Office of The Principal Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra

Government Degree College Samba

J&K (UT) – 184121

NAAC Accredited Grade-B

विकसित
अभिया
1947 204

Prof. (Dr.)Twinkle Suri
Principal

URL :www.gdcsamba.in
Email: gdcsamba90@gmail.com

(Mob) 94191-72092

Policy Document: Ensuring an Inclusive and Accessible Environment for Persons with Disabilities

Introduction:

SPPND Government Degree College, Samba, is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students, including those with disabilities (Divyangjan). The college recognizes that access to education is a fundamental right, and it strives to ensure that its infrastructure, resources, and services are accessible to every individual, regardless of physical or cognitive challenges. This policy outlines the measures taken by the college to provide a barrier-free environment and the necessary support systems for students and staff with disabilities.

1. Built Environment Accessibility:

SPPND GDC Samba has made concerted efforts to ensure that the physical infrastructure of the college is accessible to all individuals, including those with physical disabilities.

- **Ramps and Lifts:** The college is equipped with ramps and lifts at key locations across the campus, including entrances to academic buildings, libraries, and other essential facilities. These ramps and lifts ensure easy access to classrooms and other learning spaces for students and staff with mobility challenges.

- **Disabled-Friendly Washrooms:** The college has designated disabled-friendly washrooms in strategic locations across the campus. These washrooms are designed to accommodate students and staff with disabilities, ensuring that they have access to safe and comfortable restroom facilities.

2. Signage and Navigation:

To assist students and staff with visual impairments, the college has implemented the following measures to aid navigation and accessibility:

- **Tactile Path:** Tactile paths are installed in key areas of the campus to assist individuals with visual impairments in navigating the campus independently. These paths provide clear and accessible routes to important locations, such as classrooms, the library, and washrooms.

- **Clear Signage and Display Boards:** All signage on the campus is designed to be clear and easily understandable. This includes visual signs, Braille signs, and tactile markers. These are placed at appropriate heights and locations for ease of access, allowing students and visitors to navigate the campus with confidence.

- **Lighting and Display Boards:** Adequate lighting has been provided in all corridors, stairways, and pathways to ensure that students with visual impairments can navigate safely. Display boards are designed with high contrast and large fonts to ensure readability for individuals with low vision.

3. Assistive Technology and Facilities:

SPPND GDC Samba is dedicated to providing the necessary technology and resources to support students with disabilities in their academic endeavors.

- **Accessible Website:** The college website is designed to be fully accessible, complying with WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines). It is equipped with features that allow screen readers to

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effectively read out the content, ensuring that students with visual impairments can access online resources, announcements, and important information.

- **Screen-Reading Software:** The college provides screen-reading software on computers in the library and computer labs to assist visually impaired students. This software converts digital text into speech, helping students engage with digital content, research materials, and online learning platforms.

- **Mechanized Equipment:** Where necessary, the college provides mechanized equipment, such as adaptive keyboards, specialized mice, and other assistive devices to ensure that students with physical disabilities can access academic materials and participate in class activities without barriers.

4. Provision for Enquiry and Information:

To ensure that students with disabilities have access to the necessary academic support and information, the college offers several provisions aimed at facilitating their learning experience.

- **Human Assistance:** The college provides human assistance to students with disabilities when required. This assistance may include personal aides, support staff for physical mobility, or guides to help students navigate the campus and classrooms.

- **Reader and Scribe Services:** Students who have difficulty reading or writing due to disabilities are provided with reader and scribe services during examinations and assignments. A reader assists by reading aloud the exam paper, while a scribe writes down the responses dictated by the student.

- **Soft Copies of Reading Material:** To facilitate easier access to learning materials, soft copies of textbooks, course material, and reading lists are made available to students with disabilities. This digital format allows students to use assistive technology like screen readers or magnification software to access the content.

- **Screen Reading Services:** In addition to screen-reading software on computers, the college ensures that students who require screen reading for textbooks and digital documents are provided with the appropriate software and support. This allows them to interact with academic content in an accessible format.

5. Training and Awareness:

The college regularly conducts awareness programs and training sessions for faculty, staff, and students on the importance of inclusion and accessibility. These programs help create a supportive, welcoming, and understanding environment for students with disabilities. Faculty members are trained in using assistive technologies and are encouraged to adopt inclusive teaching practices that cater to diverse learning needs.

6. Ongoing Support and Evaluation:\

SPPND GDC Samba is committed to continuous improvement in ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to all academic and campus facilities. The institution will regularly assess the effectiveness of its accessibility measures and provide necessary updates and modifications. Feedback from students, staff, and external experts is encouraged to evaluate and improve the accessibility provisions in place.

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Conclusion:

SPPND Government Degree College, Samba, is dedicated to ensuring that students with disabilities have a supportive and barrier-free environment that fosters academic success and personal growth. By adopting a comprehensive and inclusive approach to infrastructure, technology, and support services, the college strives to create an accessible learning environment for all. Through these initiatives, the institution reaffirms its commitment to promoting equal opportunities for students with disabilities, ensuring that they can participate fully in academic, social, and extracurricular activities, and are provided with the tools necessary to succeed.

Review and Revision: This policy will be reviewed every two years or as needed based on feedback and advancements in accessibility practices.

PRINCIPAL
Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra
Govt. Degree College Samba