



From the Editor's Desk

Hello Everyone!

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the tenth issue of DSE Symphony. We are elated that we were able to unearth the talents of the students in our efforts to publish this milestone issue. Our editorial team was brimming with enthusiasm as we went about reading and editing articles and collecting information from various sources to give the present shape to Symphony. I hope you all enjoy reading it!

The academic year of 2023-24 is witnessing a dramatic shift in various milestone endeavours undertaken by SNDT Women's University for the implementation of NEP 2020.

The Draft National Curriculum Framework 2023 has been the focus of discussion on many academic platforms. This issue contains scholarly articles around this theme. Dean Humanities, Prof. Medha Tapiawala writes about the spearheading of NEP 2020 implementation at SNDT Women's University under the leadership of our Vice Chancellor Prof. Ujjwala Chakradeo. Associate Dean Interdisciplinary Studies, Prof. Pradnya Wakpanjain gives insights on the NCF. Our alumna Ms Geeta Dalal has discussed the implications of NCF from the lens of special education.

Symphony mirrors the activities of the department in the last six months. Department of Special Education has revamped the curriculum of various courses offered by

focusing on more skill based training, adding value added courses and having MOUs with institutes of repute. Many skill enrichment workshops were conducted for our students by renowned experts locally and internationally. Under an exchange programme with University of Macerata, Italy, we had Dr Eleonora conduct a workshop on *Crispiani Method*. Students were exposed to *Reggio Method* of teaching by Ms Rosin Casey and Ms Shafaq Mirza from Clarion School, Dubai.

DSE takes great pride in the success of its alumnae. They share their expertise and knowledge with the students of their alma mater. Our distinguished alumnae Ms Rakhee Chhabaria enthused the students by sharing with them the art of teaching and Ms Rudri Joshi conducted a wonderful session on making Math learning fun. Ms Suzanne Rodricks conducted an engaging session on Differentiated Instruction. DSE strongly believes in sharing knowledge. All the workshops were well attended not just by our own students, but by students and professionals from other institutes.

DSE was privileged to host a programme along with UNESCO India to create awareness about menstrual hygiene.

Dr Huma Masood, the Gender Specialist, shared videos developed by UNESCO on menstrual education and created awareness about breaking stereotypes.

Collaborations bring about huge change. DSE has announced a value added course in collaboration with St. Xavier's

Institute of Education(Autonomous College, Mumbai) in Diversity and Inclusive Education. This is an advanced certificate course in inclusive education with the objective of preparing general education teachers in addressing diversity in their classrooms thus achieving the objective of inclusive education as envisioned by NEP 2020.

Arushi - The Learning Centre is the pulse of DSE and it has been pulsating with great vigour.

In order to improve the quality of education provided to children with special needs at Arushi an academic audit of Arushi-the Learning Centre was conducted and as per the recommendations of external auditor, Ms Suzanne Rodricks (Vice Principal, Clarion School), the teachers of Arushi underwent a training programme in Disha Curriculum. All the children will be exposed to digital assessment and novel approaches to teaching and digital tracking of their progress.

We are very excited to announce that our students of the pre-vocational unit of Arushi will be undergoing a training in culinary skills from the faculty of Premlila Vithaldas Polytechnic (PVP), SNDTWU. This training will continue for one year which will be followed by setting up of a small self-run café by Arushi Students in the University campus. This will go a long way in preparing our specially abled students in life skills and living a life of independence and dignity.

This project is sponsored by our alumna Ms Athellia Dias who runs an NGO Group Home and Respite Association (GHARA), Australia. We convey our deep gratitude to

All the teachers at Arushi are constantly evolving themselves to meet the challenges they face on a daily basis in providing outcome based learning experiences to the children. I applaud their effort in conducting various curricular and extra-curricular activities all through the year.

I wish to thank Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SNDTWU for encouraging and endorsing our efforts towards the growth of the Department. I also thank my team for their support and cooperation in taking DSE to greater heights. And most importantly our students who help us give shape to our vision.

We are relentlessly striving for excellence. Do share any feedback or ideas to dsesndtwuevents2@gmail.com

Prof. Sujata Bhan
Head
Department of Special Education
SNDT Women's University



In This Issue

DSE Folk

- ❖ Prof. Medha Tapiawala
- ❖ Prof. Pradnya Wakpajnan
- ❖ Ms Geeta Dalal

DSE Beats

- ❖ Publications & Participation
- ❖ DSE Events
- ❖ Alumnae Allegro

DSE Pulse

- ❖ Arushi Events
- ❖ Nurturing Exceptional Learners- Evolution @Arushi-The Learning Centre

In The Works

- ❖ Certificate Programme in Shadow Teaching - 8th batch
- ❖ Alumnae Allegro Live Series of Workshops
- ❖ CRE Programme

Transforming Demographic Dividend with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

As of 2023, India ranks 14th in the list of most powerful countries. This ranking is based on various factors, including economic conditions, strong international alliances, and military strength. India ranks 5th in the world GDP. However, in educational ranking India scored very poorly. In 2009 when India participated in a Program for International Students' Assessment (PISA), the rank was 73rd out of 75 countries; whereas in higher education, the top ranked educational institution like IIT Bombay was ranked 149th in the world.

In spite of this, many from the creamy population of students migrated abroad and are holding some of the best jobs in international businesses, which gives a ray of hope, that Indian education is still good. However, internally there is a dearth of skilled population because there is hardly any connect developed between employability and present educational system. The policies developed for Indian education since independence have lost their effectiveness due to its inability to tap the dynamic changes occurring in the world.

The first education policy was implemented in 1968, next in 1986 and then in 2002. The rapid change in spread of IT and service sector, since 1992, has resulted in the demand for different skill sectors than those currently existing. The speed of change in the corporate/ service/ agricultural sector was not appropriately recognized by the educational sector. India being a country with the largest demographics

dividend, was unable to utilise it, to the best of its abilities. Hence, under the leadership of Dr Kasturirangan, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) was launched. The policy is framed to take care of all the requirements of transforming education to 'student centric, skill centric along with a scope to know indigeneity of Indian knowledge in every sector'.

Though the policy is with fabulous vision and apt objectives, execution of the policy for the entire nation is a challenging task. In Maharashtra, NEP is implemented for all PG courses, and autonomous colleges of all 12 state universities and for UG courses, it will be implemented from the next academic year i.e., 2024-25.

At SNDT Women's University (SNDTWU), the preparations to start the phased implementation of NEP, as per the government directives, for all courses were completed in May 2023. The process of preparation was exciting and challenging, especially the process of attempting to understand the multidisciplinary nature of different programs, or of identifying the bridge courses needed to meet the multiple entry exit criteria. As of now, more than 80% Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) accounts have been opened for credit accumulation which will allow students to have credit-based choices for selection of subjects.

In many subjects, a lot of new courses for minor electives and Indian knowledge systems have been developed by each board of study. This has helped every subject teacher to develop different sub branches focusing on their niche area of expertise. On the other hand, it has also widened the choice of subjects for students. Now, we are set to face the potential challenges we may encounter during NEP implementation,

as there will surely be teething troubles in it. Lot of efforts are to be taken for developing pedagogy within the limited resources available. A big challenge faced by state universities is to bring students to the classrooms as there are options of glamorous private universities, foreign universities and online programmes.

Nevertheless, SNDTWU is all set to lay the foundation of quality/skilled /modern education by reforming the existing educational programs.

Prof. Medha Tapiawala
Dean
Faculty of Humanities
SNDT Women's University



National Curriculum Framework: Guiding the Future of Education

Education is the most important instrument of social change, however it is important to review the education system from time to time, to address the needs of the changing society. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is the foundation of curriculum development that depicts the roadmap of the education system from structures to the processes of education. Curriculum refers to the organisation of any experience in the institution, to achieve the educational goals. The NCF provides the guiding principles, goals, objectives and elements of the curriculum. It is expected that these principles are reflected through the syllabi, textbooks, teaching learning materials such as play material, workbooks/worksheets, and pedagogies along with the varied methods of assessments. The robust education system

of assessments. The robust education system created by the country is reflected in the curriculum framework. The vision of the country aligned with the national aims of education, leads to portray the future of the country. It is imperative for all the stakeholders to carefully study the curriculum framework. The NCF leads the state curriculum framework, thereby providing the flexibility based on the local needs. If the curriculum is based on the social realities and creates spaces for inclusion, then it develops a harmonious society thereby being more realistic and representative in nature. The young minds are nourished through the interactions with all members of the community, from parents, to teachers, to fellow students, and community members.

The NCF includes four sections, the NCF for early childhood education, NCF for school education, NCF for teacher education and NCF for adult education. So far, the curriculum for the ten-year school- A framework 1975, National Curriculum for Elementary and Secondary Education 1988, NCF for Secondary Education, NCF 2005 guided education systems in India. A Curriculum Framework is a systematic plan that defines the overall goals, plans, arrangements, and practices that shape the experiences of students in our country. This plan focuses on the following aspects in detail to formulate required policies.

Description of areas of learning - It details out the number of languages, subjects, vocational skills, attitudes, values, sports, arts, etc.

Standards for learning – This explains about the learning outcomes, the way they are defined and ensures the strategy for its accomplishment. Standards for content - It is the most crucial component that decides the

matter that a student is supposed to learn and will be able to do. The careful selection and inclusion of comprehensive content will surely widen the horizons of thinking.

Teaching Learning Material – The textbooks are means and are considered as core material that has instrumental value. Besides this, supplementary learning material for various subjects receives the inputs from the NCF.

Classroom transactions - If the processes of curriculum transactions are missed out then, curriculum designing does not suffice the goal of development of an individual and the society at large. This aspect emphasises on the process of students learning and teachers teaching with use of technology, art and sports, projects and activities etc.

Evaluation/assessment - This elaborates the extent of the learners' learning and the various assessment tools.

In short, the curriculum framework is the blueprint that carries the future of the country. This demands the NCF to be very strong and flexible to create a great society with refined human beings.

Prof. Pradnya Wakpainjan
Associate Dean
Interdisciplinary Faculty
Department of Education
SNDT Women's University



National Curriculum Framework: A Practical Guide

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) has been a boon for special educators in providing clear cut instruction on what are the expected learning outcomes at every stage of development and at the end of every academic

year. All the 5 domains of development are interwoven and each of those carry utmost importance. The 1st developmental stage of 3 to 8 years is extremely crucial for every child.

The physical and motor development domain may see its own challenges specially for some children with cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular disorders. The development of the cognitive domain may be a tough one to achieve for children with intellectual challenges. Children with speech, hearing, reading and writing difficulties may find it a struggle to achieve development in the language and literacy domain. The socio-emotional domain of development may be a formidable domain to progress in for children on the spectrum. The cultural and artistic domain may prove to be a difficult terrain to be crossed by any child.

It is the moral responsibility of the special educator to get into the 'HOW' of developing each domain, and to use various individualized custom strategies based on their students' strengths. Each child has their own talent- that is waiting to be recognised and tapped. To teach any concept, a positive attitude of the teacher and learner is crucial along with building a rapport as the child may have gone into a shutdown mode through the fight, flight or freeze modes. Knowledge and application of the Howard Gardener's Theory of Multiple Intelligence supports the teaching learning process.

The 'Play Methods', emphasized in the NCF, like clapping, tapping, jumping, giving a beat on musical instruments etc. can be used to develop the language and speech domain. Using strategies like paired reading and customised Rebus books, enhances reading development. Being able to read words one at a time brings a smile on previously struggling

students' faces. The use of the 'I do, We do, and You do' approach has shown promising results in achieving independent reading capabilities, one of the prime aims of any special educator.

The NCF (4th block) focuses on writing, and as reading is progressing, simultaneously gross and fine motor skills are also being developed through various games and activities. Development through art and craft, doodling, double doodling using the developmentally appropriate tools is worked on along with music (listening as well as playing musical instruments), movement (increasing the level of difficulty - through games). These activities help students develop their prewriting skills including an appropriate tripod grip which makes it easier to write.

NCF also talks about differentiated teaching that is beneficial for all learners, those who are 'neurotypical' and 'neurodivergent'. It is important to understand what Ignacio Estrada wrote ages ago, "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." If we are teaching in a differentiated manner, differentiated assessment is also necessary. Albert Einstein wrote, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

The pedagogy proposed in the NCF stresses on all-round development across all five domains. Every educator following these guidelines will create a harmonious and stress-free educational environment and joyful growth.

Ms Geeta Dalal
Clinical Psychologist
Special Educator
Head, SEN Department
JBCN, Borivili



FACULTY PUBLICATION

Prof. Sujata Bhan

❖ Ewe L., Dalton E., Bhan S., Gronseth S., and Gabriella Dahlberg G. (2023) 'Inclusive Education and UDL Professional Development for Teachers in Sweden and India', Chapter in *Developing Inclusive Environments in Education: Global Practices and Curricula*, published by IGI Global, ISSN: 2326-8905; eISSN: 2326-8913

❖ Chandorkar M., Bhan S. (2023) 'Inclusive Practices at the Orchid School-A Case Study', chapter in the book *Inclusive Collaborative Practices in Inclusive Settings: Practitioners' Perception*, published by Satish Kapoor, N Delhi, ISBN 978-93-5913-554-0

❖ Bhan S. (2023). Book review, '*Comprehensive Textbook on Disability*'. DCID, Sep. 1 [cited 2023 Sep. 2];34(1):108-10

Available from:

<https://dcidj.uog.edu.et/index.php/up-j-dcbrid/article/view/713>, ISSN: 2211-5242

❖ Bhan S. (2023) Book review, '*Envisioning a New Mental Health Ecology: Grounds for Discontent and Emergent Possibilities*', published by Routledge India, Taylor & Francis Group.

Dr Apoorva Panshikar

❖ Bhan, S. & Panshikar, A. (August 2023). School Readiness for Inclusive Education in Tripura, India. *Disability, CBR & Inclusive Development*. Vol. 34 (1). 44-61. DOI 10.47985/dcjdj.684

❖ Bhan, S. & Panshikar, A. (June 2023). Training in UDL for Teacher Educators in Developing Countries in Koreeda, K., Tsuge, M.; Ikuta, S.; Dalton, E. M.; & Ewe, L.P. (Eds.). *Developing Inclusive Environments in Education: Global Practices and Curricula*. IGI Global, PA, USA. ISBN 9798369306642 (hardcover) | ISBN 9798369306659 (paperback) | ISBN 9798369306666 (ebook)

❖ Panshikar, A. (April 2023). Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Individualised Education Plan (IEP) and Remedial Teaching for Facilitating Learners' Diversity in Tania Gupta, Anju Rani, Rekha Kaushal (Eds). *Inclusive Education: Policies & Practices*. EZ Education. ISBN-978-93-91654-09-2

Ms Yukti Gupta

❖ Gupta, Y. & Panshikar, A. (2023). A Study of the Relationship Between Stress and Mindfulness Among Teacher Trainees,

International Journal of Indian Psychology, 11(2), 411-418. DIP:18.01.042.20231102, DOI:10.25215/1102.042

❖ Gupta Y. (2023). Assistive and Adaptive Technology for Diverse Learners for Inclusion, Inclusive Education: Policies & Practices, Ed. Gupta T., Rani A. & Kaushal R., Pub. EZ Education, April, Pg 203-221, ISBN: 978-93-91654-09-2

Ms Betty Abraham

❖ Abraham B. (April 2023) Classroom Management: A Key Teacher Competency for Inclusion, Know X(for) Educate: Disorder and Pedagogical Complexity. (Les Observateurs), Ed. Sara Pelligrini, Editore Itard, 32-37, ISBN 979-12-80945-22-8, (ebook)

FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Prof. Sujata Bhan

❖ Attended Master Trainer Programme under two themes of NEP 2020; 'Internationalisation of Higher Education' and 'Student Diversity and Inclusion', organised by UGC for selected mentors for training teachers in higher education (August 28-September 5, 2023)

❖ Invited as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker by Indian Association of Life Skills Education in their Teachers' Day Webinar on the theme, 'Include the Excluded' (September 6, 2023)

❖ Invited as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker in a National capacity building programme organized by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disability, sponsored by RCI, on the theme, 'Inclusive Teaching Practices for Children With Diverse Learning Needs', (September 4, 2023)

❖ Invited speaker to present on, 'Structure of Inclusive Education: NEP 2020', in the National Conference on the theme NEP 2020: the Realm of Special Education, organized by Manovikas College of Special Education, Ujjain sponsored by Rehabilitation Council of India (July 7-8, 2023)

❖ Invited speaker to present on, 'Transforming a Vision into a Reality in Higher Education', in the National Conference on the theme Current Status and the Future Roadmap for the Implementation of NEP 2020 for equitable and Inclusive Education, organized by PNR Society, Bhavnagar (June 12-13, 2023)

❖ Invited as the Chief Guest to present the valedictory session on 'Envisioning Inclusion: Problems to Possibilities', in a Five-Day FDP on the theme, Initiates for providing an Inclusive Environment in Educational Institutions, organized by K. R Mangalam University, Gurugram (May 28, 2023).

❖ Invited speaker to present on, 'ITEP: Issues and Challenges for HEIs for Special Education', at the 02 days National Workshop on "Capacity building of training institutes and HRD in disability field in the context of National Education Policy: 2020" at Jabalpur, organized by Rehabilitation Council of India (May 16-17, 2023)

❖ Invited speaker to present on 'Special Education for Children with Autism', at ICAN-International Conference for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, organized by Autism Connect at Dubai (April 28-30, 2023)

❖ Chaired the symposium on 'Community support for Autism' in the international conference organized by Autism Connect, at Dubai (April 30, 2023)

❖ Invited speaker to present on 'Early Childhood Care Education and Inclusive Education through the Lens of NEP 2022' at the National seminar on NEP2020: Early Childhood Interventions and Inclusive Education organized by Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow (April 24-25, 2023)

Dr Apoorva Panshikar

❖ Resource person for National level Continuing Rehabilitation Education programme 'Inclusive teaching Practices for Children with Diverse Learning Needs' on "Differentiated Instruction for Inclusive Classroom" organised by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disability (Regional Center), Navi Mumbai (September 5, 2023)

❖ Invited speaker for National Conference "NEP 2020: Realm of Special Education" on 'Assessment and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Class' organised by Manovikas College of Special Education, Ujjain (July 7 -8, 2023)

❖ Panelist for virtual panel discussion on "Early Screening and Intervention" organised by Orkids Foundation in collaboration with Education & Digital Transformation Working Group in the context of G20 Presidency and its Official Engagement Group, Civil20 (June 6, 2023)

❖ Panelist for panel discussion for Faculty Development Programme 'Initiatives for Providing an Inclusive Environment in Educational Institutions' on 'Voices from the Field on Inclusion' organised by School of Education, K. R. Mangalam University, Delhi-NCR. (May 26, 2023).

❖ Attended IGNOU expert committee

meeting to prepare course design of B.Ed. (Special Education) ODL Programme (July 13-14, 2023)

❖ Attended RCI expert committee meeting and working group to update the Certificate and Diploma level curricula RCI at Delhi (23 – 24 May, 2023)

❖ Participated in a national workshop webinar 'Social Emotional Toolkit' organised by Hashu Advani College of Education (May 4, 2023)

Ms Yukti Gupta

❖ Invited as a Resource Person to deliver a session on 'Effective Classroom Management Strategies' organized by Educotrain (August 5, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource Person to deliver a session on Functional Assessment and Inclusion of CwVI, National Conference (CRE) on NEP 2020: Realm of Special Education, Manovikas College of Special Education, Ujjain (July 7-8, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource Person to deliver a session on Inclusion, Capacity Building of Teachers, Muskan Foundation, Mumbai (June 5, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource Person to conduct a workshop on Braille and Assistive Devices, Hashu Advani College of Special Education, Affiliated to Mumbai University, Mumbai, (March 21, 2023)

❖ Attended a workshop on Innovative Teaching and Learning Strategies organized by SNTD Women's University (An IQAC Activity) on August 2, 2023

❖ Attended a workshop on Authentic Movement organized by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai & Kolkata Samved, June 24, 2023

❖ Attended 2-Hour National Webinar on Curricular Framework for Cross Disability Early Intervention and School Readiness organized by Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, April 26, 2023

❖ Attended 2-Hour Webinar on World Autism Awareness Day - A collective Approach to Inclusion of People on the Autism Spectrum organized by Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, April 2, 2023.

Ms Betty Abraham

❖ Resource person for 'Ask Me Anything' (AMA) Webinar Series for Classroom Teachers on 'Classroom Management' organised by Sped@home, Mumbai (June 21, 2023)

❖ Resource person for National level Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programme 'Strategies for Sensorimotor Development in Young Children with Special Needs' on "Moving to Learn" organised by Dilkhush Teachers' Training Centre, Mumbai (June 10, 2023)

❖ Resource Person for in-house training program on 'Handwriting Without Tears', organised by Muskan Foundation, Mumbai (June 8, 2023)

❖ Attended a national workshop webinar 'Social Emotional Toolkit' organised by Hashu Advani College of Education (May 4, 2023)

Ms Hemali Gada

❖ Invited as a Resource person and conducted a session on ADHD: characteristics and intervention strategies for shadow teaching course organised by Nirmala institute of Education in collaboration with ADIRA: Center for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (June 2, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource person and conducted a session on SLD and Assessment Tools organised by Dilkhush Special School (June 12, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource person and conducted a session on Lesson planning for shadow teaching course organised by Nirmala institute of Education in collaboration with ADIRA: Center for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (July 15, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource person and conducted a session on Concept, Meaning and Scope of shadow teaching organised by Department of Special Education, Sndt Women's University (June 24, 2023)

❖ Invited as a Resource person and conducted a session on Study skill strategies for shadow teaching course organised by Nirmala institute of Education in collaboration with ADIRA: Center for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (August 4, 2023)

Ms Hetal Waghela

❖ Participated in a Faculty Development Programme 'Social Emotional Toolkit' organised by Hashu Advani College of Special Education (May 4, 2023)

Ms Forum Chhadva

❖ Attended an Interactive meeting of National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) organized by Gov. of Maharashtra, Department of Higher and Technical Educational, University,

Mumbai and HSNV University, Mumbai (June 2, 2023)

❖ Panelist for discussion with Dr. Nipun Vinayak IAS, Executive Director of MSFDA 'Areas of capacity building for the teacher community and the role of teacher educators and student teachers'. (June 7, 2023)

Alumnae Allegro

Over the years.....

2013-2015 was a turning point in my life,
Completed M.Ed. in Spl. Ed. came as a surprise.
That time it was just a degree,
Not thinking about today's reality.
Teaching through graphic organisers and flow charts,
Making a place in my students' hearts.
Working on social skills,
Used to give me thrills.
Adapting a chapter,
Helped me in teaching my students even faster.
Goals, objectives and IEP plans,
Made me shiver under the fan.
Year passed growing step by step,
Creating my career web.
Writing today, thinking down the memory lane,
I don't think my efforts have gone in vain !

- Hemali Gada
M.Ed. in Special Education
(Learning Disability 2014 - 2015)

In the World of Education

There are few paths as transformative as the journey of pursuing a Bachelor of Education in Special Education at SNDT Women's University. This unique educational voyage provides both skills to support diverse learners and foster personal and professional growth. The path to success in B.Ed. Special Education doesn't end with a degree. It's a lifelong commitment to learning, growth, and making a difference. I continue to adapt teaching methods, stay current with research and best practices, and advocate for positive change in the field of special education.

The B.Ed Special Education Program at DSE SNDTWU intertwined knowledge, empathy, advocacy and the joy of witnessing the

transformational power of education. It has sculpted me as an educator; and a champion of inclusivity and agent of change. A career in special education is rousing. It requires patience, empathy, adaptability, and a strong commitment to empower students with diverse needs. This career is both demanding and deeply rewarding as I positively impact my students lives.

- Amruta Lagad
B.Ed in Special Education
(intellectual Disability 2015-2017)

**"Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today."**

My beautiful journey of becoming a Special Educator commenced in the year 2020, when I gained admission to the Department of Special Education at SNDT Women's University. During this phase COVID-19 was at its peak resulting in a shift to online lectures. Despite this change we never faced any difficulties in understanding the concepts being taught and all credit goes to our professors who were always patient and supportive. They have molded us in such a way that today we are capable of facing any situation.

The Department of Special Education, helped me to become a better version of myself. I learned to critically think about everything which has helped me to be more confident about myself.

- Mansi Chhadva
B.Ed. in Special Education
(Learning Disability, 2020 - 2022)

Announcement

SNDT Women's University, Department of Special Education in collaboration with St. Xavier's Institute of Education, Autonomous. is offering an
Advanced Certificate Course (2 Credits) in

"Inclusion and Inclusive Practices"

This course will take place via hybrid mode and it is open for students, parents and in service teachers.

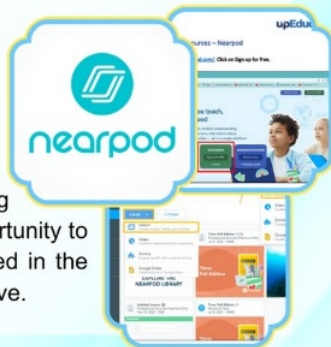
Alumnae Allegro Live Workshop 6 : 'Art Of Teaching'



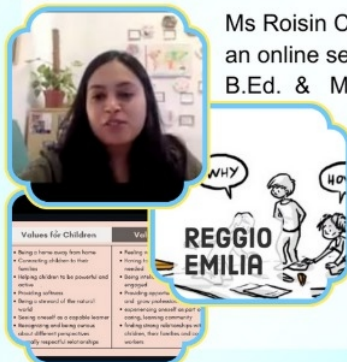
On March 18, 2023, the teacher trainees attended an enriching workshop on the 'Art of Teaching'. This workshop was conducted by Ms Rakhee Chhabria, Founder, Teachers Help Teachers, an online community of educators. The event highlighted the importance of students' active engagement in the learning process. A vibrant discussion ensued on the topic of interactive and innovative teaching strategies/methods to enhance the learning process. The inspiring and collaborative environment equipped the teacher trainees with a deeper understanding on how to be an effective and efficient teacher.

Nearpod - Interactive and Immersive Platform

Nearpod is an interactive teacher-student learning platform that makes learning more engaging and interactive. On May 16, 2023, a workshop on Nearpod was led by Ms Sonam Chavan via online mode. This workshop introduced the teacher trainees to the various features of Nearpod and how to access them. An informative workshop, supported and encouraged the teacher trainees' creativity in implementing various teaching strategies. The teacher trainees got an opportunity to experience how online learning platforms can be incorporated in the classroom, to make their lessons more engaging and interactive.



"Environment as the third teacher"- Reggio Method



Ms Roisin Casey and Ms Shafaq Mirza, Clarion School, Dubai conducted an online session on May 17, 2023. The session was attended by the B.Ed. & M.Ed. teacher trainees, teachers of Arushi - The Learning Centre, and the faculty of DSE. Ms Rosin and Ms Shafaq spoke about how the classroom environment can influence and support learning. The participants were taken on a virtual walkabout of a classroom to gain an understanding of how various materials can be set up in the classroom to enhance learning. The session emphasized on student centered learning, creativity and collaboration using the Reggio Method.

NeuroActivation Training for Neurodevelopmental Disorder - Crispiani Method



It was an honor to host a workshop on 'NeuroActivation Training for Neurodevelopmental Disorders - Crispiani Method' on June 20, 2023. The resource person for the workshop was the zealous Dr Eleonora Palmieri and her associates Dr Antonella Pacilio and Dr Gaia Fraticelli. The Crispiani Method adopts a dynamic approach to enhance reading and spelling skills

using a combination of whole word reading with rapid coordinated movements. Dr Eleonora Palmieri and her associates demonstrated the various exercises providing an insight to how the method works. The action and movement packed workshop left everyone invigorated and excited about implementing the Crispiani method in their own classrooms/schools.

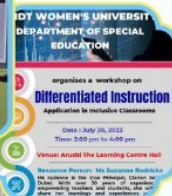


UNESCO 'Spotlight Red : Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management

'Spotlight Red: Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management', was an initiative by UNESCO in partnership with P&G. The outcome of this initiative was the development of 5 teaching-learning modules on the thematic areas of disabilities, gender, teachers and educators, young adults and nutrition. The objective of this initiative was to ensure that no girl is left behind in her quest for education. This seminar conducted on July 1, 2023, was graced by the presence of Honorable Pro VC, SNDTWU, Prof. Ruby Ojha; Prof. Sujata Bhan, Head, DSE, SNDTWU; Dr Huma Masood, Gender Specialist, UNESCO; and Ms Richa Bakshi HR, Procter & Gamble.



Differentiated Instruction: Application in Inclusive Classrooms



The workshop on 'Differentiated Instruction: Application in Inclusive Classrooms', was conducted by Ms Suzanne Rodricks. The engaging workshop, captivated educators with hands-on activities and fostered enthusiastic participation from all present. Various differentiated teaching strategies catering to diverse learning styles within a classroom were introduced. The day of July 20, 2023, saw the emergence of approximately 50 empowered educators bursting at the seams to initiate inclusive classrooms where they nurture every student's unique ability and learning styles.

Educational Trip - Om Abode

Om Abode, a brainchild of Om Creation Trust, is a social innovation institution complex for individuals with special needs, situated in Karjat. The teacher trainees and faculty members of DSE embarked on an educational trip, to this lush and scenic institute on July 16, 2023. The complex, a magnificent space that holds workshops for all its vocational training activities consisting of visual arts, ceramics, carpentry, culinary and baking, information technology and laundry dazzled everyone. Apart from vocational training, Om Abode also provides residential, recreational, wellness and therapy services. This social innovation institute is revolutionizing many young adults' lives by empowering them with life skills that will make them confident and self-reliant.



Disha Abhiyan Training



It was an exciting learning opportunity for the B.Ed. & M.Ed. teacher trainees, teachers of Arushi - The Learning Centre and the DSE Faculty members when DSE organised a training on the 'Disha Curriculum and Portal' under the 'Disha Abhiyan initiative by Jai Vakeel Foundation & Research Centre. Sept 1 & 2, 2023, dawned with DSE and Arushi - The Learning Centre hosting Ms Shubhangi Desai, Ms Deepti Malik Gubbi, Ms Akanksha Rajgulari and Mr Anand Sapate from Jai Vakeel Foundation. The training program provided the participants with an overview of the Disha curriculum and portal. The trainers provided an opportunity to get hands-on experience in conducting the basic assessment to identify the potential goals along with planning and uploading IEPs for students with Intellectual Disabilities in the Disha Portal.

Alumnae Allegro Live Workshop 7: Strategies For Problem Solving in Mathematics

The 7th installment of the Alumnae Allegro Live workshop series welcomed Alumna Ms Rudri Joshi, Math Coordinator, Gateway School of Mumbai, to conduct a workshop titled 'Strategies For Problem Solving In Mathematics'. Organised on September 4, 2023, the workshop offered the participants the opportunity to experientially learn about the various strategies that can be used to support problem solving skills both in an inclusive classroom, or in an individual session. The workshop empowered the trainees to approach mathematical problem solving with confidence and creativity.



Inauguration of Computer Room

April 10, 2023



Father's Day Celebration

June 16, 2023



DSE PULSE



International Yoga Day

June 21, 2023



Bakri -Eid Celebration

June 28, 2023



Friendship Day Celebration August 7, 2023



Raksha Bandhan Celebration August 28, 2023



Independence Day Celebration August 14, 2023



Millet Workshop with PVP August 29, 2023



Teachers Day Celebration September 5, 2023



Janmashtami Celebration
September 6, 2023



Nutrimahotsav - Millet Exhibition at PVP
September 14, 2023



Fabric Painting Workshop
September 26, 2023



Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration
September 27, 2023



Nurturing Exceptional Learners - Evolution @ Arushi – The Learning Center

Arushi – The Learning Centre has always held the interest of its students at the center of its universe. With changing times there was a realization that we at Arushi can do better for our students, therein began our exploration of 'How can we make Arushi better?'

We began where all changes should logically begin at the concrete level, the physical space. Classrooms were transformed with the use of soothing colours, open spaces, dynamic seating and designated spaces to show off students' work.

Then we moved on to the structure and curriculum transformation. This process began with an academic audit conducted by Ms Suzanne Rodricks, Vice Principal, Clarion School, Dubai. Changes were incorporated into the pedagogy and materials used in the classroom. We now use the classroom environment as the 'third teacher'.

Theme based learning became the skeleton of the potential evolving structure. Creating connections between real life situations, curricular content and classroom activities. Naturalistic opportunities, for explicit and implicit learning to occur were created in each and every classroom.

The next step was to get ourselves trained under the Disha Abhiyan Initiative by Jai Vakeel Foundation to use the Disha curriculum and portal to plan, develop IEPs and track progress ergonomically. The Arushi teachers are moving full speed ahead in conducting the assessment and developing the IEP for their own students thus further enhancing our curricular transformation.

With our internal structures falling into place we decided to look outward to build our support systems. We reached out to various departments in the university to bridge skill and expertise gaps in non academic areas. This resulted in collaborations with the Textile Department, Painting and Drawing Department and Food Science Department. As an outcome of these collaborations Arushi students are now being trained in skills like Stencil Painting, Tie and Dye and Baking Cookies etc.

We have added to the developments by implementing a Computer Literacy Program for all Arushi students. Depending on the capabilities, the students are taught basic computer skills to create digital media using online apps.

Needless to say, recharged and enthused, we the teachers and students of Arushi are

fully charged and trodding diligently on the path to excellence.

Ms Betty Abraham, Assistant. Professor, DSE
Ms Schenelle D'mello, B.Ed. Special Education
(Learning Disability, 2023)

IN THE WORKS @DSE

❖ Certificate Programme in Shadow Teaching - Batch 8

Commencing tentatively in November 2023, the 8th batch of the 3-month Certificate Course in Shadow Teaching will cater to developing participants knowledge of diversities, understanding of the concept of inclusion and mould them into competent shadow teachers. The weekend lectures will be held under the able guidance of expert faculty from the department and other institutions. The course is run in the blended mode.

❖ Alumnae Allegro Live Series of Workshops

Continuing with the AAL workshops series led by our 'Star Alumnae', we have one lined up every month on topics like NIOS, Handling Giftedness, Myths of Reading etc. The next upcoming workshop will be held in November 2023. Keep a lookout for the flyers.

❖ CRE Programme

DSE, SNTDWU will be conducting a CRE programme in the month of January 2024. Topic is yet to be finalised.

Introducing the Editorial Team AY 2023-25

Chief Editor: Prof. Sujata Bhan, Head

Associate Editor: Ms Betty Abraham, Asst. Prof

Student Editors :

Ms Heeta Panchasara, B.Ed. Spl. Ed.

Ms Schenelle D'mello, B.Ed. Spl. Ed.

Ms Fatema Malkapurwala, B.Ed. Spl. Ed.

Design & Illustration: Ms Betty Abraham,

Ms Heeta Panchasara

Proofreaders: Ms Yukti Gupta, Asst. Prof.

Ms Tanushree Yadav, B.Ed. Spl. Ed.

Ms Rukaiya Patel, B.Ed. Spl. Ed.

Student Mentor: Ms Shruti Shah, B.Ed. Spl. Ed.