# अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद्
## ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
### (भारत सरकार का एक सांविधिक निकाय)
### (A STATUTORY BODY OF THE GOVT. OF INDIA)

प्रो. अनिल डी. सहस्रबुद्धे
**Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe**
अध्यक्ष
Chairman

**D.O. No. 7-2/DD-Admn./MHRD/2012/2768**
**February 24, 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to inform you that AICTE constituted a committee of experts for discussion, deliberation and laying down modalities for setting up of Disability Resource Centres in Universities/Colleges/Education Institutions to facilitate quality education to the students with disabilities on equal basis with others, in view of the Recommendations of the Annual Report of the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2008-09 and 2010-11, wherein as per para (v), it is stated that:

*"Disability Resource Centers should be set up in the University/Colleges/Educational Institutions of facilitate quality higher education to students with disabilities on equal basis with others. A time bound schedule should be drawn up and implemented to make all the Universities/Educational Institutions/Colleges accessible to persons with disabilities. Details of accessibility features available in the Universities/Educational Institutions/Colleges must be posted on their website, admission brochures etc."*
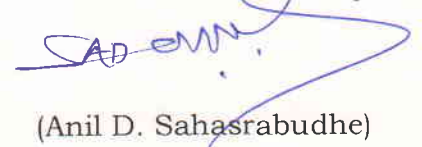
The committee submitted it's report and the same was placed as an Agenda Item in the 96th Executive Committee meeting held on 1st February, 2016, for consideration and its approval. The decision of Executive Committee is as under:

*"The EC approved the recommendations of the committee for setting up of Disability Resource Centres in the Universities/Colleges/Educational Institutions. The EC further, suggested to send an advisory to all technical entities for implementation of the recommendations of the committee".*

In view of the above, I urge your goodself to look into the matter to set up the **"Disability Resource Centres"** in the Universities and Institutions under your preview.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Anil D. Sahasrabudhe)

**D.A.:** Report of the Committee

**To**

All Principal Secretaries of States/Union Territories dealing with Technical Education/ Vice Chancellors of Universities (State/Central)

# Report of the Committee for setting up Disability Resource Centres

Currently, there is 3% reservation of seats in admission to all technical and professional for physically handicapped candidates and many students have been taking admission against these seats. In addition to these 1250 seats are reserved in 50 polytechnics of the country where total expenses of study are born by Government of India under Persons with Disability (PWD) scheme.

The students under this category may be having physical disability i.e. orthopedic, visual / hearing impairment or learning disability i.e. dyslexia or mental health difficulty like depression. Generally these students do not need any specific provisions other than those required by able students for learning. But it has been observed that in many cases, students are unable to cope up their academic learning with normal students. They are sometimes slow in completion in their assignments, project and laboratory work etc. After regular class hours mentoring and help is needed. Therefore providing them support becomes essential so that they are not left behind.

It is proposed to set up 'Disability Resource Centre' at every Institute. The centre will provide following facilities:

- **Database**: Centre shall maintain data regarding disabilities of the students.
- **Advisory service**: Considering the requirements of students, centre can suggest use of Institute facilities so as to provide accessibility. Centre can keep all concerned informed about the issues to make them understand difficulties that need to be addressed well in time to avoid crisis situations.
- **Training**: Conduct workshops for instructors and student mentors (academic assistants) to create awareness about various disabilities and ways to handle the same.
- **Documentation**: Create documents to make the students aware of the facilities available for such students.

Foremost requirement for all categories of disabled students is barrier free environment and special pedagogical approaches. Following are some of the ways in which the Centre can support the students. Most of these suggestions will also benefit able students and improve overall learning effectiveness.

- **For students with learning difficulty** (Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Discalculia, Disgraphia)
    o Make available recorded sessions, digital presentations
    o Allow students to record during sessions
    o Provide reading material in advance of lectures
    o Provide book bank services
    o Extended loan period for library books
    o Extended time for writing examinations, conducting practicals / workshop practice
    o Extended timeline for submissions
    o Arrange mentorship through senior students
    o Additional support (writer) during examination

- **For students with mental health difficulty** (depression, anxiety, schizophrenia etc)
  - Provide clear information about the course requirements and deadlines well in advance
  - Suggest and provide services of counselor
  - Extended timeline for submissions
  - Regular meetings to discuss problems and keeping in touch
  - Allow breaks / absence for short periods
  - Maintain record in confidence of medication, allergies, sensitivity

- **For students with hearing impairment**
  - Provide all information including feedback if any, in written format
  - Make available recorded sessions, digital presentations
  - Computers having suitable audio hardware and software
  - Provide reading material in advance of lectures
  - Allow students to record during sessions
  - Reserve seating in class to ensure good communication
  - Have subtitles in any presentation involving visual media
  - Use of sign language interpreter
  - Use of assistive technology like listening devices with enhanced sound level, high quality sound transmission device, videos with sign language interpretation, speech to print transcription systems

- **For students with visual impairment**
  - Provide all information including feedback if any, in accessible written format along with oral explanation
  - Computers having suitable screens, reading software
  - Provide reading material in accessible format in advance of lectures
  - Allow students to record during sessions
  - Reserve seating in class to ensure good visibility of presentations
  - Regular meetings with instructors to ensure support is effective
  - Provide human support in certain outdoor activities
  - Use of assistive technology like large print & Braille conversion tools, desktop magnifiers, backlit keyboards, optical magnifiers

- **For students with physical impairment** (mobility, manual dexterity, speech difficulty)
  - Allow students to record during sessions
  - Reserve seating in class to ensure accessibility
  - Allow breaks during practicals
  - Extended time for writing examinations, conducting practicals / workshop practice
  - Extended timeline for submissions
  - Use of assistive technology like alternate hardware devices

- **General guidelines**
  - Provide accessibility to classrooms, laboratories and examination centers
  - Provide accessibility to common facilities canteen, toilets
  - Provide suitable signage
  - Provide details of facilities on website, admission brochures
  - Make specific provisions and plans for dealing with these students in case of emergencies
  - Maintain all passageways free of any obstructions at all times
  - Make people aware of etiquettes to be followed while communicating with these students

Dr M P Poonia,
Director,NITTTR, Chandigarh

4/12/15

Dr V M Topkar,
Dean (RM&F), VJTI, Mumbai