



ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE KOTTARAKARA

7.2.2 Best Practice II

Naipunya



BEST PRACTICE II:

NAIPUNYA: Empowering Differently - Abled Students

Objectives:

- To Provide counselling services to differently-abled students regarding suitable higher education courses.
- To Ensure the admission of as many differently-abled students as possible through both open quotas and reserved seats.
- To Collect relevant directives concerning fee concessions, examination procedures, reservations, and policies for differently-abled individuals.
- To Assess the educational requirements of differently-abled students enrolled in higher education institutes to determine the necessary assistive devices.
- To Conduct awareness programs for institute teachers on effective teaching approaches and evaluation methods for differently-abled students.
- To Evaluate the aptitude of differently-abled students and assisting them in securing suitable employment opportunities post-graduation.
- To Organise events commemorating significant disability-related days such as World Disabled Day and White Cane Day, fostering awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled individuals within the institute and surrounding communities.

Context:

St Gregorios college follows all the necessary instructions and guidelines issued from time to time by the Government of India (GoI). According to GoI, specialized syllabus, teaching method, teaching or learning equipment or gadgets should be adopted to enable differently abled students to get education and increase their learning abilities in a best possible way. Various other facilities should also be provided to special need students, like:

Practice:

1. **Physical Facilities:** Institutions should provide special facilities to differently-abled students to ensure they have equal opportunities to access quality education and integrate fully into society. These students should be treated with respect and as equals. Physical amenities such as wheelchairs, blind sticks, audio-recorders, talking books, and newspapers should be available to students with special needs.
2. **Ramps and Rails:** Institutions should install ramps and rails designed for use by blind and physically handicapped students. Clear signals and symbols should be provided, and main entry/exit points should be easily identifiable and accessible. Steps and ramps should have handrails, and where feasible, institutions should provide easy access to elevators.



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3. **Restrooms:** Separate restrooms for special needs students should be provided with clear signage and ample space inside. Restroom doors should be wide with easy locking mechanisms, slip-resistant flooring, and amenities such as mirrors, flushing systems, and dispensers should be mounted at appropriate heights.
4. **Provision for Scribes:** Institutes should facilitate the use of scribes for disabled students during examinations. Guidelines set by the Government of India should be strictly adhered to:
 - Blind or physically handicapped students with writing difficulties or learning disabilities may choose a scribe.
 - Scribes are allotted an extra hour to complete examinations.
 - Disabled students should be provided with a separate room where they can dictate to the scribe, who writes under their guidance.
 - Scribes should possess qualifications similar to the student but with a different educational background or specialization.
 - Scribes should not be relatives or close acquaintances of the student.
5. **Other Facilities:** Institutions should install large audio and visual signals to indicate different sections of the building on various floors. Wheelchair-accessible lifts should be positioned near entrances with adequate parking both inside and outside the building.

Evidence of Success

Equal Opportunity Cell welcomes all fresh differently abled students to St Gregorios college. Under EOC, **Naipunya : Empowering Differently - Abled Students** was established to serve the needs of differently abled students in SGC. As a part of our welcoming gesture at the beginning of the academic year of 2022-2023, we organised an **Orientation programme** in the College Seminar Hall on 30/08/2022, welcoming all the newly admitted differently abled students and provide them with a sort of orientation. As a part of this programme, we tend to get all differently abled students to be registered with Naipunya.

Naipunya organised an **Annual Meet** on 21/12/2022. The celebration was inaugurated by Rev. Fr D Georgekutty in the presence of principal and vice-principal, coordinator. The event featured a verity of cultural programmes by the differently abled students. The students were appreciated for their excellence in academic and extra carricular activities. Naipunya decided to increase participation in such cultural programmes not only helps them impart life skills, but also boosts their self- confidence. As the day concluded with a cake cutting ceremony, the echoes of laughter, job and shared accomplishments lingered, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those in attendance.

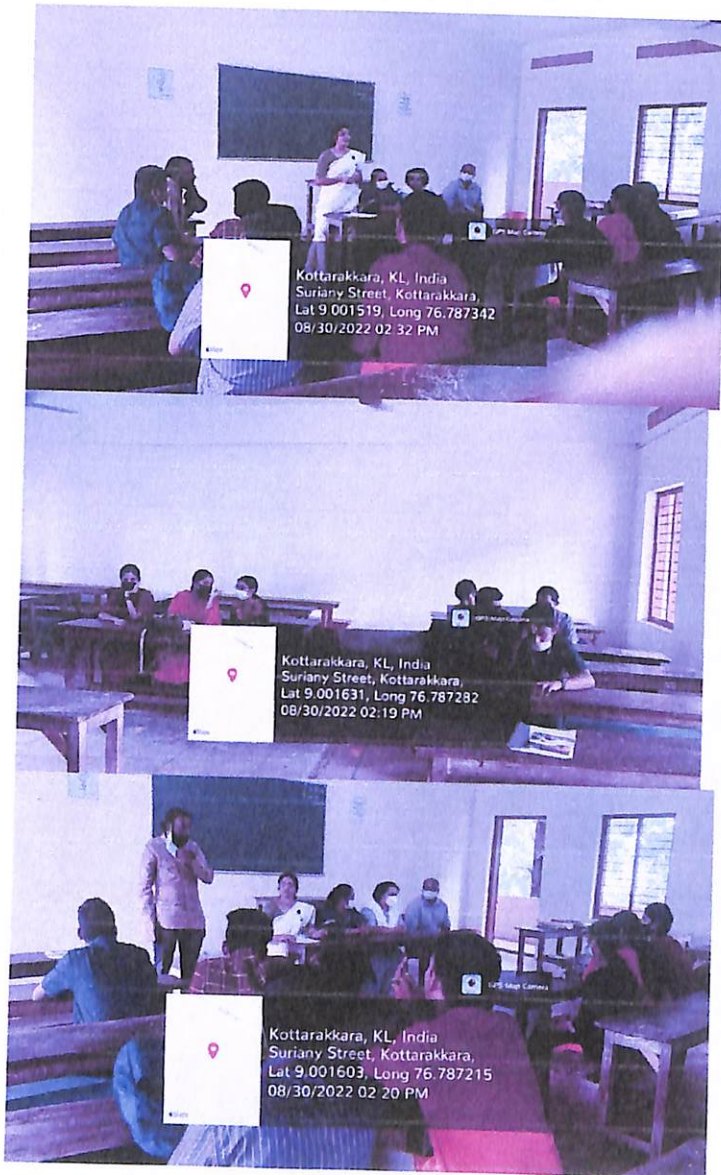
Problems:

1. Libraries are encouraged to install cutting-edge assistive devices, tools, and software to enhance user experiences effectively. Efforts should be made to promote the utilization of



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- the most efficient IT tools, which can greatly benefit all users, including students with disabilities.
2. Institutions should conduct user-oriented training programs for students with disabilities to alleviate any apprehension towards technology and facilitate seamless adoption of IT tools, offering hassle-free, time-saving, and user-friendly advantages. Staff training is also essential to ensure they can adeptly assist users and manage institute resources.
 3. Educational institutions should prioritize empowering students with disabilities by addressing their needs and requirements without segregating, isolating, or marginalizing their interests.



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