



భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్
 भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
 Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

1. **Title of the Project** – Learning Disability Self-advocacy and Outreach: Enhancing greater inclusion, access to accommodations and equity in higher education institutes and corporate organizations
2. **PI details with Dept and Designation** – 1. **Dr. Shubha Ranganathan**, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Hyderabad.
 2. **Mr. Chetan S. V.**, Ph.D. Scholar in Psychology, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Hyderabad
3. **Origin /Background Problem** – Learning Disability refers to a broad umbrella of significant difficulties in reading and spelling (Dyslexia), writing (Dysgraphia) and math (Dyscalculia). Research on Learning Disabilities in India has shown limited awareness on the concept among teachers, professors and corporate employees. Often, people with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, dysgraphia or dyscalculia face ableism, stigma and discrimination, guilt for availing accommodation, anxiety, depression and low self-esteem due to a lack of inclusive environment in the educational contexts. However, stories of how they navigate these challenges in everyday contexts, the quality of education they receive and the nuances of inclusiveness are less documented. Research suggests that people with dyslexia have creative abilities that are marginalized due to their disability status in many educational institutions and corporations in India. Recently, driven by activism and self-advocacy in the UK, LinkedIn has included “Dyslexic Thinking” as a skill and there has been an increased interest in recruiting neurodivergent talent in corporations across the globe. Hence, the narratives of young people with dyslexia provide insights on curricular aspects, teacher education and student assessments that can contribute to global citizenship education as indicated by SDG-4, Target 4.7. Similarly, insights on disability disclosure, focus on strengths, fair recruitment practices, and accommodations at workplaces aim to reduce inequalities, as indicated in SDG-10, Targets 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4, by contributing to general awareness, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) practices, as well as policy level changes.
4. **Aim and Objectives** –
 - i. To build a network of self-advocates of dyslexia to talk about their experiences through 2 online participatory workshops intended for the general public.
 - ii. To create multimedia content such as short film or short video and publish narratives/ illustrated books to create awareness about learning disabilities in higher education institutes and corporate organizations.
5. **Current Status of your work (including TRL)** – Primary fieldwork involving online and face-to-face interviews with 28 young adults with learning disabilities and visits to 7 higher education institutes have been completed. 7 self-advocates who have consented for this project have adequate internet connection and technological skills to participate in the workshop.



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6. **Proposed Work** – To organize 2 participatory workshops involving young adults with learning disabilities and to conduct 2 experiential workshops for college students, teachers and administrators Following this, preparing multimedia content (tentatively a short film/short documentary and/or an illustrated book) with the self-advocates and publishing them in accessible formats that can be freely available to everyone.
7. **Thematic areas covered under SDGs** *(Please mention SDGs separated by comma)* – SDG-4:Quality Education and SDG-10 Reduced Inequalities
8. **BUDGET DETAILS** (PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OVERHEADS. OVERHEADS WILL BE ADDED AS PER INSTITUTE CSR NORMS. BIFURCATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET MAY BE PROVIDED. HOWEVER, THIS CAN ALSO BE PROVIDED LATER. PLEASE INCLUDE THE YEAR WISE BUDGET WITH A MAX OF 3 YEARS.
Duration-1 year: Overall budget: Rs. 8,70,000/- [1. Honorarium for self-advocates (Rs. 10,000/- each for 7 self-advocates- Rs. 70,000/-; 2. participatory and experiential workshop conduction (1 at a college and 1 at an organization) - Rs.2,00,000/-; 3. short film/short video production- Rs. 4,00,000/-; 4. illustrated book publication- Rs. 2,00,000/- (including illustrator charges)].
9. **Social Impact (Qualitative and Quantitative)** - The outcome of this project is to reframe narratives of learning disability that can potentially bridge gaps between the academia/corporate, lived experiences and public discourses through dialogues, creative content, awareness and advocacy.