

Centre for Disability Research and Training, Kirori Mal College

Disability Studies today is a rapidly emerging interdisciplinary field of academic inquiry, rich with untapped research possibilities. These research possibilities need to be comprehensively explored and adequately conceptualized, if we are to move towards achieving the cherished goal of establishing a truly inclusive society.

With the above in mind, Kirori Mal College, in June 2021, established the Centre for Disability Research and Training (CDRT). Perhaps, the first Centre of its kind in a college in India, the prime objective of CDRT is to promote and popularize disability studies as a legitimate field of academic inquiry within the Indian academia.

In the pursuit of the above goal, the Centre within a short span of less than a year has organized a wide range of academic activities, from faculty development programs and certificate courses to international conferences and webinars on disability studies.

The Centre also aims to broaden the knowledge base of disability studies by encouraging committed research in that area. We actively encourage undergraduate students to engage with disability research under the expert mentorship of renown disability studies scholars.

The Centre in fact strives to function as a nodal institutional site to produce, systemize and disseminate academic knowledge about disability. We engage with all aspects of disability experience ranging from the sociology of the phenomenon, its representations in literature and culture, disability politics and policies, disability law and human rights, to accessibility and universal design, inclusion and education, capacity building and skill development, professional training and employment.

In addition to fostering academic interest in disability studies, the Centre also organizes a number of sensitization workshops and community awareness campaigns on disability with the intention of creating an egalitarian society that appreciates the abilities of persons with disabilities, and willingly provides equal opportunities for all.

But above all, its goal is to create an inclusive teaching and learning atmosphere on campus and foster a level-playing field for students with disabilities so that they could realize the fullness of their potential and become significant contributors in India's growth story.

We strive to profile the students with disabilities in college, identify their specific needs and provide them with customized solutions and support services to maximize their potential. These services include counsellor services, providing them with reasonable accommodation and accessible content, promoting understanding about assistive technology and its myriad possibilities, conducting skill-enhancement and capacity building programs, and offering professional career counselling.

For this purpose, the Centre has launched several projects like '*Shamil*', '*Aarohan*' and '*Shravan*'.

The Centre, thus, aims to empower the disabled community through the creation of multiple opportunities and platforms for their sustainable socio-economic, academic and professional upliftment.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIPaasQP-mMREtsITybUtSw/featured>

Instagram: https://instagram.com/cdrt_kmc?utm_medium=copy_link