

Disability Towards Capability

Quarterly newsletter released by the
Centre for Disability Studies
Poojappura

A Unit under the LBS Centre for Science and Technology
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 012, Kerala.

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The Symposium was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri. Oommen Chandy. The inaugural function was Presided over by Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri. P. K. Abdu Rabb, Govt of Kerala.

Shri. Sayeed Rashid IPoS, Director, LBS Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, warmly welcomed all the delegates by delivering the Welcome address. The Theme address was conveyed by Dr. Beela G. K., Director-in-charge of Centre for Disability Studies.

The Guest of Honour of the day was Dr. William E. Field, the Director of National AgrAbility Project and Professor of Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA. He is a person having 40 years of teaching and research experience in providing technical assistance to farmers and farm workers impacted by disability. His motivating lecture focussed mainly upon Assistive Technology in agriculture that increases safety and productivity of persons with disabilities.

An inspirational talk was delivered by our Special Guest of the day Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi, Former Vice Chief Of Army Staff (VCOAS) of Indian Army and Founder President of the War Wounded Foundation. He is a war -wounded person, who lost his right leg during the Indo-Pak war, and still had the will power to overcome his challenges to become successful. Felicitation address was given by Dr. M. Abdul Rahman, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Kerala Technical University.

The function was blessed by adorning the Guest of Honour and the Special Guest in the traditional way with the "Ponnada" which was honoured to them by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri. Oommen Chandy.

The inaugural function was concluded by the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. A Mujeeb, Joint Director, LBS Centre for Science and Technology, Poojappura, Trivandrum.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM –

Assistive Technology
for Rehabilitation and Disability Management

December 2nd - 4th 2014

On 3rd December, 2014, the United Nations commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disability with the theme, 'Sustainable Development: The Promise of Technology'. In observance of this special day, Centre for Disability Studies (CeDS), Thiruvananthapuram organized an International Symposium with the theme 'Assistive Technology for Rehabilitation and Disability Management' from 2nd to 4th December 2014 at Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram.

INAUGURAL FUNCTION



PLENARY SESSIONS

The plenary sessions of the symposium began with an excellent presentation by Prof. Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Professor in the Department of Engineering Design at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, who gave a glimpse upon the topic "Human System Interfaces for Rehabilitation and Augmentation".

Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi, Former Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), Indian Army and the Founder President of the War Wounded Foundation delivered an exploratory lecture on "Empowerment of War Disabled Defence Personnels".

A highly technical talk on "Assistive Technology used in Agriculture Sector" was given by Dr. William E. Field, Director of National AgrAbility Project and Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.

A virtual tour through video conferencing on "Horticulture Therapy Industry in Australia and Overseas" was delivered by Dr. Paul de la Motte who is the President of Horticulture Therapy Association, Australia.

The audience were excited as if taken on a journey to Nepal by the lecture of Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi, Head of the Department, Professor and Academic Counsellor, Department of Community Medicine at Kathmandu Medical College, on the topic "Scenario of Disability Management in Nepal".

A new concept on "Social Farming- A Rehabilitation Method" was introduced to the delegates by Dr. Angelika Weber, the Former Member of Advisory Committee of Dept. of Agriculture in the European Commission, Germany.



DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations on techniques that could help in rehabilitating the differently abled persons were illustrated by Dr. Beela G. K., Director-in-charge of Centre for Disability Studies, Thiruvananthapuram on the topic "Developing Green Environment and Adaptive Techniques of Horticulture Therapy for Challenged Children" and by Mrs. Rajasree. S, Scientist, Language Technology Centre, CDAC on the topic "Technology for the specially abled –by CDAC".

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The Technical Sessions opened a venue for the young researchers to put forward their findings accessible to the delegates. The session dealt with the topics on "Assistive Technology and Accessible Information", "Assistive devices and tools in Agriculture Sector" and "Evidence Based Practices and Service Delivery Model". Nineteen exemplary papers were presented by the delegates.



BEST PAPER AWARD

The best presentation award for the technical session added some competitive spirit among the presenters. The recipients of the award are:

1. Mr. Akhil M. L. Pankajakasthuri Engineering College, Trivandrum, presented a paper on "Armstrong – A Lowcost Upperlimb Exoskeleton System for Rehabilitation and Power Assistance".
2. Mr. Karthikeyan V. Horticultural Therapist, ArtyPlantz Nature Revitalization Pvt Ltd, Bangalore, discussed about "Smell as an emotional stimulant in Horticulture Therapy: Lessons from activities conducted for children and adults in Bangalore".
3. Ms. Sukanya S. Nair, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, detailed on "Socio-Economic Exclusion Of Disabled Women And The Role Of Policy Interventions In Thiruvananthapuram District-A Microlevel Analysis".



PARTICIPATION AND QUERIES

Effective participation of the delegates was seen throughout the symposium. Many individuals asked thoughtful questions. The interactions from participants ignited a fruitful discussion in each presentation. It created a platform for both presenters and audience to discuss the issues related to empower the people with disability.



EXHIBITION

The exhibition illustrated various new Assistive devices developed by scholars and proposed to aid functioning of patients with various disabilities. Creative crafts, jewels, ceramic pots made by differently abled students of CeDS were displayed.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The audience and the mass were moved by the colorful performances of differently abled children. It touched their heart. Each of them felt proud of their performances on stage. Their performances proved that the children with limitations could do much better than those without limitations.



EXPOSURE VISIT

On third day of the International Symposium, the delegates visited Rehabilitation centres like National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum and Kanyakumari Rural Development Society (NARDEP). The visit gave an insight to the delegates regarding the methods of training and Rehabilitation services provided by these institutions for the differently abled.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Staff of Centre for Disability Studies celebrated the Onam festival during the month of September with full heart and grandeur. All the staff dressed traditionally and organised a small cultural event to commemorate the occasion. The floor adorned a beautiful Pookkalam put up by the staff. CeDS celebrated a grand function on the Christmas day also. The centre bid goodbye to the eventful 2014 and welcomed 2015 in joyous anticipation by celebrating New-year function also.



VOLUNTARY WORKS



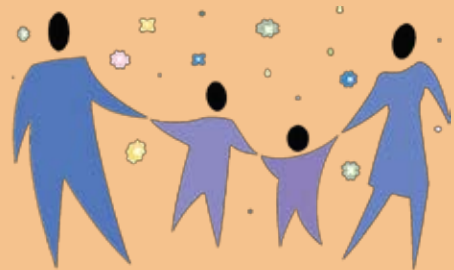
MEENAKSHI PRASSANNAN

First of all I would like to thank the Centre for Disability Studies (CeDS) for giving me an opening for the voluntary services. This is the great practical exposure of immense value. During the training period, I had occasion to interact with differently abled children. It also helped me to understand, observe and learn the life style of differently abled children. I also obtained a chance to assist the counselling sections for differently abled students and their parents. In this short period, I came across many children with various kinds of needs and understood their problems at the centre. I was very happy to develop a compassionate approach while dealing with differently abled children and help them to build their confidence. I'm thankful to the Director in charge of the centre for having put me to the right track. I thankfully place on record the co operation and assistance given to me by Junior superintendent, project fellows and all other members of the staff.

WHAT'S NEW UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

1. NEW D-SKILL COURSES

- Paper Bag Making
- Data Entry & Office Automation
- Animation
- Photoshop
- Desk Top Publishing (DTP)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Workshop on "Empowerment of Differently Abled" is conducted by CeDS for training the faculties dealing with the differently abled working in Government, Government-Aided and Government undertaking institutions.

2. EMPLOYMENT COACHING PROGRAMME

CeDS is conducting a pre-recruitment training programme for students with disability. This training programme aims in training the students to appear in exams conducted by Public Service Commission, Banking and other tests. Students with a minimum educational qualification of Standard 10 between the age group of 17 to 35 years can attend the programme.



WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS ON AWARENESS OF DISABILITY MANAGEMENT

CeDS is conducting workshop for the parents of differently abled children for creating awareness on various types of disabilities and its management.

3. WORKSHOPS

PARENT NETWORK WORKSHOP

CeDS is conducting 'Parent Network Workshop' aiming 'Orientation to Employment' for the Children with Disability. This gives opportunities for the parents to share ideas, experiences and expertise to have an effective communication.