



**Deccan Education Society's
Fergusson College (Autonomous), Pune**

Policy for Inclusion of Students with Disabilities

Purpose

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities (PwD). The College has significant number of students with blindness. To cater to their needs and progression the College has established a special cell/center-“SAATHI”. The Center solely is managed by student volunteers (SAATHI volunteers) interested to work as peers for blind students and other students with disabilities under the guidance of a teacher coordinator.

Definition of Disability

“Disability” and “Persons with Disabilities” or differently abled persons for this statement are defined as per the “Maharashtra State Policy for Persons with Disabilities”.

Scope

The policy covers all such students who have disabilities and need special assistance for learning and academic progression. The policy will also ensure that, students with disabilities get all kind of support with special reference to their learning needs and create a barrier free environment.

Objectives

1. Provide help and support to students with disabilities.
2. The support will be provided from assistance of other students who will work as volunteers/ peers for each individual student.

3. Creation of group of volunteers/ peers who will help students with disabilities to collect course material, record the material and make them available in audio form.
4. Help students with disabilities in their movement in the campus and guide them to complete other academic and administrative roles.
5. Organize workshops/ mobility workshops and exhibitions for learning as well as enhancing their skill sets and making other students aware of their difficulties and methods used to overcome their disability.

Policy

1. Every year the college will identify and orient volunteers for helping students with disabilities and it would be a practice to organize orientation session for getting volunteers for this kind of support.
2. Help and support disabled students in their academic progression and administrative help like admission form filling, subject mapping with ERP and other student support services of the college.
3. Provide infrastructural support like building ramps for easy access and also in terms of reading material/ braille material and other computer aided assistance.
4. Facilitate in getting scholarships/fellowships through various foundations for students with disabilities and blindness.
5. Help in providing/ enhancing their skill sets through very specific programmes/ activities/ workshops meant for enhancing skill sets of such students.
6. Provide them with Writes/Scribes for examination and give them “compensatory time”.
7. Organize field trips for entertainment and help in creating a friendly environment in the campus.

The Policy is prepared and executed as per the relevant State Government Policy, Ordinances of Savitribai Phule Pune University and Regulations for Examinations as stated by the University Grants Commission. The College will

revise/amend the policy as per the need and subsequent revisions in the State Government policies.

Responsibilities

The College has well established "SAATHI" center to cater to needs of students with disabilities (specifically students with blindness). Every year after students' orientation programme a set of volunteers is formed with a teacher coordinator. This entire group will help students with disabilities is carrying out their campus activities.




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