

'Assistive Tech for PWDs':

Crucial to bridge gaps in accessibility through inclusive education: KU VC

'With right assistive tools, PWDs can achieve remarkable success'



Srinagar, October 11: To raise awareness among students and train them in the effective use of assistive technologies, the University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day workshop that concluded here Friday.

The event, titled 'Reading and Learning Assistive Technologies for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)', was organised by the varsity's Allama Iqbal Library (AIL) in collaboration with the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), KU, Humanity Welfare Organisation-Helpline, and Saksham-Disability. 120 participants attended the programme.

On the inaugural day, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan, dedicated a "Section for Persons with Disabilities" at Allama Iqbal Library.

Equipped with cutting-edge assistive technologies, the section is designed to benefit not only the students of KU but also those from other institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

In her presidential address, Prof Khan assured the university's full support for PWDs, stating, "We are committed to creating an inclusive educational environment where all students can overcome barriers and thrive academically."

She emphasised the importance of bridging gaps in accessibility through inclusive education and highlighted the crucial role of Allama Iqbal Library in meeting the information needs of specially-abled students.

To further support student success, Prof Khan also distributed free study material for civil service examinations, provided by Allama Iqbal Library, to IAS and KAS aspirants.

Librarian, AIL, KU, Prof Fayaz Ahmad Lone, stressed the transformative potential of assistive technologies in education.

“These technologies empower PWDs to access learning resources and achieve academic success,” he said, adding that the library is committed to offering continuous support to students with disabilities.

Dean, Students' Welfare, Prof Shamim Ahmad Shah, acknowledged the efforts of the Special Cell at DSW in enhancing services and facilities for PWDs at the university.

“Our focus is on ensuring that every student, regardless of their abilities, can access quality education and opportunities,” he remarked.

Special guest and Padma Shri awardee Javed Ahmad Tak, emphasised the life-changing impact of assistive technologies.

“With the right tools, persons with disabilities can achieve remarkable success, as exemplified by the Paralympic Games 2024,” he said.

He also lauded the University of Kashmir’s efforts in supporting specially-abled students.

The event proceedings were interpreted in sign language by Mir Muneer.

The inaugural session was conducted by Dr S M Imran, Senior Assistant Librarian, while Shaheel Mohammad, Coordinator of the Special Cell at DSW, delivered the vote of thanks.