

Report on World Dyslexia Day

Organised on 8th October, 2024

Department of Education, Tezpur University celebrated World Dyslexia Day on 8th October, 2024 dedicated to raise awareness about dyslexia and specific learning disabilities, promote inclusivity, how it does not inhibit the intellectual growth of an individual and the implementation of effective strategies to support individuals with dyslexia in their learning endeavours. The program was organised by Department of Education, Tezpur University in collaboration with the MMTTC (Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre), Tezpur University, CDOE (Centre of Distance and Online Education), Centre for Inclusive Development and. At the event, faculty members, research scholars, students from various departments were actively participated. The program was coordinated by Dr. Akhilesh Kumar, Director of CDOE, and Tezpur University under the chairmanship of Dr. Sashapra Chakrawarty, Head of the Department of Education.

World Dyslexia Day 2024 Program schedule (08/10/2024 – Tuesday)		
Serial No	Program	Timing
1	Felicitation	10:00 – 10:10
2	Welcome by Dr. Sashapra Chakrawarty Head, Department of Education, TU	10:10 – 10:20
3	Address by Prof. Farheena Danta Ma'am Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences, TU	10:20 – 10:30
4	Address by Prof. Nil Ratan Roy, Professor Department of Education, TU	10:30 – 10:40
5	Address by Expert Dr. Pankaj Kumar, NIEPVD	10:40 – 10:50
6	Address by Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Director CDOE, TU	10:50 – 11:00
7	Address by Dr. Rajiv K. Doley, Director CID, TU	11:00 – 11:10
8	Address by Expert Dr. Sanjay Kant Prasad, Director NCDAS, IGNOU, Former Deputy Disability Commissioner Government of India	11:10 – 11:20
9	Presentation by B.Ed students	11:20 – 11:30
12	Vote of thanks by Dr. Pratima Pallai	11:55 – 12:00

The program started at 10.00 am with felicitation ceremony of the invited esteemed guests, Prof. Farheena Danta, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University and Dr. Rajiv K. Doley, Director CID, Tezpur University.

The program was hosted by Dr. Sashapra Chakrawarty, Associate Professor, Head of the Department, Education. The Head of the Department gave the welcome speech in which she welcomed the invited guests, faculties, and the entire

audience. She commenced the program stating the basic orientation to Dyslexia, a learning disability in reading; People with dyslexia have trouble reading at a good pace and without mistakes. She mentioned through identification, awareness and intervention to streamline them in the society. They may also have a difficult phase with reading comprehension; spelling and writing but these challenges aren't a problem with intelligence. Some effort can be taken at right time for academic success.



Prof. Farheena Danta, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University addressed the event by stating that dyslexia can be handled and overcome with proper attention. Dyslexia is not a disease but a neurological issue which is temporary in nature. It is not impairment it can be improved. She congratulated the department and appreciated our head of the department for standing up and talking about such causes. She expressed how she herself knew about these conditions being curable with required patience and care like that of a few prominent figures outside India. She also emphasized that the education fraternity must be more careful and conscious on selecting the pedagogical practices to empowering them and more decisive steps can be taken. Certain teaching approaches and strategies can help them improve their reading skills and manage the challenges. People sometimes believe dyslexia is a problem with vision and intelligence, they think of it as reversing letters or writing backwards. But dyslexia is an issue with language. So that, it can be overcome collaborative way.



An insightful presentation was given by the coordinator of the event Dr. Akhilesh Kumar, Associate Professor and Director of the CDOE (Centre of Distance and Online Education), Tezpur University. He discussed about specific learning disabilities in Indian context with reference to NEP 2020 and inclusive education. He introduced two beautiful poems by a boy with dyslexia based on the feelings of ADHD

(attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) both the poems expressed the anguish and frustration of the individuals who have a lot to say but none to listen. He expressed his desire behind celebrating this day to create a pattern of multiplier effect. This effect will not only lead people to know about what dyslexia is but to also understand that with required efforts of student, teacher, parents, school and administration we can make these innocent beings live a

better life. The label from their head of being a slow learner or not like others needs to be reduced and more inclusivity is only possible when we talk and learn more about such topics. He mentioned about the symptoms like late talking, learning new words slowly, a delay in learning to read and delayed speech. Learners may suffer from difficulty in memorizing, spelling, or difficulty thinking and understanding, delayed reading ability, headache, or speech impairment.

Prof. Nil Ratan Roy, former Head, Department of Education, gave welcome speech in which he welcomed the invited guests & the entire audience. Prof. Roy highlighted the different categories of learning disabilities and emphasised on raising awareness. He said that it was

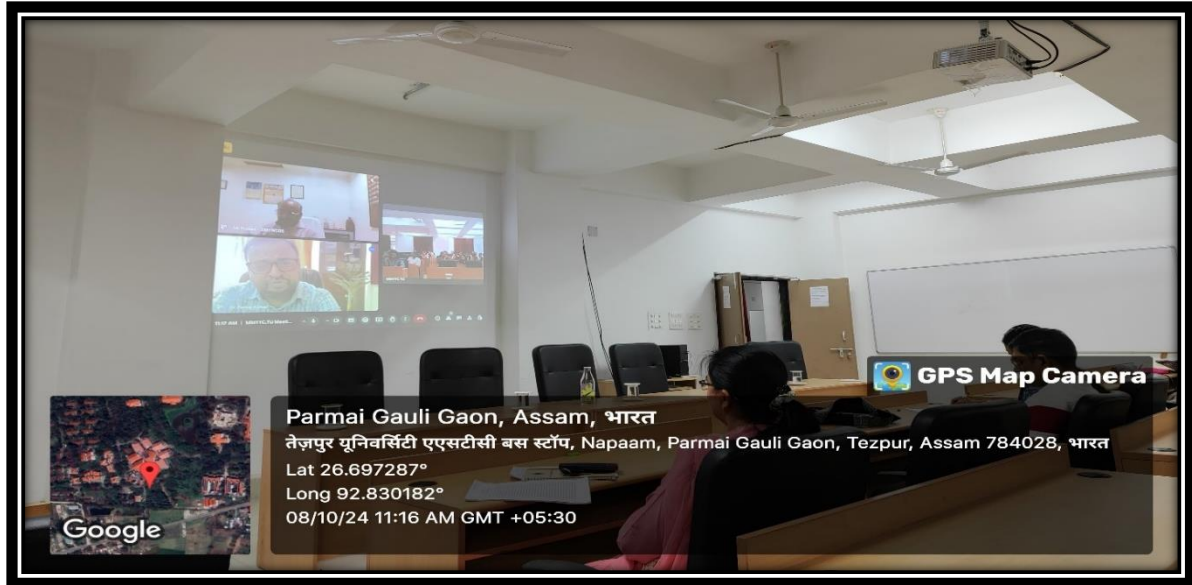


great celebrating this day and also showed his effort of fully supporting such cause by wearing red. He gave the example of how Albert Einstein a prominent intellectual was also dyslexic but with his mother's love and care he became one of the greatest names to be ever known. Dr Nil Sir also suggested that maybe creating a donation drive that helps with collecting funds to support the individuals in any way possible can be a better way to help the individuals closely. He mentioned about different phases of dyslexia such as difficulty in spelling words, reluctant to read aloud in class, confusing letters with similar shapes, mixing up the position of sounds in a word. Dyslexia falls under the umbrella of specific learning disorder such as dysgraphia, dyscalculia. He also gave some real-life examples to explain the issue.

There was an online address by the expert Dr. Sanjay Kant Prasad, Director NCDAS, IGNOU, Former Deputy Disability Commissioner, Government of India. They joined us through Google meet and shared some experiences about on dyslexia. He joined the event online and gave his orientation on dyslexia and specific learning disabilities. He focused on creating a conducive environment for person with learning disabilities. He has given the reference of RPWD act-2016 where it is mentioned related to seat reservation for them. The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) acknowledges the visual and auditory processing

difficulties that some individuals with dyslexia shows a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process. He was hopeful to develop and progress of our society in near future in Indian context and throughout the world.

There was another address by expert Dr. Pankaj Kumar, NIEPVD, the resource person who shared his experience and knowledge with the audience regarding dyslexia. He mentioned that Dyslexia doesn't mean low intelligence, in fact dyslexic individuals can be quite bright. He told identification of the disorder, access to be taken and adopting the strategic neurological disorder. He also mentioned that purpose of the day.



Research has shown that the dyslexic individual's brain is wired differently, and it is not a bad thing. Many people with dyslexia have strong skills in areas other than reading and spelling.

Two of the interns from Kendriya Vidyalaya gave a presentation on the topic of Dyslexia addressing the challenges of Dyslexia, the role played by teachers and parents in nurturing the child with some real-life examples such as Albert Einstein, Stephan Hawkins, Steve Jobs, Walt Disney. During the presentation they talked about different activities that can be performed for person with dyslexia. They came up with some suggestion and home activities such as reading together, use of technology, use of dyslexia friendly environment, use of flashcards.



Various activities conducted to spread awareness on the occasion World Dyslexia Day

Quiz Competition

During the event, the B.Ed. 3rd semester interns of Kendriya Vidyalaya organized quiz competition for students of the various undergraduate and post graduate courses present in the event. Participants from various departments took part in the competition.

All the winners and participants were awarded by the faculty after the event. Lastly a quiz was conducted to include participants more in the discussion of dyslexia. Short and fun session with 8 questions was conducted and the people who could answer were also given reward.

Prize Distribution



After this, the coordinator of the organizing committee Dr. Pratima Pallai, Associate Professor, Department of Education, gave the concluding remark and formal vote of thanks to everyone on the behalf of the Department. And in the end, the participants were presented with prizes on successful completion of the event.

Open House Discussion based on a Short Film Screening: 'Mical'

In the hope of spreading awareness and having engaging conversations on World Dyslexia Day, the Department of Education at Tezpur University, on the **8th October 2024**, organized a short film screening named 'Mical' in the Department's smart classroom which was followed by an open house discussion on the observations based on the movie.



Mical is a 2020 documentary short film about a young boy with dyslexia and the impact of his mother's support on his life. Based on the true story of Mike Jones and his mother Pat, Mical is about a seven-year-old boy who struggles to read and write due to dyslexia. Mike is bullied at school and teachers fail him, but his mother is determined to help him reach his potential.

The PhD Research scholars of the Department raised their queries on their reflections on the short film and our respected panel gave their valuable insights on Dyslexia such as:

- a) Need of early detection and intervention strategies
- b) Role of Teachers and Family in Helping Dyslexic Children Cope with the Condition
- c) Evolving Nature of Teacher Education and the Prospects of Inclusive Practices in its curriculum



To conclude, the Open House Discussion was an enriching experience for the Research Scholars as they gathered valuable insights on Dyslexia and Specific Learning Disabilities.



Group Photo Gallery

