

BHAVAN'S
SHRI A. K. DOSHI MAHILA COLLEGE, JAMNAGAR



INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL
Disability Audit Report

Introduction:

As education is the hope for liberation and enlightenment for the underprivileged, recent changes in the government's affirmative action policies are placing pressure on the higher education system to reevaluate its techniques and open up new avenues of inquiry. To promote equity in education, particularly in public higher education institutions, social justice should be prioritised via the application of a human rights-based approach to access to learning settings, ability testing, and success evaluation.

With such objectives, the IQAC of Bhavan's Shri A. K. Doshi Mahila College seeks to comprehend disability in the context of the availability and accessibility of diverse resources among students, teaching and non-teaching staff members at the college.

This report, which is consistent with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council's (NAAC) commitment to promoting inclusion and accessibility in educational institutions, provides an overview of the steps taken by Bhavan's Shri A. K. Doshi Mahila College to assist students with disabilities. Recognising the importance of creating an environment that fosters diversity and gives equal opportunity for all students, our college has implemented a variety of initiatives and policies to foster an inclusive campus community.

The Institution promotes equal opportunity for all along with the focus on equity and excellence. It is engaged in preparing talented youth as responsible and useful citizens by providing quality education through academic, cultural and physical activities. In the student's admission process, PwD students have special provision of reservation as per the reservation policy of the Government for higher educational institutions.

The college has an eco-friendly campus with a partially automated library with a large stock of books, journals, and periodicals, a large playground, well-equipped laboratories, an English language lab, a counselling cell, ramp facilities for physically challenged people, a generator for continuous power supply, and highly qualified and committed teachers. The institution features a tiny but well-stocked botanical garden.

Bhavan's Shri A. K. Doshi Mahila College is devoted to providing a welcoming and accessible learning environment for students with disabilities. Through proactive actions and collaboration with stakeholders, the school has made significant success in enhancing accessibility, promoting awareness, and ensuring fair participation for all students. This report discusses key areas of focus, successes, challenges, and future activities to promote inclusivity on campus.

Key Initiatives and Accomplishments:

Physical Accessibility:

- Ramps and railings were installed to help students with physical limitations move around
- Designation of accessible parking places and paths throughout campus.

- Infrastructure assessments and upgrades are performed on a regular basis to ensure compliance with universal design requirements.

Academic Support Services:

- Created a distinct disability resource centre that provides academic accommodations, assistive technology, and specialist tutoring.
- Educating faculty on inclusive teaching tactics and methodologies for fulfilling diverse learning needs.
- Provide course materials in several formats, including audio, and large print.

Student's Classroom Attendance:

Involvement of students with disability in various curricular and co-curricular activities of the college is an important indicator of their personal growth. Students' classroom attendance and their involvement in various departmental and institutional programs have been taken into consideration in this study.

Student Participation in Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities:

Apart from regular classroom-teaching, students' involvement in various curricular and cocurricular activities is equally significant for personality development. Every department of the institution regularly organises various co-curricular activities such as conducting seminar, literary and cultural competitions, recreational activities to enhance teacher-student and student-student bonding in the department for their mutual growth.

Technology Integration:

- In computer laboratories and classrooms, assistive technology such as screen readers, speech recognition software, and tactile interfaces are being used.
- Collaboration with other college IT departments to ensure that online learning platforms and educational resources are compatible and easily accessible.

Awareness and Sensitization:

- Conducting workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns to increase understanding and empathy for people with disabilities.

- Bringing together student organisations and peer support networks to promote diversity and battle stigma.
- Encouraging academics, staff, and students to attend disability awareness training programmes.

Policy making and Compliance:

- Comprehensive rules and standards are being developed to meet the rights, needs, and accommodations of students with disabilities.
- Policies are reviewed and revised on a regular basis to reflect increasing legal requirements and best practices.
- Collaboration with regulatory agencies and advocacy groups to guarantee compliance with disability rights laws.

Technological Advancements:

- Rapid advances in assistive technology demand constant training and investment to stay current with emerging trends.
- There is potential for using new solutions to improve accessibility and satisfy a variety of learning preferences.

Future Strategies:

Resource Mobilization:

- Seeking grants, donations, and partnerships to enhance financial support for disability services and accommodations.
- Exploring cost-effective solutions and alternative funding mechanisms to address budgetary constraints.

Community Engagement:

- Collaborating with local organizations, disability advocacy groups, and industry partners to expand outreach efforts and promote inclusion.
- Establishing mentorship programs and peer support networks to facilitate social integration and academic success for students with disabilities.

Continuous Improvement:

- Conducting regular assessments and feedback surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of existing initiatives and identify areas for improvement.
- Incorporating feedback from stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and disability service providers, into strategic planning and decision-making processes.

Following challenges are found while discussing with PwD students related to their academic and personal experience in the college campus.

Challenges encountered by PwD Students:

- Occasional problem in finding a suitable scribe/writer for the exam in case of blind or visually impaired students
- Facing problems in the conduction of practicals in the laboratory.
- Lack of proper time management during the time of examination (facing problems in writing speedily in the exam)
- Facing difficulty in classroom teaching as a blind student is not able to see the facial expressions of the teacher inside the class while teaching on a subject.
- Facing difficulty in understanding the lectures properly with the English medium of instruction by the teachers

Conclusion:

Bhavan's Shri A. K. Doshi Mahila College remains committed to advancing accessibility, inclusivity, and diversity within its campus community. By prioritizing the needs of students with disabilities, fostering a culture of respect and understanding, and embracing innovation and collaboration, the college aspires to serve as a model of excellence in higher education. Through ongoing efforts and partnerships, Bhavan's Shri A. K. Doshi Mahila College looks forward to further enhancing its capacity to support all learners and create a more inclusive society.

Access to toilets, classroom, library, examination rooms are not very difficult at their part as they use to take help from the college ramp, and tactile path in their movement from one place to other. They also receive all kind of social and emotional support from the college as opined by them and don't feel any harassment or abuse from anybody inside the college campus. With regard to challenges faced in everyday situation, problem of finding a suitable scribe/writer for the exam in case of blind or visually impaired students, problems in the conduction of subject practicals in the laboratory are major issues.

In classroom situation, blind students have the problem in understanding teachers' explanation properly as they can't see the facial expressions of their teachers. Sometimes, they face traffic problems in front of the entrance gate during rush hours, non-functioning of lifts causing difficulty to attend classes in time etc.

The institution needs to focus more on creating interest among PwD students to attend classes and laboratory activities regularly and make necessary provision for smooth conduct of examination and enhance infrastructure for reading facilities in college library

This report is submitted for the consideration of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as part of Bhavan's Shri A. K. Doshi Mahila College's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in fulfilling its mission of providing quality education for all.