

Annual Report 2022-23 Enabling Unit

The Enabling Unit of St. Stephen's College is a body mandated by the UGC, which aims to create an inclusive and accessible campus for students with disabilities. It focuses on providing accessibility support, making academic and administrative infrastructure accessible and facilitating a sense of community for persons with disabilities. The report covers various activities of the Enabling Unit.

The Enabling Unit facilitates students with disabilities with accessibility support through allocation of volunteers for writing exams and making administrative and academic infrastructure of the College more accessible to enable them with equal opportunities. The Enabling unit aspires to make the college experience for persons with disabilities safe and accessible and ensures a strong sense of community that provides support in times of need. It aspires to make the access not only to academic acumen but also to other aspects of College life equally fulfilling for everyone.

The restoration of the Enabling Unit room, which is a space for visually impaired students to attain academic support in the form of accessible materials. The Enabling Unit took the initiative to make education more accessible by reviving the Enabling Unit room with Kibo XS and other assistive technology. The Enabling Unit also helped make JCR a more accessible place by introducing games like chess and other board games for visually impaired people.

I. Events:

1. Drishtikon is the flagship event of the Enabling Unit held annually. The festival provides a platform for persons with disabilities to showcase their talents and celebrates disability. It includes para-sports, creative writing, and singing competitions, among others. The Enabling Unit provides accessibility support to all participants.

2. Drishtikon 2023:

3. The Annual Fest of the Enabling Unit was held in collaboration with the Social Service League on 5th and 6th April 2023. The event celebrated disability, promoted accessibility, and provided a platform for discourse and discussion on disability. The event featured talks, workshops, and talent competitions centered around the theme of promoting accessibility. It was inaugurated by a chief guest talk by Mr. KVS Rao, and it featured many talent competitions, rock climbing activity, and a musical evening by a band which consists of visually impaired members and headed by a visually challenged and an alumnus of this college Mr. Ankur Gupta. The Blind Relief Association supported and sponsored the event.

II. Cultural Programmes

1. Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav:

2. The Enabling Unit collaborated with the National Cadet Corps to commemorate the 75th Independence day. Enabling Unit members participated and contributed through cultural performances like poetry and singing. The event provided a platform for persons with disabilities to explore their co-curricular interests and develop skills.

III. Workshops

1. Sign Language Workshop: The Enabling Unit collaborated with the Social Service League of St. Stephen's College for a workshop on 26th September 2022, named 'Sign Language Workshop.' Volunteers

from the National Association of the Deaf facilitated the volunteers to spread awareness about the basics of sign language to make university campuses more inclusive for persons with hearing impairment.

IV. Talks

1. Dreams to Reality, the Journey of a Powerful Vision: The Enabling unit collaborated with the Civil Services Forum to organize a talk on 9th November 2022, by IAS officer Satender Singh. The talk was an enlightening session where Mr. Singh shed light on how one can overcome challenges posed by disability without compromising on one's ambitions.

3. Intertwining Disability and University Spaces for Empowerment: The Enabling Unit organised a talk on 30th January 2023, on the topic 'Intertwining Disability and University Spaces for Empowerment' by Mr. Abhishek Thakur, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Work, Delhi University. He is a recipient of the National Award presented by the President of India for his contributions towards the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The Enabling Unit collaborated with Debating society in the final event of The Satyam Jha Memorial Dialogue 2023 for a panel discussion on the topic 'Questioning the capitalist, abled bodied notion of love' by NU, Aish and Garima on 8th April 2023 which was an insightful discussion that challenged the normally accepted abled notions in personal life. The panel discussion was an interactive and open session that witnessed a good footfall.

The Enabling Unit of St. Stephen's College has been active in creating an inclusive and accessible campus for students with disabilities. The report covered various activities of the unit, including Drishtikon, cultural programmes, workshops, and talks. These events provided opportunities for persons with disabilities to showcase their talents, develop skills, and create a sense of community.

The Enabling Unit's efforts were celebrated during the events, which aimed to promote accessibility and celebrate disability.





