



Name of the event– Celebrating the International Disabled Persons Day

Theme: Inclusion

Day, Date and Time – Thursday, December 03, 2020, 11:45 AM- 1:30 PM

Number of Participants – 130

Name of teacher in charge – Dr. Swati Partani

Name of the speaker – Ms Manjushree Patil

Zoom Meeting Id - <https://zoom.us/j/91083928728?pwd=MVhCb1RrZnpBSXl6bURlYkVlVWV0Vtdz09>

Write up – The talk on Inclusion was conducted by the Child Development Department of Maniben Nanavati Women's College on 03 December, 2020 at 11:45 A.M. The talk was conducted for the undergraduate students. It was organized in honour of the International Disabled Persons Day celebrated on the same.

The session commenced with a poem recited by Ms. Belita D'souza a student of TYBA. It was titled "I'm Not Special, I'm Just like You". Following which, was a brief introduction of the guest speaker - Ms. Manjushree Patil. She went onto introduce Aatman Academy, a school created by her and her team for students with all kinds of disabilities. It is a place where one co-creates learning using innovative and creative methods to overcome and manage challenges.

Ms. Patil started off with showing the participants various assortments of fruits in different forms colours, shapes, sizes and of varied types. She went onto associate this with the different and diverse individuals we see in our everyday lives and that is what makes us unique. She placed a large emphasis on looking beyond a person's disability and instead recognizing them for their contribution and most importantly viewing them as a whole.

In order for the participants to truly understand inclusion, Ms. Patil screened two short films on inclusion and exclusion. The first was, CGI 3D Animated Short: "Ian" - by Mundoloco CGI Ian Foundation presented by TheCGBros. The message of the short film was, to understand inclusion, we must use empathy and recall instances when we were excluded. The next film was Purl by Pixar, SparkShorts. The film relayed a message of trying to fit in when discriminated against.

With great vigour, the speaker urged the participants to look beyond inclusion, and aim to create a space and sense of belonging. Ms. Patil says, "We need to shift the paradigm, from disability to diversity, from problem to panorama." She put a great emphasis on teaching diversity and the importance of radical and unconditional acceptance. The speaker went onto recite a poem on the same, she had penned a few years ago. She shares with the participants her utopian dream- "I wish one day we won't need inclusion anymore, we will all just be and that day the work will be done".

Following this was another poem recitation titled "Main alag hu" by Ms. Kajal Jaiswal, student of SYBA, followed by a question and answer session. The speaker addressed questions relating to an inclusive curriculum, challenges faced, teaching during covid, etc.

The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks by student Ms. Raajalakshmi Iyer and the HOD of the Child Development Department Dr. Swati Partani and the participants sharing their sincere gratitude to Ms. Manjushree Patil.

Testimonials:

- It was an amazing and informative session
- The whole event was amazing and I would like to attend such knowledge, events and be the part of it
- The speaker was fantastic and gave an amazing presentation about disabilities and inclusion. She's definitely made an impact on me.
- The session really helped in clarify the concept of inclusion. Too good.
- I am really amazed by the presentation and speaker. Really an informative and lovely session. We all are one. And inclusion is most important because we are one as humans. We are one. We are unique in our own itself. We are beautiful as we are.