



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

(Accredited by NAAC with Grade- 'A')

Centre for Disability Studies & Educational Research (CDSER)

under the aegis of

School of Education

Organized

A Webinar on 'Disability Today: Problems and Perspectives'

Report

Coordinates:

16th Feb 2023, Thursday, 3 pm-4.15 pm; Online (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8606011388>)

Objectives of the Webinar: The webinar intends to put spot lights on-

- ✚ Sensitizing the problems and perspectives of Disability among the faculties, students, research scholars, alumni, officer & staff of the university
- ✚ Discourging the true awareness on disability issues-then and now
- ✚ Impressing the need for knowing more about the social aspects of the construct 'disability' created by the so-called 'abled' society
- ✚ Interaction and exchanges between the speaker and the listeners on the disability issues of today.

No. of Participants: 23

Proceedings of the webinar:

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, the emcee of the event started the session with sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU, Prof. Ranjan Chakrabarti for his kind patronage to organize this webinar.

The virtual event began with the welcome address by Prof. A. N Dey, Director, SoE & Coordinator, CDSER. He heartily greeted all present online and also thanked the speaker for agreeing to deliberate on the disability issue despite of his busy schedule.

Dr. Upadhyay, briefly narrated about the CDSER and its vision, mission and functions. She also put into record the various initiatives, like academic and community outreach activities

taken by the faculty members of SoE under the auspices of CDSEER to translate the objectives of the centre.

Dr. Upadhyay invited and introduced the speaker, Prof. Manojit Mandal, Professor of English, Jadavpur University to deliver his talk on the title 'Disability Today: Problems & Perspectives' before the virtual muster.

Prof. Mandal, by the dint of his experiential knowledge and vast research in the field of disability in the state of West Bengal initiated his lecture with Tagore's Subha, a literary piece in Bengali. He impressed upon the significance and influence of disability literature in realising an inclusive society. In order to bring about Grand Human Development, the problems and its true perspectives will not only be judged through laws, rights and entitlements but mainly through right attitude, feeling for the differently-abled and creating an air of equity that can blow off the prejudices and assist for a promising and sustaining society. The empathetic roles as portrayed in cinemas, as remarked by Prof. Mandal showed a light of hopes that disability problems can be addressed through these perspectives. He rightly suggested for frequent awareness, sensitization and discussion on these themes will count a positive impact on the society in particular and nation in general. He cited numerous examples from literature and movies where disability/differences have been featured with heroic expression. His views on the problems of disability today lies in the crude mindsets of the so called non-disabled or abled society-a construct created by the human society itself. He advised to break/dismantle these shackles and set free the accepting mind and contribute towards an inclusive society.



The 50 minutes lecture was gripping, illuminating and thought-provoking. It filled the minds of the attendees with spirit and hopes of change.

The webinar drew close. Smt. Swapna Deb, Consultant, Special Education, SoE was requested to propose the formal vote of thanks. She expressed her sincere thanks to one and all in making up of the event.



The event was signed off with a vow taking pledge to be a part of an inclusive society in spirit and not just a mere spectator.

Report prepared by-

**Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator of the Webinar,
Member, CDSER & Asst Prof., SoE, NSOU**