

Enabling Unit for Differently Abled Persons

The Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 indicates that differently-abled persons should have access to education at all levels. In the higher education sector, the University Grants Commission (UGC) supports universities in the country to involve in special education n activities to empower differently-abled persons. The UGC started the scheme of assistance to universities to facilitate Teacher Preparation in Special Education (TEPSE) and Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (Differently-abled Persons) (HEPSN) during the Ninth Five-Year Plan, which continued in the Tenth Plan. Keeping in view the need to provide special education programmes as well as infrastructure to differently-abled persons in higher education institutions, the scheme is extended to the Twelfth Plan to[https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/1604485_person-with-disabilities-Uni.pdf].

In line with the vision of the UGC guidelines, the Enabling Unit at Madha Engineering College strivesto enrich higher education learning experiences of differently-abled persons by creating awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled persons, constructing facilities aimed at improving accessibility, purchase of equipment to enrich learning, self-reliance and feeling of inclusivity.

Policy Objective

In accordance with the Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN) Scheme, Madha Engineering College follows the following objectives:

- i. Provides equal educational opportunities to the differently-abled.
- ii. Creates awareness among the administration, teaching and non-teaching staff and students about the specific educational needs of differently abled persons.
- iii. Provides facilities to enable easy access of all college facilities to differently-abled persons.
- iv. Provides special help that augment the learning experiences of differently-abled persons.
- v. Technologically empowers the staff and students with special needs.
- vi. Empowers the special needs students to join the workforce.

Implementation of the Policy

To successfully follow the direction of the UGC to promote inclusiveness for the persons with disabilities, Madha Engineering College provides the following facilities and service

•Admission Support

Onsite counseling of the differently-abled students through student volunteers and staff to fill up the admission form

• Enabling Unit room

- i. To assist the differently-abled students, support staff and teacher coordinator are available. Students visit this room frequently for guidance and support.
- ii. The mobile numbers of the supporting staff and students is made available to the students with special needs.
- iii. Accessible washroom.
- iv. The room is equipped with computers with screen readers, printers and scanner. Recording devices and laptops are available on request.
- v. The syllabus and guidelines are available on request.

• Infrastructure Facilities

- i. Braille language signage is displayed in front of every room for identification of each room.
- ii. Accessible student accommodation in the college hostel is provided
- iii. Accessible college library reading room and the enabling unit is provided with computers with disable-friendly software.
- iv. Barrier free environment, where differently abled members of the college are assisted in their movement by the tactile pathways and ramps.
- v. As part of the barrier free environment, the differently abled are also provided elevator services.
- vi. The provision of wheelchairs and crutches is ensured to assist the orthopedically challenged students.
- vii. Accessible washrooms for the differently abled are ensured.
- viii. The college provides a medical room with all the necessary first aid facilities.

• Technology Facilities

- i. Laptops for differently-abled students in the college as an assistive device are made available.
- ii. The recording device, Angel is provided to the visually challenged students to record their lectures.
- iii. Braille books are available in the library.
- iv. Kibo scanner, computers, printer, and audio aids are made available in the Enabling Unit and the library reading room.
- v. Magazines in Braille are purchased regularly for the visually impaired students.

• Student Council

The college elects a student council comprising of students with special abilities. The students hold posts of president, vice-president, secretary, technical head, treasurer,

creativehead, editorial head etc. The students get opportunities to showcase their leadership qualities and work in a team.

•Peer care

- i. Enabling unit provides scribe facilities to the differently abled students by appointing volunteers who write assignments and keep their fellow students abreast of important announcements.
- ii. Personalized care in the classroom and online platform
- iii. Special attention after classes.
- iv. Peer group reading arrangement.
- v. The student volunteers of the Equal Opportunity Cell are always available for escort, reading and writing help.
- vi. Active social media groups keep the students updated with upcoming workshops/seminars/job opportunities.

•Financial Support

Financial help and scholarships are extended through various government and non-government organizations.

•Extra-curricular activities

- i. Facilities in the field of sports and cultural activities are also provided.
- ii. Musical instruments are available.
- iii. Cultural events/debates/music competitions/talent hunts are a regular feature.
- iv. All special events/days are celebrated.

• Job ready training

- i. Regular workshops for skills enhancement are undertaken.
- ii. Offline/online speaker sessions in relevant areas.
- iii. Job opportunities are shared with the students.

Adherence to the UGC guidelines

The policy is revisited time to time and objectives are updated to be online with the revised university guidelines as and when needed