Khushboo Chhangani
40	IIT Madras	146.Sophia
41	IIT Goa	147.Shitala Prasad
42	Unidentified	148.Navneet Kumar Gupta 149.Placement and Internship Cell 150.Sakthikumar M 151.Sujatha 152.Umaprasana Ojha 153.Pankaj tiwari 154.pooja v

Additional Attendees

Affiliation Details	Name of Attendees
Ministry Officials, Resource Persons	- Mr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director (HE) - Prof. Suresh Kumar, Director (Planning and Development) NIEPA - Mr. AN Reddy, Assistant Professor, NIEPA - Dr. Amit Gautam, Deputy Director, MMT - Aparajita Singh, ChangeInkk Foundation - Akansha Yadav, Consultant MMTP, MOE