

CENTRE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS was set up to impart knowledge and education to children with special needs. Under its aegis we provide guidance, counseling and additional facilities to the variously challenged students. Our aim is to bring them to the main stream and enable them to be self reliant individuals and live life with high self-esteem. The Centre caters to the need of

- Visually Challenged Students
- Learning Disabilities – Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Discalculia
- Students with maladjustment problems / emotional crisis.

- **Visually Challenged Students**

This year we have 26 visually challenged students.. In order to offer quality training to blind and low vision students we have set up a **Computer Centre having Assistive Technology**. In this Centre the students are provided the following facilities

- ✓ Braille Books

Text Books in Braille purchased from NAB as well as Braille notes are provided to the students. There are a 312 books in Braille. Including an Oxford English dictionary , An Atlas titled “India at your finger tips – You’re your Atlas” (Set of 7 Books) , Human Anatomy(Set of 5 books).

- ✓ Braille Typewriter

It is used for making Braille documents. There are 2 Manual Typewriters.

- ✓ Audio Cassettes / CD’s

There are 530 Audio Cassettes and 4 CD’s containing recorded notes of different subjects for various classes.

- ✓ Tape Recorders / CD Players

There are 8 Tape Recorders and 3 CD players which are provided to the students to listen to the recorded notes.

✓ Computers

A (LENOVA) computer with multimedia facilities with JAWS software and typing master (Reads the data entered or keyed in) along with Internet are available. Six (HCL) computers with NVDA software and JAWS 10.0 for reading the data are provided.

✓ JAWS

Latest versions of JAWS (10.00) - JAWS is a screen reading software which brings the computer screen alive with its speech synthesizer. It is most popular, accessible software. Usually all of the Visually Challenged Student population of India is trained to use JAWS. We have JAWS installed in all the machines of our centre.

✓ HP Scanner (G4010)

This is extremely useful for our students to scan the printed material, and convert it into text using what is technically known as OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology. For that purpose we use software known as “Kurzweil 1000”.

✓ KURZWEIL SOFTWARE

This software provides instant access to printed (mostly English) material. This software has its own speech synthesizer, it has a sophisticated English Dictionary and thesaurus, and one can edit the text. The most important feature of this software is its capability of conversion of text into audio format. This means that after scanning a particular book, editing and correcting, it can convert the text into Mp3 or other available formats and can listen to the text in their mobile phones or their I-pods.

✓ VICTOR STREAM READER

Basically it is a digitally accessible information system (DAISY) player, which reads the DAISY formatted books. The books are saved in this format which can be

navigated by a user exactly as a normal person would read. (E.g., if the teacher announces in the class to take out the particular book, and go to page number 44, the person using Victor stream can also navigate to page 44 as any normal person can, provided the books is saved in DAISY format). It is also useful to record notes & with the help of its inbuilt voice feature we can listen to the saved text documents.

✓ Digital Voice Recorder

There are Two Digital voice recorders that are used for recording lectures in the classroom and notes that are being read out. They have a capacity for recording for more than 5 continuous hours. These can then be converted to MP3 format and heard through the regular I-pods.

✓ Printer

LQ 300+ - 80 column printer is provided.

✓ Readers are provided regularly to the students to read out lessons and record notes.

✓ Writers are provided during the examinations.

✓ Lunch is provided for all the students (Smt. Veeraraghavan Endowment).

✓ Scholarships are provided to deserving students (Total Endowment Awards are 6).