

Steps taken by the Department of Elementary Education to enrich the inclusive teaching Learning Environment, 2022-23

Academic –

For a rich learning environment with collaboration, inclusion and participation –

The department had lot of activities with collective, collaborating and inclusive and innovative tasks, promoting a rich learning environment.

1. The department ensured opportunities for greater creativity, inclusivity and effectiveness in design and use of teaching-learning material. It collaborated with NGO government and private agencies, innovative schools for innovative and inclusive aids and methodology, and future prospects in the field of education.

An educational field visit was organized for B.El.Ed. III year to NGO Digantar (Jaipur) , for innovative learning approaches in rural schools.

Seminar and placement sessions were also organized. Alumni has also been invited in 2022-23 to share their experiences from the field.

2. The department collaborated with government schools-Sarvodaya Primary schools for primary school Internship (IV year), block teaching (III year) and school contact programme (I year), and with around eight Private schools for Middle school Internship (IV year), thereby providing experiential learning in diverse real school settings.
3. B.El.Ed. as a part of its curriculum students have regular theatre sessions and craft sessions with qualified resource persons, with activities that promote self expression and inclusion and cooperation. The pre service teachers incorporate their learning about inclusion and opportunities for self expression during their school internships too.

There are eight self development workshops conducted every year for B.El.Ed. II year students, and also conducted in year 2022-23.

4. During School Internship a Resource room equipped with teaching learning resources for Primary school level is developed in all schools. The resource centre was developed by B.El.Ed. IV year interns collectively in Sarvodaya Govt. schools , with participation and cooperative work of all interns of the schools and support of school Principal and staff of that school. The resource centre encourages inclusivity, student's reading habits, activity based learning . The resource room also has various resources for teachers which can be used by them to make their teaching more effective and inclusive.
5. The faculty members use innovative, inclusive and flexible approaches to teaching thereby contributing to an all-round and holistic development of students. Many of the practicum papers and project based learning activities in different subjects have some innovative activity that involves group work, peer learning opportunities and pair / team reports.

6. All the faculty members are bilingual in their subject knowledge transaction and this ensures dissemination of inclusive and equitable knowledge to students from both Hindi and English medium. Support is being provided to visually challenged students and other students with special needs with extra TLM, and interactions for learning.
7. The department has ensured students' interests and mentoring by maintaining constant communication between students and teachers. As a department which believes in following as well as fostering inclusive learner-centric approach, attention has been given to needs and requirements of individual students.
8. The interdisciplinary nature of the B.El.Ed curriculum has provided opportunities for more collaboration with other departments of the college, student interaction between disciplines and taking up of inclusive and innovative interdisciplinary teaching learning. The programme has drawn disciplinary resources from other departments and an effective collaboration with cooperative faculty.
9. Students were encouraged to participate in various summer and winter internship programs conducted by organizations in the field of education. The Department makes a sustained effort to expose the students to the work of groups and organizations engaged at the grass-roots level and facilitate integration of theoretical studies with field realities. At the end of the programme, placement of students in different schools and NGO's is also facilitated by the department. The faculty members engage intensely with each learner to ensure they are initiated into the process of life-long and inclusive learning, development and empowerment.

Co-curricular activities

The department has theatre, craft, story telling sessions, and many other activities that promote holistic development.

Students and faculty members have taken part in various activities of college societies on regular basis, eg. Theatre, NSS, UBA,

Challenges

With a large class size of over 60 to 80 students, and high student- teacher ratio, it's a challenge to effectively incorporate inclusive teaching learning methods and the vision of B.El.Ed. programme

Being a bilingual programme there is need to develop more resource materials in Hindi language for students who prefer Hindi medium.

Resources are required to conduct and undertake research in the field of elementary education.

In the absence of the awaited development of State of art Curriculum Lab for B.El.Ed,

the Department has to make do with the available space. Given that the Programme demands individual engagement with students, there is requirement for additional sanctioned support staff for managing the resource center and handling curriculum laboratory.

Future Plans

The Department plans to expand the Resource Centre with more books, teaching-learning materials and resources. There are plans to develop a Curriculum Laboratory. Efforts are going on for strengthening the support system provided to in-service school teachers. There are plans to initiate a research based journal in the field of education. Provision for more reading material for Hindi medium students is being. Efforts are being made to better use technology to make teaching-learning more effective, inclusive and meaningful, to create more e-learning resources for students and to involve the alumni further to contribute in the activities of the department.