

दयाल सिंह कॉलेज

(दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय)

लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110003

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NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade
NIRF - 2017 All India 8th Rank

DYAL SINGH COLLEGE

(University of Delhi)

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Date: 05.03.2018

The Principal:

Sub: Workshop on Digitization of Books on 9th March 2018 at Dyal Singh College (University of Delhi).

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Enabling Unit of Dyal Singh College in collaboration of Saksham Trust Delhi is organizing a workshop on production of digital books on 9th March 2018 in the seminar Hall of the College from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Experts from Saksham Trust Delhi, namely Mr. Dipendra Manocha: Managing Trustee Saksham Trust, Ms. Shrija Parmeshwaram: Head Digital Production and Mr. Abdul Wazid: Manager Digital Production Saksham Trust will provide demonstration and a small training to the volunteers about the process of digitization of books.

Why Digitization is required:

The Persons with Print disabilities require their books in accessible format for reading. Braille, Large Print, Audio and accessible e-text are alternatives to printed text, among which Accessible digital text may be considered the best in terms of convenience and portability. The Print Disabled do not get basic textbooks either at school or at or higher education in accessible format. In addition, students need several supplementary reading materials, which are also not available in accessible format. There is a significant progress so far the education of Disabled is concerned. The adoption of 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' and the passage of the RTE Act 2008 has taken some progressive steps in this direction. The passage of RPWD Act 2016 has provided a significant anchorage to the right of education of Disabled in India. But the actual picture of the education of Print Disabled is pretty grim even today as about 50% of children with blindness or low vision are able to enter the education system. Out of these too, majority drop out of the system by the time they reach higher education due to lack of support and facilities. Prime amongst which is non-availability of books in accessible format that they could read independently. Moreover, Students often lack capacity to read those limited accessible format books and information that are available to them. This lack of education, knowledge and skills render them unemployable which leads to their low self-esteem and socio economic exclusion.

The NGOs/Trusts who undertake large scale production of books and other reading material, are depending on commercial organizations that charge 40 to 50 Rs per page for conversion of only simple text of the books. Books with STEM contents are charged more than 100 Rs per page. So NGOs have to spent lakhs of Rupees for this conversion work. To find an alternate, where books can be converted faster

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and cheaper so that we can end the book famine and print disabled children can have access to plenty of books in accessible format, we can create a pool of volunteers who after a small training could play a significant role in supporting the educational needs of the Print Disabled. This workshop is a step forward in this direction. Volunteers trained through this workshop should be able to digitise books of their choice, thereby benefiting themselves as well as the print disabled community at large.

You are therefore requested to nominate students/staff to participate in this effort and contribute towards empowerment of the Disabled.

Thanks and best regards.

Nikhil Jain

(Convener, Enabling Unit, Dyal Singh College)

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I Singh 5.3.18
(Dr. I. S. Bakshi)
Principal

CC:

College website

Librarian: for information with a request to nominate 2 staff members

Ms. Preeti Dabas: for information with a request to participate