

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CUM ENABLING CELL

(Year of inception 2013)

Introduction: The ILS Law College established Equal opportunity cum Enabling Cell on 4 January 2013, on the auspicious occasion of Braille Day. The establishment of this Cell has resulted in substantial enhancement in the level of inclusion, both in physical and attitudinal dimensions. Its main objectives is to provide equal educational opportunities to differently abled students in the field of Law in ILS Law College Pune and Create awareness among the functionaries of ILS Law College about the specific educational needs of differently abled students.

Faculty Coordinators: Dr. Sanjay Jain and Mr. D.P. Kendre

Report :

- **Making the Most of University Life as a Student with a Disability: A three-day International Conversation**
- **Date :** 13 to 15 January 2022.

The Equal Opportunity cum Enabling Cell of ILS Law College organized a three-day international interaction amongst the youth with disabilities on "Making the Most of University Life as a Student with a Disability." It was conducted online on the Google Meet platform and on YouTube. The three-day affair comprised five sessions.

On 13 January 2022, the event's inauguration began with the *Saraswati Vandana* sung by the melodious Ms. Mayuri Atre. It was followed by the welcome address from Dr. Sanjay Jain, Officiating Principal and Faculty Coordinator. Mr. D. P. Kendre talked about the ILS Equal Opportunity cum Enabling Cell. Brief speeches were delivered by the respected guests which included Professor Lennard Davis, Professor of Disability and Human Movement, Liberal Arts and Science, University of Illinois, Chicago, Mr. Abhijeet Majage, CEO, Finite4 Engineering Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. and the Chief Guest, Ms. Vandana Chavan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

The first session entailed a panel discussion on "Excelling in academics at the university level as a student with a disability." The panel comprised Rahul Bajaj, a Rhodes scholar who led the panel discussion, Khansa Maria, a Rhodes scholar from Pakistan and Jean Balchin, a Rhodes scholar from New Zealand. It was an incredible session where the scholars exchanged insights about their experiences and shared their challenges and solutions. Around 50 participants joined the meeting and over 100 people viewed the panel discussion on YouTube.

On the second day, the event began with the beautiful singing of Ms. Mayuri Atre and an address by Dr. Sanjay Jain. The second session was a panel discussion on "Pursuing education abroad as a student with a disability" and included interaction with Ms Pratishta Deveshwar, Oxford Scholar, Masters in Public Policy; a person with chronic physical disability and a well-known disability rights activist and Nandita Venkatesan, Oxford scholar, Masters in Public Policy; a hearing-impaired person and a well-known disability

rights activist. The panelists shared their experience of studying abroad, the limitations and challenges they faced as well as the contrast between studying in India and abroad as a student with a disability.

The third session was an insightful discussion on "Comparative disability law vis-à-vis higher education." The panelists for this session were Prof. Amita Dhanda, Emeritus Professor of Law at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, Prof. Anna Lawson, University of Leeds and Dr. Sanjay Jain, Professor; Officiating Principal, ILS Law College. Around 50 participants joined the meet and over 100 people viewed the panel discussions on YouTube.

The third day of the event started with another melodious song by Mayuri Atre. After Dr. Sanjay Jain's address, the fourth session began on the topic, "Pursuing extracurricular activities as a person with a disability." The panel included Sakina Bedi, a Social Worker and Entrepreneur who led the panel discussion, Manjot Singh, a visually challenged and famous linguist presently pursuing his education in Canada, Aine Kelly-Costello, a Successful Paralympian, Jigar Thakker, Para-swimmer from India and Dr. Vinod Asudani, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Psychologist. It was a motivating session with the speakers sharing their own experiences and learnings.

The fifth and last session of the event was on "Meaningful socializing and romance as a person with a disability." Nidhi Goyal headed the panel discussion, visually challenged famous disability activist and Executive Director of Rising Flame. Moreover, Sakina Bedi, Social Worker and Entrepreneur, Dr. Vinod Asudani, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Psychologist and Mr. Rakshit Malik, visually challenged student. The session addressed a significant point and had interesting perspectives from the speakers. Around 50 participants joined the meeting and over 220 people viewed the panel discussions on YouTube.

The three-day conversation was a much-needed discussion on crucial yet unaddressed topics. It was a success with the involvement of students with disability, eminent scholars, ILS Equal Opportunity cum Enabling Cell, the entire faculty of ILS Law College and all the participants.

- **Webinar on "A controversial provision in the UP Population Control Bill (S.15) that excludes children with disabilities from the two-child norm"**
- **Date :- 8 August 2021**

Equal Opportunity cum Enabling Cell of ILS Law College, Pune, in collaboration with the NLS Diversable Alliance and the Law and Society Committee at National Law School, Bangalore, organized a webinar on Sunday, 8 August 2021 at 5 PM. It was based on a controversial provision in the UP Population Control Bill (Sec.15) that excludes children with disabilities from the two-child norm.

The key speakers for this webinar were - Prof. Mohan Rao (Department of History, University of Warwick, University of Edinburgh); Mr. Rajesh Asudani, Asstt. General Manager, Reserve Bank of India; Prof. Anita Ghai, Professor at School of Human Studies,

Ambedkar University, Disability Rights Activist, Former President of Indian Association of Women's Studies; and Dr. Sanjay Jain, Professor, Additional Charge, Principal, ILS Law College.

Around 50 participants joined the meeting and over 100 people viewed the discussions on YouTube.