Indraprastha College for Women. University of Delhi Report of Online Teaching –Learning for PwD under Covid 19

Indraprastha College for Women, has a vital and active support structure in place to conduct Teaching-Learning for PwD, at all times.

In this context it is informed that the College has already developed an Audio Repository Application for the use of Visually Impaired (VI) students, under the College's internal Research Program. Called "Lecture Hall," it is an online Audio Repository for VI students. The main purpose of the application is to make the audio recordings of lectures available to the VI students for their reference. This application is specifically designed to reduce the load of downloading the audio lectures on phones as it follows proper indexing, and the user does not find it difficult to recover them.

The Equal Opportunity Cell and Enabling Unit of the College has established direct communication link with all the students with disabilities using a dedicated Whatsapp group. Students have been asked to report on the level of their participation in the online teaching-learning process currently being followed by the college. Students actively responded to the inquiry and highlighted the following:

1. The major online teaching-learning-interactive platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, Whatsapp, Email Groups, etc are quite accessible to the Screen Reader users. The students with visual disabilities reported that they are actively using these platforms without facing too many hurdles.

2. Students with disabilities reported that they are able to participate in the online teaching-learning process a pace at par with other students in most cases.

3. Students further reported that wherever there is a problem of internet connectivity causing hindrance to their participation, they immediately contact the concerned teachers, and the teachers respond promptly and make their audio lectures/notes available through Whatsapp and other online platforms, as Audio files.

Colleagues from all departments with PwD/VI students have reported that they are already taking extra care of students with special needs and the following feedback has been received:

1. VI Students are using the Audio Repository available to them in "Lecture Hall".

2. Students with special needs are also joining Zoom lectures and are finding it convenient.

3. Students are regularly receiving their Audio Files of lectures via dedicated email ids.

4. Students with special needs feel more comfortable using WhatsApp and are regularly using their lectures, sharing audio assignments and queries with their concerned teachers on WhatsApp.

S/d Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf Principal 7 April 2020