



# DSE SYMPHONY

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

## Vice Chancellor's Desk

I am extremely happy to know that the Department of Special Education is bringing out their first Newsletter DSE Symphony this year. It's indeed a very good initiative to share their great work with their colleagues and community in general.

Inclusive education is the buzz word today. The department of Special Education produces the finest special educators who support in creating an inclusive learning environment that caters to the need of special children.

I have seen how the potential of children at their experimental school, Arushi is tapped and enriching experiences are provided to them. The faculty is dedicated and determined to make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities.

There is a huge need of human resource in the disability sector and I hope more and more students choose B.Ed. and M.Ed. in Special Education as a good career option. Through this Newsletter I hope there is more awareness created about the scope of Special Education.

I congratulate the Head and her team once again for the launch of DSE Symphony and wish you all success in all your endeavors.

**Prof. Shashikala Wanjari**  
Vice Chancellor - SNDT  
Women's University



## From The Editor's Desk

It gives me immense pleasure to launch the First edition of our half yearly Newsletter **DSE SYMPHONY**.

We at the Department of Special Education (DSE) wish to create a **Symphony** with the **DSE Beat** and the **DSE Pulse**.

**DSE Beat** celebrates the talent of our Faculty, our Alumnae, our present students while **DSE Pulse** celebrates the diversity of our ARUSHI learners their teachers and parents. The objective of this Newsletter is to showcase the significant work being done in the department, create awareness in the community and take one tiny step to bring about change in the mind sets about disabilities and about the people with disabilities.

When I reflect on the legacy that I have inherited I wish to thank profusely Dr. Yashuben Mehta, the Founder Director of this Department, Dr. Smriti Swarup, Former Director of the Department, Dr. Dharmishta Mehta, Former Professor of the Department, and Dr. Preeti Verma, Immediate Former Head of the Department who have nurtured this haven into what it is today. I consider myself lucky to Head this Mecca of knowledge after serving here for 25 years and I hope I along with my team am able to bring more glory to this esteemed institute.

I wish to thank Prof. Yashu Ben Mehta, Prof. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay and Prof. Darmishta Mehta for sharing their wisdom in the first issue of DSE Symphony and add to its value for our readers.



One of the most exciting announcements from the Department that we wish to share is the forthcoming International Conference on the theme '**Be The Difference; Equality And Equity In Education**' in collaboration with **Northampton University, UK** in January 2019. I request my fellow colleagues to participate in this interdisciplinary conference.

I want to thank our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Shashikala Wanjari for extending all her support to help us accomplish our Dreams which are in sync with the mission of our more than 100 year old SNDT Women's University and that is Empowerment of Women!

Watch out for this space for many exciting happenings in the Department that create a beautiful SYMPHONY...!!!

**Dr. Sujata Bhan**  
Professor and Head,  
Department of Special  
Education, SNDT  
Women's University



## In This Issue

### DSE Folk

- ❖ Dr. Yashu Ben Mehta
- ❖ Prof. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay
- ❖ Dr. Dharmishta Mehta

### DSE Beats

- ❖ Shadow Teaching Course
- ❖ Workshops
- ❖ RCI Sponsored CRE
- ❖ Publications & Participation
- ❖ Alumni Allegro

### DSE Pulse

- ❖ Arushi Events
- ❖ God's Very Own

### In The Works

- ❖ Smart Moves for Learning (Sept. '18)
- ❖ Drama in education (Nov. '18)
- ❖ Workshop: Qualitative Research (Dec. '18)
- ❖ International conference (Jan. '19)

## For The Educators

Having spent more than six decades and continuing till today in the field of special education as an educator, trainer, guide and a practitioner, I have to say to you.....

As a Special Educator, respect the child and the parents most, empathizing with their challenges, day in and day out. This requires lots of efforts, continuous planning and implementation to clear up temporary turbulence. I strongly believe in supporting the child, family and all who are involved in the wellbeing of the child.

I therefore urge all educators, and professionals - special and regular - to always remember that the centre of our work is the child and the family. A hardworking, dedicated, positive and sensitive special educator, is the one who will make this connect with the child and his family and bring about a positive change in his/her lives - no matter how high he/she be in the hierarchy of special educators.

I wish the department all the success in developing special teacher education programme that envisages the child in the Web of Life and be socially and economically productive to the extent possible, as an adult, and thus empowering the special needs population.

With best wishes,

**Dr. Yashuben Mehta**

Founder Director of  
Department of Special  
Education, Member of  
the governing council,  
NASEOH





## Ensuring Inclusion: Key to Achieve Learning Outcomes

Let me start by Congratulating the Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University for initiating this six-monthly newsletter from September 2018 on the Teachers' Day. Keeping with the spirit and occasion; my humble effort is to reinstate in teachers the confidence that she/ he is the most important person in every child's life and alone has the master key to lay the foundations of learning; the lifelong companion of each of us. It also gives me an opportunity to express my gratitude to all my teachers especially Prof. M. B. Buch of M S University of Baroda for making me a lifelong learner and guiding me.

This brings me to an important issue: What do we expect from our learners: Learning Outputs or Learning Outcomes? Do ask yourself as all now need to look at these terms in the context of MHRD's notification on the issue. It has important implications for each teacher and teacher educator especially those who are keen to ensure inclusion. Ensuring is what I will say is OUTCOME and is different from OUTPUT.

❖ Learning Output in a way is the impact created by the processes such as how we decide and implement curriculum and assess.

❖ Learning Outcomes should be What Difference has been made to the individual; does he/she feel happy of what has been gained; can he/she build further on this and so on.

It is important to understand this difference and to ensure that each child has an opportunity to discover himself/ herself and education is an enabling process.

It is a known fact that much pedagogy has evolved from efforts to make an individual learn and in initial stages it was what today is referred to Individual Education Plan (IEP); mostly used in the context of special support services be it education, rehabilitation, skill development and so on. Now the service provider diagnoses the capability of the

learner; his/ her style, maturation, opportunities etc. and sets a target. Then learning process is facilitated, progress reviewed, reset the target and ensure that milestones are achieved.

Please remember, our role as teacher/ teacher educator is not to diagnose and label students. As combination/ pattern and persistence of many conditions can imply so many disabling and health challenges and at times some of these may also be due to school/institution, age related or family related factors. Our commitment should lead to first what we can do with our own initiative and resources followed by consultation with fellow teachers, family and if need be referral to specialists.

Today, Right to Education Act (RTE 2009) and Rights of Persons with Disability Act (RPWD, 2016) provides a framework for facilitating us to do our duty.

Please do remember when addressing these needs; it is not necessarily in one to one individualized action rather All Students Benefit as we teacher educators and teachers in the process start Planning, Generating Resources and Using Multi-Sensory Approaches.

### Prof. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay

Formerly : Chairperson,  
Rehabilitation Council of  
India, Head, Dept. of  
Inclusive Education,  
NUEPA & Director,  
SCERT Delhi



## Tribute To My Teacher

Oh, it was then - way back in mid-80's that I recount.

An attempt was made to train a bunch of about 20 graduates from different fields, into refined teachers for children with special needs. Imagine the task at hand for our teacher-the teeny weeny tiny figure!



It was multi-category training then. In one academic year, her task was to train us all to educate children with MR, CP, and LD almost single-handedly!

What a powerhouse of a teacher we had. A strict disciplinarian with a "no-nonsense" attitude, who entertained no excuses whatsoever when it came to work. There she would be seated behind her table her tiny figure much before time and her sharp eyes all over. "Impossible", we would murmur to ourselves "to cross the watchtower that is her office", for no bunking classes was tolerated.

If busy in a meeting, she made sure we had enough assignments to submit so not a single second of the training programme was missed. "She has her spies all over the town", we grumbled. Any person even distantly connected to special education would be planted in our class to share his/her knowledge and experience. "Learn, learn and learn" was her operating motto.

"Oh friends watch what we are doing" we said to each other, "she will emerge from anywhere" to ascertain we wasted no time doing hanky panky things. She even checked on us at our library period and heaven save us if we were caught doing wrong things! Little did we realize her sublime intention then. She tried to ensure that not a single moment of our precious training period was wasted.

Arushi, then called 'Learning Centre' was her brainchild. The most challenging kids were admitted. She sat with us, with the child, to train, demonstrate and also to learn. The teacher and the taught learning together, for training at the grass root level was her focus. She was unafraid and never shied away from learning.

Now, almost 33 years later we realize how lucky we were to have her as our Teacher. She wove into our being work ethic at its highest. Today, I fall at the feet of my teacher in all humility - what was then fear is now awe and to her I owe all that I have learnt and practiced over the years.

Yes, Yashuben, that was you, our dear Teacher, the founder of what is now DSE and the one I hold in highest reverence and affection in my heart.

My humble appeal to all you teachers of the department today is to take forward my Teacher's legacy! Exuberate totally unconditional and unwavering commitment and accountability to your duty as she does even today at NASEOH and try to instill the same in your students.

And my dear students respect time; respect the child; observe his or her strengths and weaknesses; never enter a class without a plan; always have plan B ready; never ever hurt a parent. Monetary considerations should not be the only goal. Wish the department to achieve many more milestones and influence many more lives.

**Dr. Dharmishta Mehta**  
Former Professor  
Department of Special  
Education, SNDT  
Women's University



## DSE BEATS

### Shadow Teaching Course

A joint Certificate Course by DSE and Leap Ahead Assessment Centre started on August 4, 2018. The 3-month shadow teaching course attempts to meet the current need of the hour: an in-class support for children with special needs studying in inclusive schools.

The objectives of the three month part-time course are to provide knowledge of various disabilities, understanding of the concept of inclusion and develop the competencies of a shadow teacher.

We wish the students the best of luck and look forward to hearing success stories of inclusion more often.





## Workshops



## RCI Sponsored CRE

### "Addressing Barriers in the Environment and Universal Design"

The CRE was conducted from August 29th to 31st, 2018 with the objective of understanding the physical access and other needs of children with special needs within a classroom and developing a Universal Design of Learning for inclusion of persons with disabilities.



## Department Publications

Book: A Guide to Write A Good Lesson Plan  
An Anthology for Prospective Teachers.  
Edited by Dr. Sujata Bhan.

## Faculty Publications

Bhan S. (2018) Inclusion: A constructivist Approach, Chapter in the book titled, Psychological and sociological perspectives in diversity and inclusion, Pub. Kanishka Publishers, ISBN 978-81-8457-841-6

Bhan S. (2017) Inclusion: Rhetoric or a Reality, Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany, ISBN 978-3-330-07323-4.

Verma P. (2018) Introduction to Learning Disability (DISE 211, LD), Identification and Assessment of Learning Disability (DISE 221, LD) Curricular and Remedial Intervention Strategies for Learning Disability (DISE 311, LD), Self learning material for Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education, for Mauritius Institute of Education.

Verma P. (2017) Inclusive Education: Pushing the Bar, chapter in book Inclusive Education: Policy, Practice and Prospects, Authors press, New Delhi, 978-93-5207-122-7, 13-21

Panshikar A. & Imam, N. (2018). Value Education in Multi-Religious Colleges, Ajanta: An International Multidisciplinary Quarterly Research Journal, Vol 7(2), pp.1-7, Ajanta Publication, Aurangabad. ISSN: 2277-5730

## Faculty Participation

### Sujata Bhan:

❖ Member of Scientific committee of 2nd World Conference on Education under the theme, 'Modern Education for the World of Future', at Colombo, Sri Lanka from November 28-29, 2018

❖ Awarded the Best Paper, 'Pedagogy of Inclusive Education' presented at World conference on Education under the theme, 'Innovations in Education in 21st Century', at Colombo, Sri Lanka from October 12-13, 2017



**Preeti Verma :**

❖ Appointed IQAC Coordinator for SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

❖ Invited speaker for RCI sponsored refresher course on Research Methodology conducted by School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Kolkata, West Bengal. (October 2017)

❖ Expert member for workshop on Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs - "identify the children having Specific Learning Disability" conducted by Sara Shiksha Abiyan Tamil Nadu and UNICEF. (2017)

**Apoorva Panshikar :**

❖ Resource person for RCI approved CRE programme 'Social emotional aspects of Learning Disability' on "Developing Social Competence and Self-Esteem" organized by Suvidya center of special education, Mumbai (2018)

❖ Presented a paper on "Developing Language in a Child with Language Impairment" at International Conference on 'Inclusive Education' organized by Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Brotherhood, Mumbai (2018)

## Alumini Allegro

When I approached SNDT Women's University for their Bachelor's program in Special Education at DSE, I expected to learn intensively about the subject and be a good special educator because I had heard that they are the best.

However, today when I look back, I realize that they did not just train me to be a special educator. They have exposed me to world class best teaching practices, and trained me to look at education in a holistic manner.

It's the best place to learn to be the best.

**Shany Abraham** (B.Ed. Spl. Edu., Class of 2016-2018). Special Educator, American School of Bombay.

Pursuing a B.Ed in Special Education was definitely an important requirement for me to hone my skills at teaching pedagogy and gain insight into the different needs and abilities of children with special needs.

Through the course, I also gained practical exposure to various institutes of education, both special and mainstream.

This knowledge and exposure played a major role in my placement as a special educator at Dubai Scholars Private School, as the job profile required skills to differentiate plans, work in collaboration with teachers, and carry out individual remedial sessions with students who have special educational needs.

**Sneha S.** (B.Ed. Spl. Edu., Class of 2015-17). Special Educator, Dubai Scholars Private School.

Sensitively, Nurtured me to, Discover my Talents!

That's what SNDT WU means to me. It was the one place where I became a thorough professional and developed values that catapulted me into success! I believe the seeds of reaching my "calling" were sown during the hours of inspiring sessions by the then faculty of the DSE.

Needless to say that it was a matter of immense pride, that I was studying in a one of its kind Women's University, where it was matter of high prestige to be selected for the B.Ed, Sp.Ed program which was no less than an IIT or an IIM!

And of course winning the "Tejaswini" Title, at the end of that academic year (1994-95), was the cherry on the top that empowered me to believe that I could be that "wonderful woman" who could make a difference to the world! Thank-you SNDT WU.....! Always in Gratitude!

**Manjushree Patil** (B.Ed. Spl. Edu., Class of 1994- 1995), Founder Director of Aatman Academy: A customized learning inclusive school. Advisor Consultant and Training Facilitator with the Dept. of Education, Gov. of Maharashtra. US State Dept. Fellowship Alumni -2017





Courtesy: Volunteers from New Acropolis- Khar

Eco Endeavors: trending 'painted jute bags'



Raksha Bandhan: chocolate capers for the brothers and sisters

Independence Day: freedom in diversity



Umbrella Painting: colorful covers for cloudy showers

Courtesy: Kreative Art lab



## GOD'S Very Own

'A child gives birth to a mother'. Such an evocative statement. It accurately captures my experience, when as a trainee teacher, I first began to work with children with special needs.

As a young girl, new to the field of special education, I was apprehensive and cautious about my choice to work with children with special needs. I loved children but 'will I be able to manage these differently abled little ones', I was not so sure.

The children however had no such qualms. They just opened their arms and embraced and staked their claim on me as their teacher. This unconditional acceptance and trust gave me my first experience of becoming a 'mother'. I am sure many of my colleagues have had the same experience of becoming a 'mother'.

To date, that experience colors my life so strongly that it has drawn me back to my children after a 15 year hiatus. At Arushi our students are our children, the 'angels' of our heart. Guiding them, mentoring them, and facilitating their development in every which way possible is the mission of each and every teacher 'mother' at Arushi.

Working with these angels is a 'life vision'. Watching them grow, blossom and become independent, is an incomparable experience shared by me and my colleagues along with the parents and the DSE staff. In the symphony of life at DSE, we at Arushi have become the pulse.

Pulsating with life and new experiences maintaining the beat at DSE.



**Rekha Sharma**  
Head Teacher, Arushi

## IN THE WORKS @ DSE

### ❖ Smart Moves for Learning (Sept. '18)

Thinking and learning are not all in our head. The body also plays an integral role in our intellectual processes. Register for this workshop and explore this premise with our movement professional Mrs. Minaz Ajani. Come, move and learn.

### ❖ Drama in Education (Nov. '18)

Our resource person, Ms. Alba Quadros has designed this workshop to help teachers to use the medium of drama to achieve a fun and holistic learning process. It focuses on facilitator's skills while conducting a drama session, along with understanding the use and modification of various materials to suit learner needs. We'll be there, what about you?

### ❖ Qualitative Research (Dec.'18)

A six days' workshop on Qualitative Research led by Dr. Rajshri Mahtani, Founder Convenor, Knowledge Whiteboard. Held in two parts of 3 days from 4th - 6th October 2018 & 6th -8th December 2018. The workshop will cover designing a research proposal, collecting data, interpreting and the qualitative analysis of the data. Registrations open in October 2018.

### ❖ International Conference (Jan. '19)

DSE in collaboration with Northampton University, UK announce an International Conference 'Be The Difference; Equality And Equity In Education'. Be prepared for pre-conference workshops, paper presentations and exchange of ideas.

Credits : Betty Abraham