



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Policy Document Disabled-friendly, Barrier free and inclusive campus

1. Policy Statement/Aim

Miranda House is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and enabling a barrier free campus. This entails the inclusion of values that help ensure a disabled-friendly environment. Adhering to the guidelines of UGC/University of Delhi towards the implementation of several schemes and mechanisms in this regard is also vital to our policy.

The Enabling Unit: Policy

The Enabling Miranda House was established under EC resolution dated 19 October 2006. This was under the larger umbrella of the Equal Opportunity Cell, University of Delhi. The Enabling Unit in Miranda House was set up by a Staff Council mandate in 2006. The motto is that of 'Inclusion and Accessibility'. The biggest barrier to inclusion is the human mind. Miranda House aims to overcome these barriers and break all myths associated with the people with disabilities. The policy is directed towards sensitization, inclusion and integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream. As an educational institution we aim to help students with disabilities lead independent lives with dignity. Miranda House is committed to providing and developing a positive, supportive and enabling environment for all staff and students. This policy document is built on the UGC guidelines, People with Disabilities Act of 1995 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Acts (RPwD) 2016. This policy document is to be read in continuation with the policy document of the Equal Opportunity Cell, University of Delhi, the RPwD Act 2016 and any Ordinances and Acts formulated by the Government of India for educational institutions.

Objectives of the policy are

- Promote equality of opportunity for the students with disabilities.
- Protect their rights and promotion of a positive mindset towards the students with disabilities
- Involvement of the students with disabilities in the academic and cultural life of the college
- Provision of adequate medical care
- Creation of a physically and socially barrier free environment
- Integration of students with disabilities
- Sensitisation of the college community towards those who are students with disabilities



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

2. Scope and Applicability

The Enabling Unit of Miranda House facilitates the students with disabilities in all aspects of student life. The aim is to create a supportive environment and promote the idea of interdependence amongst all. It functions on the motto of holistic accessibility.

3. Components/Elements of the Policy

The guiding principles for the policy for people with disability have been the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) 2016. In continuation with the UGC/University of Delhi guidelines the college has a policy directed towards inclusion and prevention of discrimination.

Education Access

- To provide an enabling environment and state of art assistive technologies to the visually challenged members of the Miranda House community.
- Facilitating reading and writing and assisting visually impaired students in their activities.
- Collaboration with media and print houses for facilitating access to accessible reading material.
- Collaboration with NSS to provide writers and scribes for regular coursework and during examinations for the visually impaired and other students who require help.
- Easy access to digital technologies if needed for attending classes and writing exams if needed.
- Regular monitoring of participation and progress of students with disabilities
- To provide books and other learning materials and appropriate assistive technologies to students, faculty and others free of cost.

Print Access

- Making reading material accessible to visually impaired students. The use of various software and hardware is to convert material into Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY). The copyright amendment act 2012 ensures that the print disabled or granted legal rights to access printed material. Collaborating with various organisations and print houses to facilitate easy access to printed material.
- Organization of regular workshops and seminars to provide awareness and basic training to use accessible technologies for the visually challenged.
- Availability of engine recorders, laptops and other devices to help the people with disabilities



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Financial Access

- Advocacy towards providing financial independence through equal employment opportunities for the students with disabilities.
- Organizing regular job fairs and training workshops to facilitate employment for the students with disabilities. The Placement cell to work in close collaboration with the enabling unit to facilitate placement for them.
- Provision of bursaries and scholarships for financial support of the students with disabilities. Provision of scholarships based on academic merit and sports and extracurricular achievements to encourage them.

Self-reliance with Dignity

- To promote self-reliance among the students with disabilities.
- Provision of residential facilities as far as possible in the Miranda House hostel.
- Creation of a barrier free environment with the help of ramps, elevators, wheelchair, etc.

Infrastructural support

- **Amba Dalmia Digital Resource Centre (ADDRC)**

The Amba Dalmia digital resource Centre is committed to providing an enabling environment and state of art assistive technologies to the visually challenged members of the Miranda House community. It is a first of its kind in Delhi University and this was established within the library premises on the ground floor with criteria five: student support and progression. ADDRC was established with desktops, laptops, braille printer, Angel recorders. Close linkages and maintained with the Equal Opportunity Cell at the University. This center is aimed at facilitating reading and writing and assisting visually impaired students in their activities. The center is run by a library attendant who is visually challenged and is well-versed with the use of technology. Every year a 10-week computer course is run under the aegis of the ADDRC for the visually impaired students. The aim is to familiarize the students with the use of such special software such as JAWS, KURZWEIL and SAFA. The college also has scanners, e-book readers, voice recorders and a Braille Embosser that converts printed text to embossed braille dots for easy reading. The library also has a set of braille books, magazines, audio magazines, DAISY audio recorded books, textbooks and recorders to be used by the students.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

- **QR Codes**



In a first for any college at University of Delhi, Miranda House has installed Digital Vision Signages to assist visually challenged students to navigate and find their way across the College. The aesthetically pleasing large acrylic sheets fixed prominently outside each room carry the digital scan code that describes not just the room number but the facility within. An App installed on the smart mobile phone converts the code once scanned into a short verbal description that the students can listen to. The college personally created useful information about classrooms and all facilities through interesting narratives. This entailed mapping step by step the path leading from the signage to the facility. For instance, the digital signage outside the Principal's Office corridor gives a warning about the glass door and directions on how many steps it will take to reach her table!

QR Codes in the Media

1. Video by SCORE foundation

Link: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/109199/making-college-campus-accessible/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ1FwdN7Ilo>

2. ScoopWhoop Facebook video

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=704029479794249&id=319381748259026

3. [TOI article http://toi.in/fOM7Wa/a19ai](http://toi.in/fOM7Wa/a19ai)

- **Ramps**

The MH campus is well connected with pathways and ramps and lifts which are disabled friendly. The lifts and ramps provide easy access to the classrooms and other infrastructural facilities in the college and in the hostel.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

- **Residential facilities**

A separate wing has been set up in the hostel on the ground floor for the students with disabilities. This wing has accommodation for students on the ground floor with ergonomically designed furniture and what is the use. This wing has a separate toilet block with all facilities and ease of access. There is also a common room and This wing has accommodation for students on the ground floor with ergonomically designed furniture and for easy use. This wing has a separate toilet block with all facilities and ease of access. There is also a common room and a launderette for use by the students.

- **Assisting Persons with Disabilities**

Enabling Society volunteers and the NSS volunteers different and assist visually challenged students in more ways than can be listed. The fresher's orientation provides a guided introduction to the MH and facilities like Patel Chest, the Metro Station, ADDRC and other facilities in and around the campus. Students provide academic help by scanning and editing essential readings, texts and references to make a digital collection for their visually impaired friends. The volunteers also read and record lessons, and act as writers for the visually impaired students. Volunteers also assist the PWD participation in extracurricular activities and escort them to various off campus competitive events. The students with disabilities are also made aware of various technological innovations which increase their access and facilitate their movement.

Administrative Measures and Scholarships

The college has several administrative measures in place for the physically challenged students. We have Braille notice boards and also tactile maps. Special permission is given to visually challenged students to retain laptops and recorders that have been issued to them till after the examinations. The financial support that is provided to 121 students is in addition to the fee waiver and assistance obtained from government agencies and other civil society organizations. Help the Blind Foundation provides scholarships to 40 students; Yashoda fellowship also provides financial assistance to 10 students; Buti Foundation provides assistance to 3 students; Amba Dalmia Awards are given to 2 students; RRP Sharma Memorial award to 1 and Savitri Devi Jolly award to one student was awarded during the year 2020-21.

Seminars and Workshops

The Enabling Unit regularly organizes seminars and workshops for raising awareness and educating students on various aspects. Some of the workshops and Seminars organized focus on Access and Accessibility and sensitization Intercollege Sensitization and Awareness workshop.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Mobility Training

This is an exercise which is held every year at the start of an academic session generally around the first week of August. This involves similar rising familiarizing the visually impaired students with the Miranda House campus and also the university campus outside the MH gates. Visually challenged person is assigned a volunteer and the volunteer using the sighted guide technique takes the visually impaired student around the MH campus. This involves visiting the classrooms, the canteen, the washrooms, the office premises, the hostel and other facilities in Miranda House. The students are then taken to the metro station, equal opportunity cell, the library and wherever else they wish to familiarize themselves with. Very often the senior students also request for a walk around the campus in order to refresh their memories and to re-familiarize themselves with the Canteen and other areas of the college.

Sports Events and Cultural Events

Miranda House also provides several opportunities for the students with disabilities to participate in several sports activities. They bring several accolades to the college and enhance their sports skills.

4. Expected Outcomes

- In addition to infrastructural and technological support we also focus on capacity building through workshops, seminars, job fairs, peer support and the like. This will ensure a holistic development of the students with special needs.
- With the help of the aforementioned special provisions in place for the students with disabilities, the college strives to support the students with disabilities and extend its disabled-friendly opportunities beyond the campus.
- The college is hopeful to facilitate the barrier free campus culture and build upon its policy for inclusion in every field.