

Capacity Building Program for Inclusion of Specific Learning Disabilities in Higher Education Institutes

Organized by the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education in collaboration with
ChangeInkk Foundation

Anchored by NIEPA

The ongoing in-person workshop marks the fourth phase of the Capacity Building Program. The third phase of the program, concluded in March 2024, featured masterclasses for the heads and representatives of five departments, including the Department of Student Affairs & Campus life. The current fourth phase, a two-day zone-wise workshop, is designed to further handhold the participants of the masterclass to foster an inclusive learning environment for students with Specific Learning Disability (SLD). Featured below are best practices in the form of a checklist that the Department of Student Affairs & Campus life of the participating institutes can adopt with the aim of increasing access to resources to support independent living of SLDs, creating on-campus support systems and streamlining coordination between internal departments and stakeholders.

Checklist for Inclusion of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities Focusing on – Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life

Strategies to Make Campuses Inclusive

Streamlining

Processes

<input type="checkbox"/> Appoint a nodal officer for a inclusive campus	Details of the Nodal officer- <input type="checkbox"/> Name of the NO- <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Details of the No Other Departments are handled by the Nodal Officer- <input type="checkbox"/> Name- <input type="checkbox"/> None-
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Access to Resources

<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure timely procurement of resources (including AT) as per need assessment (done at the time of admission) and past university records	<input type="checkbox"/> Active procurement system exists Please share the current plan: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No procurement system <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to create procurement systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure provision of resources (including mentors) beyond academic needs to support independent living (time/schedule management, extra curriculars)	<input type="checkbox"/> Need- based assessments to map resources exists Please share the current process map: _____ No. of students with SLDs catered: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No need-based assessment exists <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to create the process
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide digitally accessible campus handbooks, brochures and resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible resources available <input type="checkbox"/> Resources are not yet made accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to convert the current resources Please mention the available resources: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide residential accommodation on campus (preferably hostels closest to academic/canteen buildings)	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential accommodation on campus exists No. of students with SLDs using residential accommodations : _____ <input type="checkbox"/> In the process of creating residential accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> No residential accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to create substitute options
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure mental health facilities to provide socio-emotional support	<input type="checkbox"/> In house Counsellor available <input type="checkbox"/> Counsellor availed as per need <input type="checkbox"/> No counsellor available <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct regular mental wellness workshop <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to conduct mental wellness workshop

On-campus Support

<input type="checkbox"/> Brief and sensitize wardens on student needs to ensure seamless integration into campus life and managing independent living	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitization workshops conducted for admins, faculty, on ground teams like lab assistants, librarians and a <input type="checkbox"/> No workshops conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to conduct such workshops
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign a buddy/mentor for each student to help navigate campus life	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddy/ mentor system exists <input type="checkbox"/> No awareness of such a system <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to implement
<input type="checkbox"/> Host awareness and sensitization workshops for extracurricular clubs and societies' heads on campus	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitization workshops conducted for active participation of students with SLDs No. of SLDs students active in societies/clubs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No workshops conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to conduct such workshops
<input type="checkbox"/> During each term hold regular events and talks on SLDs/neurodiversity to increase awareness and advocacy for inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular events and talks are conducted focusing on SLDs/neurodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy campaigns conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to conduct event and advocacy campaign
<input type="checkbox"/> Address the stigma around seeking help and encourage students to access resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitization and awareness sessions for students <input type="checkbox"/> No sessions conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to conduct student focused sessions

Streamlined Coordination

<input type="checkbox"/> Set up a dedicated center of support - starting with a team or committee, appointing a nodal officer to coordinate and oversee inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated center of support exists <input type="checkbox"/> No physical structure exists but process is in place <input type="checkbox"/> No such center/process exist <input type="checkbox"/> Need support to setup process and a dedicated center
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