

From the Editor's Desk

Namaskar to all the readers of Symphony. Your support means a lot to us. The past six months have been very significant for DSE. We hosted three big events. The International Conference in collaboration with CMTAI saw the amalgamation of renowned Dance Movement Therapists from different countries giving an extraordinary flair to this conference. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SNDTWU, Prof. Ujwala Chakradeo who participated in the rhythmic inaugural ceremony. 100 participants from across the country learnt about alternative therapies using dance, art, drumming and many other forms for enhancing the potential of children with special needs.

DSE was honoured to host the Chairperson of National Commission for Women, Ms Rekha Sharma in the two day workshop sponsored by NCW on the theme, 'Rights of the Differently Abled Women'. Distinguished human rights activists, gender activists, feminists and advocates for women with disabilities from different parts of the country were invited to address pertinent issues related to the women in general and particularly concerning those with special needs. It was an enlightening two day event that left the participants with a lot of thoughts to reflect upon.

DSE is committed to the continuous professional development of faculty and in this endeavour, we were supported by Rehabilitation Council of India, a statutory body of government of India, to conduct a six day faculty development programme on 'Excellence in Education' with a focus on research. It was our privilege to have Prof. Richard Rose, Professor Emeritus,

University of Northampton, UK, to conduct a two day session on qualitative research. More than 50 participants came from different parts of the country to learn from various prominent research experts. A special mention of Prof. Sansanwal, former Professor and Dean Education, Devi Ahilyabai University, Indore, would be appropriate to acknowledge his skill in making research enjoyable and simple, over two days of training. My sincere gratitude to all the eminent resource persons from Mumbai and other parts of the country to make this FDP a memorable experience for all. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Ruby Ojha and Dean Humanities, Dr Medha Tapiawala graced the valedictory ceremony and were delighted to hear the observations made by the participating members of the FDP.

It was a great honour for DSE when Shri. V. C. Rastogi (IAS), Principal Secretary Higher and Technical Education, visited our department. He was very happy to see the work being done in the department in terms of preparing the teacher workforce for inclusive and special education, community outreach programmes and research work. Same sentiments were communicated by the visiting team for our academic audit. It was a moment of great delight for everyone at DSE to be appreciated for the sincere and perseverant efforts put in by one and all to achieve excellence in every aspect of teacher education.

The students of DSE are our front runners for all the events hosted at the department. It is only with their unflinching support that we are able to achieve different milestones. Our alumnae contribute a lot in enriching our present students through various skill trainings organized for them under the workshop series 'Alumnae Allegro Live'. The kind of learnings provided to the

students of DSE help them develop beyond the prescribed curriculum and that is why we had hundred percent success in the campus placement organized recently in the department. Students are picked by the best institutes in the city as well as in Dubai and Pune. The feedback given by Principals from recruiting schools is very reassuring for the students as well as the faculty of DSE.

Symphony is incomplete without the mention of our children in Arushi. They are the heart of the department. Arushi children participated and won accolades : one gold medal in Flat Race (50 mts), one silver medal in Going Shopping and two bronze medals in Flat Race (50 & 100 mts). We are full of gratitude to share that a well known IT company, 'CMS Info Systems Pvt. Ltd.' supported us through their CSR and are helping us to set up a computer lab and also upgrade the therapy room for Arushi children. This will enable us to help more children and provide them with better skills to become independent in their adult life.

The Department of Special Education remains committed to the legacy of our founders to reach out to the underprivileged, to instill in our students the basic human values of sensitivity and empathy and prepare them to be professionals par excellence.

The students are fortunate to get an opportunity to work together with the faculty to showcase our flagship department of the university before the forthcoming visiting peer team of NAAC. For more news on this, watch out for the space in our next edition. Till then cheers from DSE.

Prof. Sujata Bhan

Head

Department of Special Education

SNDT Women's University



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DSE FOLK

Changing Educational Landscape For The Visually Impaired

Organised efforts to provide education to children and youth with visual impairment began in the last two decades of the 19th century. About four schools were set up in different parts of India by missionaries. Before 1947, there were about 32 such schools where reading, writing and arithmetic were taught in addition to music and craft. But much progress could not be made due to non-availability of Standard Braille Code for Indian languages.

After the adoption of Bharathiya Braille Code for Indian languages in 1950, the number of special schools for the visually impaired increased substantially. This however was largely in the voluntary sector. In 1974 the first official scheme for

integration of children with visual impairment into mainstream schools came into practice. This scheme was implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and was called 'Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)'. This scheme could not gain desired momentum due to several reasons one of which was lack of adequate number of trained teachers and non-availability of accessible reading material and special equipment.

In 1990s after the adoption of Salamanca Framework for Education, the Govt. of India took several initiatives to promote education of the visually impaired and other disabled children. These included introducing B.Ed. Special Education programme in various universities, in selected Universities M.Ed. Special Education to prepare teacher educators and paying attention towards formulating need based schemes for enhancing the production of accessible reading material and special equipment.

With the advent of screen reading software technology, it became very convenient for the persons with visual impairment to access printed material and also to use computers for accessing written material and communication etc. The passage of PWD Act in 1995, RCI act in 1992, National Trust Act in 1999, and NHFDC sometime around that period and scheme for increasing Braille material and so on gave a boost to the educational facilities for students with Visual Impairment.

All the foregoing thought, helped significantly for the expansion of educational services for these students yet many more initiatives needed to be introduced. These include : formulation and launch of a scheme for orienting university and college teachers about the needs of students with disabilities, setting up of disability units, aimed at facilitating the higher education for these students, in universities and colleges promoting teaching subjects which are, hitherto considered difficult for these students such as mathematics and science and so

on. Apart from this providing financial support to the universities and colleges on regular basis to facilitate the education of these students is of paramount importance.

Incorporating need based component of special education in the curriculum at all levels of teacher preparation is very critical so as to realise the goals of NEP 2020. More universities should be encouraged to begin teacher education programme in the field of disability education. Expansion of the scope of the scheme of providing need-based equipment to the visually impaired for ensuring availability of need based technology to these students at all levels at subsidised cost is another such measure which needs to be undertaken by the Government.

Providing skill-based training as per the needs and potential of these students to promote employment opportunities is very important. For this purpose, vocational training programmes based on Public Private Partnership model need to be developed and launched in a mission mode. The scheme of reservation in employment needs to be strictly implemented and monitored.

With the implementation of the foregoing suggestions, it can be expected that the scenario of the education of students with VI at all levels would witness positive change and increased educational and employment opportunities would be made available.



Prof. S. R. Mittal
CIE, University of Delhi

Excellence in Higher Education

At present, quality of higher education in India is very poor. It has been expressed by different people. It is also evident from

the fact that different national policies in education, including higher education, have been made but not a single policy of education has been implemented as proposed. Due to this, it not possible to know whether the proposed education policy on higher education was useful. Higher education must be viewed as a system. Different components of higher education system are input, process, output and feedback. University Grants Commission has proposed many changes for improving the input to higher education. For the first time, the students were selected through a test conducted by NTA. Prior to this IIT, IIM, IISc, IIFT, etc. admitted students on the basis of a test. Due to small sample, it is difficult to say whether the quality of higher education has improved but people think that the quality of students must be better.

During pandemic, students at all levels were taught online and now people have realised the importance of face-to-face teaching. For improving higher education, teachers at all levels must focus on conceptual understanding of concepts. Teachers should be trained in use of the Concept Attainment Model and Inquiry Training Model. Open book examination should be implemented but the teachers need to be trained in writing questions for open book examination. Teachers should also be trained in writing multiple answers type item and multiple discriminatory type item.

During teaching, the use of PPT should be discouraged. Animations may be used by teachers of fields of science, technology, and medicine during teaching some topics. Efforts must be put by teachers not to use lecture method during teaching. Lecture method should be integrated with discussion, seminar, field work, laboratory work, etc. Diagnostic tests must be developed in different subjects at various levels. It should not be a onetime task but it must be part of the teaching-learning process.



Prof. D. N. Sansanwal
Retd. Head and Dean
Faculty of Education
Devi Ahilya University, Indore

Pursuing Perfection..... Achieving Excellence!

“Shoot for the moon...even if you miss ,
you'll land among the stars!”

What's inherently wonderful about this quote by Norman Vincent Peale is that it motivates us to aim for perfection so that somewhere along the way we definitely encounter excellence. Because that's the only route to get there!

And this holds true for achieving educational excellence too. So, what is educational excellence?

Educational excellence means programs, practices, learning materials, and equipment which have direct impact upon the instruction of students and result in increased student performance.

But why is educational excellence so crucial?

The answer to this question is very succinctly explained by Carol Ann Tomlinson who says that “..if we want to make sure that they (students) BECOME EVERYTHING THEY CAN then we (teachers) must DO EVERYTHING WE CAN!” In short educational excellence as a professional in the field, comes from not leaving any stone unturned to ensure that every learner gets the best experiences and opportunities to learn and grow.

What are some of the ways to make it happen?

Here are a few things that I have learnt from my own experience of over 3 decades in the field of education which included

among other things a FULBRIGHT Fellowship programme that helped me learn myriad new things from fellow educators across the world (17 countries to be precise!)

Know your subjects (your students) and not just your subject!

Listen to your learners with attention and intention- to learn more about them and from them.

Put learning in the driver's seat. It's not your teaching that's most important. It's their learning that is!

TOW : do a "think other ways" check and keep re-inventing yourself and the strategies you use, so that you don't get complacent.

Excellence is a matter of habit. Habits come from what you do every day. So make excellence your way of "being" and never allow yourself to do anything less than the best when it comes to your professional performance!

Create a conducive 'emotional' climate for learners in your care. This means manage the daily weather that you bring into the classroom!

This is most certainly not a comprehensive list.

I'm sure you have a lot that you can add.

What are your tips to achieve educational excellence? Start your list today!



Ms Manjushree Patil

Fulbright Scholar

Founder - Aatman Academy

Thank You

CMS Info Systems Pvt. Ltd. for supporting Arushi - The Learning Centre in equipping their computer laboratory with the required hardware and software.

Faculty Affiliation

Prof. Sujata Bhan

❖ Nominated member Academic Council of National Institute of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (2023-2025)

Research

Prof. Sujata Bhan

❖ Received a research grant from SNDTWU for a Major Research Project titled, 'Accessibility to plus curriculum for students with Visual Impairment in Inclusive Schools in India' (March 31, 2023)

❖ Academic Mentor in an eight-month long fellowship program 'South Asian Teacher Educators Fellowship' organised by TISS for teacher educators from Nepal, Afghanistan, and Maldives in action research (May - December, 2022)

Faculty Publications

Prof. Sujata Bhan

❖ Reviewer of a Book titled, 'Redefining Inclusion and the Challenges from the Lens of Neuro-diverse Autistic Adults', published by Routledge India, Taylor and Francis Group, February 2023

❖ Reviewer of an article by Khurana, A. (2022) Converting physical spaces into learning spaces: Integrating universal design and universal design for learning. *Front. Educ.* 7:965818. doi: 10.3389/educ.2022.965818

Yukti Gupta

❖ Gupta, Y. (2023). Extending our Vision: Access to Dance and Movement for Learners with Visual Impairment, Blind Welfare, Vol. 62 No. 2 ISSN: 0006-4823

❖ Developed Teacher Training Modules on Inclusive Education & Inclusive Technology for Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata (September, 2022)

Hemali Gada

❖ Gada, H. & Verma, P. (2022). Enhancing Reading Motivation and Reading Comprehension in Students Using Multiple Intelligence Strategies, *UGC Care Listed Journal (Group*

1) Bhairavi Incorporating Elements of Theatre into Pedagogy at Different levels of education, volume 24, Mithilanchal music council, India, November, ISSN 0975-5217

Faculty Participation

Prof. Sujata Bhan

Invited Speaker

- ❖ Invited to present and chair a panel discussion on 'ITEP Issues & Challenges' in a National Conclave on Curriculum Design for Integrated Teacher Education Programme, organised by Central University of Kerala (March 23, 2023)

- ❖ Plenary speaker to present on 'Disability and Rehabilitation' at international conference organised by Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya Indore (December 3, 2022)

- ❖ Presented in the FDP on 'NEP 2020: Equitable and Inclusive Education' organised by School of Law, MIMS University (December 10, 2022)

- ❖ Keynote speaker in a National Conference organised by Shivaji University, Kolhapur on the theme, 'NEP2020 and PwDs in Higher Education' (November 24-25, 2022)

- ❖ Presented on 'Special Education and NEP 2020' in a refresher course conducted by University of Mumbai (November 10, 2022)

- ❖ Chief Guest in the National CRE organised by Navjyoti Manovikas Special Teacher Training College, Jodhpur, and presented on 'Contemporary Perspectives on Disability in India' (September 22, 2022)

Dr Apoorva Panshikar

- ❖ Participated in a Five-day 40 hour faculty development programme 'Excellence in Education' sponsored by Rehabilitation Council of India and organised by Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University (February 7 - February 11, 2023)

- ❖ Participated in a Six-day faculty

development programme 'Relevance of Bharatiya Knowledge System' organised by SNDT Women's University Bharatiya Gyan, Sanskrit Evam Yog Kendra and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in collaboration with Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Research for Resurgence Foundation (January 30-February 4, 2023)

Invited Speaker

- ❖ Resource person for INPA-IPA, Chandigarh recognized 33rd batch of Course of Management and Training for Learning Disabled on (1) Processes that aid learning – memory, attention, perception on December 27, 2022

- (2) Phonological processing difficulties and remediation on December 29, 2022

- (3) Executive functions : concept, assessment and remediation on December 30, 2022

- ❖ Participated in CRE seminar on "Rights of Differently Aabled Women" approved by Rehabilitation Council of India conducted by Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University (December 15-16, 2022)

- ❖ Resource person for webinar on 'Neurocognitive Theory and their Relevance in Classroom Teaching' organised by Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC) – Lucknow (November 22, 2022)

- ❖ Conducted lecture on 'Specific Learning Disability: Concept, Characteristics and Assessment' for M.A. Psychology students of Maniben Nanavati College, Mumbai (November 7, 2022)

- ❖ Resource person for National CRE Programme on 'Pedagogy for Children with Special Needs in Inclusive Setup' on 'Differentiated Instruction' organised by Vidyaniketan Society, Nandurbar, Maharashtra (November 7, 2022)

- ❖ Resource person for session 'Universal Design for Learning' for Faculty Development Programme organised by St. Xavier's Institute of Education in

collaboration with Guru Angad Dev Teaching Learning Centre (under the aegis of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission for Teachers and Teaching) (October 15, 2022)

Yukti Gupta

❖ Deputed as a Rapporteur for the National Seminar on Rights of Differently Abled Women organised by Department of Special Education, SNTD Women's University and National Commission for Women, Mumbai (December, 2022)

Invited Speaker

❖ Invited as a resource person to conduct a workshop on Dance and Movement for Women Prisoners, District Legal Service Authority and SNTD Women's University, Mumbai (February, 2023)

❖ Invited as a resource person and delivered a session on Incorporating Play in Educational Curriculum for MDVI, CRE Programme on Role of Play in the Life of Children with MDVI, Muskan Foundation, Mumbai (December, 2022)

❖ Invited as a resource person and delivered a lecture on 'Challenges and Implication for Teaching in Inclusive Set up and Curriculum Adaptation for Persons with Visual Impairment National Programme on Pedagogy for Children with Special Needs in Inclusive Set-up Vidyaniketan Society, Dhamdod, Nandurbar, Maharashtra (November, 2022)

❖ Invited as a resource person and delivered a session on 'Universal Design for Learning', Ayodhya Charitable Trust, Pune (September, 2022)

Betty Abraham

❖ Participated and coordinated the 5 day National FDP on 'Excellence in Education' organised by DSE SNTDWU supported by RCI, CRE Status (February 16 & 17, 2023)

❖ Participated and coordinated in the National Seminar on 'Rights of Differently

Abled Women' organised by DSE SNTDWU sponsored by National Commission for Women. CRE Status (December 16 & 17, 2022)

❖ Participated and co-coordinated the 9th Annual Conference of CMTAI 'Holding Spaces Across Communities Using Dance and Other Arts Therapies' organised by Creative Movement Therapy Association of India in collaboration with DSE, SNTDWU (November 19 & 20, 2022)

Invited speaker

❖ Invited as a resource person to conduct a workshop on Art Based Therapy 'Nurturing Nature - A Journey of Joy' at the 9th Annual Conference of CMTAI 'Holding Spaces Across Communities Using Dance and Other Arts Therapies' organised by Creative Movement Therapy Association of India in collaboration with DSE, SNTDWU (November 19 & 20, 2022)

Hemali Gada

❖ Attended sensory integration organised by Nirmala Institute for Education in collaboration with ADIRA: Centre for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (February 25 - March 18, 2023)

❖ Attended academic research writing series organised by Nirmala Institute for Education in collaboration with ADIRA: Center for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (September 9, 2022 - October 1, 2022)

Invited speaker

❖ Resource person for shadow teaching course, SNTD Women's University, Juhu, Mumbai (October 8, 2022 & January 14, 2023)

❖ Resource person for Workshop Series on Assessment - Series I organised by Nirmala Institute for Education in collaboration with ADIRA: Center for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (September 1-3, 2022)

Dyslexia Awareness Programme



On October 20, 2022, DSE conducted a programme to spread awareness about dyslexia to commemorate Dyslexia awareness month. The event saw participation from students from many departments of the SNDT Juhu Campus. Teacher trainees of DSE SNDTWU organized a mini-seminar to disseminate information on dyslexia and the mandatory certification process required to avail

educational concessions. They also organized simulation activities to enhance the participants understanding of how a person with dyslexia learns. Testimonials by students having a diagnosis of learning disability were shared.

CMTAI 9th Annual International Conference

DSE, SNDTWU collaborated with CMTAI for its 9th Annual International Conference held on November 19 and 20, 2022. The theme of the conference was 'Holding Spaces Across Communities using Dance and Other Arts Therapies'. The conference was attended by approximately 100 participants over a period of three days. International and national resource persons conducted hands-on workshops highlighting varied perspectives of movement-based interventions.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities



DSE, SNDTWU celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2022. Children from Maneckji Cooper School, REACH, and the Department of Human Development Nursery, SNDTWU and Arushi - The Learning Center participated in the event. Teacher trainees of the B.Ed Special Education Programme and teachers of Arushi - The Learning Center presented a skit to sensitize the

children about issues experienced by persons with disabilities. The audience also participated in games oriented to further understanding challenges related to disability.

Language Development and Doodling



Doodling is a process art that focuses on the action itself rather than the product. Ms Geeta Dalal, Clinical Psychologist and an expert doodler, conducted a workshop on December 10, 2022, on the role that doodling plays in language development. The workshop titled 'Language Development and Doodling' was an eye opener. The participants developed and understanding of how doodling can support the development of both expressive and receptive language in children with special needs. The workshop involved activities to support emotional development and regulation.

National Seminar on 'Rights of Differently Abled Women'

DSE, SNDTWU was fortunate to be sponsored by the National Commission for Women, Delhi, to organize a national seminar with a Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) status conferred by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). The theme of the seminar was 'Differently Abled Women'. The two-day seminar held on December 15 and 16, 2022, hosted 200 national participants from across the country. Eminent advocates of disability and women's rights like Dr A. L. Sharda, Prof. Anita Ghai, Dr Anuja Gulati to name a few graced the seminar with their presence and words of wisdom. We were fortunate to have Prof. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay as the keynote speaker. The panel discussion titled, 'Our Lives, Our Journey', was highly appreciated by both participants and resource persons.



Workshop on Dance Movement Therapy



Ms Mudrika Awasthi, from CMTAI, conducted a workshop on Dance-Movement Therapy on January 16, 2023. The workshop taught teacher trainees of DSE, SNDTWU the importance of this therapy for expression, emotional regulation, and communication. She taught the trainees, various strategies to incorporate this therapy in a classroom setting, all while having a fun time!

Designing Functional Curriculum Through Real World Work

Functional curriculum are an essential part of a special educator's planning process. On January 21, 2023, Ms Seema Jain, special educator, advisor for Big Picture Learning and a mentor for incoming advisors at NEXT School, gave tips to teacher trainees of DSE, SNDTWU on designing a functional curriculum, by first understanding, and then making use of the child's

environment. She emphasized concretizing the teaching - learning process and interspersing several aspects of the child's environment to teach concepts.

Project Based and Enquiry Based Learning

Experiential learning and learning by discovery tap into higher-order thinking skills in children is what the teacher trainees learned from this particular workshop. On February 17, 2023, Ms Manjushree Patil workshopped on the best way to use Project-Based or Enquiry-Based Learning to support students in their learning process. 'Every teaching - learning material can be creatively used to teach multiple subjects simultaneously', said Ms Patil.

'Excellence in Education' - Faculty Development Programme

The Faculty Development Programme organized by DSE, SNDTWU was accredited CRE status by RCI.

The five-day programme on 'Excellence in Education' with a focus on 'Research in Education' saw select stalwarts from the field of research enthrall an audience of eager learners. Prof. D.N. Sansanwal (Former HOD and Dean, SOE, DAVV, Indore) and Prof. Richard Rose (Professor Emeritus, University of Northampton) had the participants crying for more.

Alumnae Allegro

The pursuit of the greatest levels of academic and intellectual achievement, as well as the development of character, values, and abilities that equip students for success in life, are all examples of excellence in education. In order for students to realize their full potential, a challenging, engaging, and supportive environment must be created.

The community at large, teachers, administrators, students, parents, and other stakeholders must all work together to achieve excellence in education. It entails putting into practice efficient teaching techniques, utilizing cutting-edge resources and technology, offering a diverse and inclusive curriculum, fostering a positive and encouraging learning environment, and encouraging lifelong learning.

Excellence in education includes not only academic success but also the growth of critical thinking abilities, creativity, leadership, and social responsibility.

The following are some essential traits of educational excellence:

1. High standards: Setting high standards for all pupils and ensuring that they are given the opportunity to develop to their full potential.
2. Qualified instructors: Having instructors with extensive training and expertise who are enthusiastic about their subject areas and dedicated to assisting students in succeeding.
3. Personalized learning: Creating learning opportunities that are specific to the needs, interests, and abilities of each student.
4. Giving pupils positive comments that enables them to see their strengths and areas for development.
5. Active engagement: Promoting active student participation in their own learning through collaborative projects, group discussions, and other interactive activities.
6. Technology integration: Making use of technology to improve and increase

accessibility to students.

7. Creating a friendly and inclusive environment that values diversity and upholds equity.

8. A safe and encouraging environment that fosters learning and growth is necessary for students. Access to tools, technology, and helpful staff and teachers are all part of this.

9. Parental involvement: Parents are crucial in assisting in the education of their kids. Students are more likely to succeed in school when their parents are interested in their education.

10. Adequate financing: To give kids the tools they need to succeed, adequate funding is required. Included in this are funds for facilities, technology, school supplies, and teacher pay.

Focussing on the whole child and their individual talents, strengths, and needs is necessary. For students to become productive, responsible members of society who can contribute to society and flourish in the global economy, high-quality education is crucial. In order to fulfil the evolving requirements of students and society, it is a continual process of innovation and progress that calls for continuing evaluation, feedback, and adaptation.

- Laura D Menezes

M.Ed Special Education

(Intellectual Disability 2015 - 2017)

It was always my goal to do B.Ed from DSE, SNDT, and pursuing a Master's was the natural progression because of the experience and learning that happened in B.Ed.DSE.

Experience is like a wishing well, the amount of willingness, effort and honesty you put, the returns would be as great. In our B.Ed, when my friend and I approached our professor with a desire to write a research paper at the Bachelor's level, we were given all the support and guidance. It was our first quest with research and we will be always grateful for

the opportunity DSE gave us not only to write the paper but also present and publish it. The conducive environment and our professors at DSE have helped me gain different opportunities and widened my horizons to a great extent.

Over these past two years and now in Master's, I am growing not only as an educator and professional but also as an individual. What a real professional should be like, how to conduct one selves, leadership skills, scientific attitude, ownership, and accountability are just the tip of the iceberg that I have learned.

DSE is the 'Dhruv Tara' the eternal guiding star that will be shining through out my career.

DSE has given its past and present in contributing to the future of the Indian education system where we as stakeholders who are future teachers will impart what we have learnt here for the benefit of children and adults in the coming years. It's a privilege and a blessing to be a part of a department of such stature. The goal is to pass and spread the light, given by DSE, forward.

-Shruti Bhagwat
B.Ed Special Education
(Learning Disability 2020-2022)

Wings of Success

My journey at SNDTWU, Department of Special Education began in 2015 when I was informed that my admission was successful and I am part of the B.Ed. Course. The following two years of my life were an unexpected turn of events. I started my course with the goal of writing good 'lesson plans' and preparing fancy 'teaching aids'. Well, the course had different things in store for me. Throughout my journey at the department, I learned my everyday experience is my lesson plan. The interactions I have with my students are the teaching goals. I learned that teaching does not happen on paper. It happens when you meet the child where they are at. I experienced the joy of learning when I let go of the teaching plan and encouraged student agency. My job took a new turn when I incorporated student voice and choice into their learning. I owe it to my alma mater for the humbling experience and for shaping my thought process to put students' needs before any systemic challenges, to be an advocate for students who feel left out and are marginalised, and most importantly, to be a true practitioner of inclusion.

-Branca Teixeira
B.Ed Special Education
(Intellectual Disability 2015 - 2017)

An Elegy for Prof. Parasuram Ramamoorthi

Prof. Parasuram Ramamoorthy, moved on to his heavenly abode on April 7, 2023. He had a long standing association with Department of Special Education, SNDTWU. He was a guest faculty for the short term Certificate Programme in Shadow Teaching and resource person for workshops on Drama and Autism with the teacher trainees of the Department. Prof. Ramamoorthy was the Founder Chairperson of Velvi Trust, Madurai.

His indomitable spirit and creative energy will be greatly missed by all!



Excellence is not an accomplishment. It is a spirit, a never-ending process."

- Lawrence M. Miller

Diwali Celebration October 17, 2022



Children's Day Movie Time November 14, 2022



Christmas Celebrations at Willingdon Gymkhana December 12, 2022



International Day of Person With Disabilities December 12, 2022

**Christmas Party
@ Arushi
December 23, 2022**



**Makar Sankranti
January 13, 2023**



**Dance by Arushi students at
Satyanarayan Pooja, SNDTWU
January 14, 2023**



**Republic Day
January 25, 2023**



**Picninc at
Fun Republic
February 01, 2023**



**Holi Celebration
March 07, 2023**



**Sports Day
March 21, 2023**



**Valentines Day
February 13, 2023**

Excellence in Education @ Arushi – The Learning Center

Education aims to make children capable of becoming active, responsible, productive, and compassionate members of society. This is reflected in the interactions of all the students at Arushi - The Learning Centre. From the youngest to the eldest, they share a beautiful camaraderie with each other, and are empathetic and accepting of diversity in their attitude.

This has been achieved through the mindful efforts of the Arushi teachers in their curriculum planning. The teachers hold learning plan conferences to discuss each child's needs and strengths with their parents and the para professionals in order to plan a holistic learning program for each student. The individualized learning plans (ILPs) cater to each students' academic, emotional, social and spiritual needs. Solicitous of the heterogeneity of strengths and needs, teachers engage the principles of Universal Design of Learning (UDL). The cohesive group but individualized curriculum provides the students with hands-on learning experiences through alternative therapeutic interventions, innovative methodology, field trips, attractive learning aids, skill based workshops, and storytelling sessions. This multifariousness in programming paves the way to better student engagement, understanding and learning.

The teachers maximize opportunities for the students to engage with their peers, work in teams and socialize with each other. This prepares the students to co-exist in society, develop inclusive attitudes, effective communication skills, and empathetic outlook.

This journey of 'excellence in education' extends to the teachers and parents also.

Under the guidance of the expert faculty of the department of special education, teachers of Arushi earn ingenious teaching learning methodologies through workshops and seminars. With the firm belief that parents are the primary stakeholders in a child's life, they are empowered with knowledge on behaviour management,

coping strategies and self care. Students, teachers and parents of Arushi look forward to coming to school every day working as partners in striving for excellence, for self and each other.

- Nisha Kaur, Learning Partner, Arushi - The Learning Centre

IN THE WORKS @DSE

❖ Certificate Programme in Shadow Teaching Batch 7

Commencing on May 1, 2023, the 7th batch of the 3-month Certificate Programme in Shadow Teaching Course will cater to developing participants knowledge of diversities, understanding of the concept of inclusion and mold them into competent shadow teachers. The weekend lectures will be held under the able guidance of expert faculty from the department and other institutions.

❖ Alumnae Allegro Live Series of Workshops

Our line up of AALS workshops continues through the knowledge contributions of our 'Star Alumnae'. After completing workshops on topics of 'Language Development and Doodling', 'Designing Functional Curriculum Through Real World Work', 'Project Based and Enquiry Based Learning', we look forward to the next series of workshops. We intend to start the line up with a workshop on NIOS.

❖ Crispiani Method

Dr Eleonora Palmieri, Director of Psychological and Pedagogical Victor Center Macerata (Italy) will lead a workshop on the Crispiani Method in June 2023. Flyer and details of the workshop will be released shortly. You can track the information on our website www.dseandtwu.in.

❖ CRE Programme

DSE, SNDTWU will be conducting a CRE programme in the month of July 2023. Topic is to be decided.

Credits : Ms Betty Abraham, Creative Director
& Student Creative Team