

2024

Amity University International Conference on
'Inclusion Through Sports'

8-9 April 2024

**In collaboration with Special Olympics Bharat and
Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi**

Executive Summary

Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences organised an international conference on 'Inclusion through sports, in collaboration with Special Olympics Bharat and the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, on 8&9 April 2024 at the University campus. The two-day conference witnessed participation of 75 Students, Educators, Scholars & Rehab Professionals (including CRE and Non-CRE). The primary objective of this conference was to provide a platform for Special Educators and practitioners to exchange knowledge and insights, fostering the promotion of Inclusion through sports.



It was also an earnest endeavour to reshape community perceptions regarding persons with disabilities by emphasizing on their abilities and reducing the focus on their disabilities. Moreover, the aim was to examine the role of NEP2020 in facilitating sports-integrated learning, fostering physical and psychological well-being, promoting life skills, and enhancing cognitive abilities among students.

The conference held two panel discussions that combined key stakeholders from diverse fields within education, addressing the subject of 'Developing Effective Partnerships for Social Inclusion' and 'Celebrating the success of Promoting Inclusion through the Unified Champion School Programming', led by Ms Mukta Narain Thind and Ms Raman Rekhi from SO Bharat, respectively.

Both days concluded with an activity -based session that demonstrated the efficacy of sports as a tool for bringing about inclusion



Opening and Day 1

Dr. Jayanti Pujari, Dean and Director of Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences, Amity University, Noida, welcomed the gathering and introduced the theme of the Conference.



The conference was opened by Dr SK Srivastava, Sr Director, Vice President & Advisor at FPO, Prof Balvinder Shukla Vice Chancellor and Prof Dr. Gurinder Singh, group Vice Chancellor Amity University, Noida who were joined by Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur, Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India , Ms A Srijia, Economic Advisor, SSL, Education Department, Govt of India and Mr Dipak Natali , President and Managing Director, Special Olympics – Asia Pacific Region who relayed the significance of Inclusion in education,

with sports as a tool of unification and personality development. A cultural performance by the students of Mata Bhagwanti Chaddha Niketan, Noida added a pleasant recreation for the audience and the guests.

Ms A Srijia highlighted the government's initiatives to provide UDID cards to children with disabilities which will help them in mainstreaming. She addressed the initiatives taken by NCERT in developing a sports-based curriculum.

Mr Dipak Natali, who joined the conference virtually, spoke about the significant role of educational institutions, that regularise Unified sports, in changing campus environments and attitudes, impacting communities as well.

Report- International Conference on 'Inclusion through Sports'



Ms A Srija, Economic Advisor, SSL, Education Department, Govt of India



Mr Dipak Natali, President and Managing Director, Special Olympics – Asia Pacific Region



Ms Chitra Shah, Vice President, Special Olympics Bharat, led a session highlighting the Special Olympics initiatives that catalyse inclusion through early intervention like the Young Athletes program, organised for children between ages 2 and 8yrs.

Ms Chitra Shah, Vice-President, SO Bharat & Founder Satya Special School, Puducherry

Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur, emphasized the role of every member of the society in mainstreaming individuals with disabilities. She suggested that all universities handhold each kind of disability from the 21 disabilities enlisted in the RPWD Act 2016 and show the path to other organizations in facilitating their Inclusion. Speaking about the youth, she said that they have the power to reestablish India as a Vishwa Guru in the field of Disability. According to her the job of a Special Educator must not be taken as easy, as it demands dedication and professionalism.



A panel discussion moderated by Ms Mukta Narain Thind from SO Bharat, was held on 'Developing Effective Partnerships for Social Inclusion' on the first day congregating accomplished visionaries including Ms Neha Rastogi, Founder Wordswork, Dr Kalpana Sharma, NIS Patiala, Deepak John Nayak, Sports consultant, Ms Ambreen Khan, WWF (World Wildlife Fund) and Mr Akshay Tyagi, Hotel The Lalit

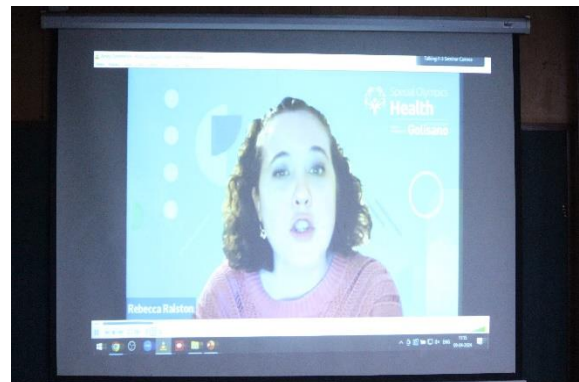
The day concluded with an activity-based session led by Ms. Sulekha Rana and Mr Suresh Kumar from SO Bharat and Dr Ajit Kumar, ASPESS, Amity University.



Day 2 and Valedictory



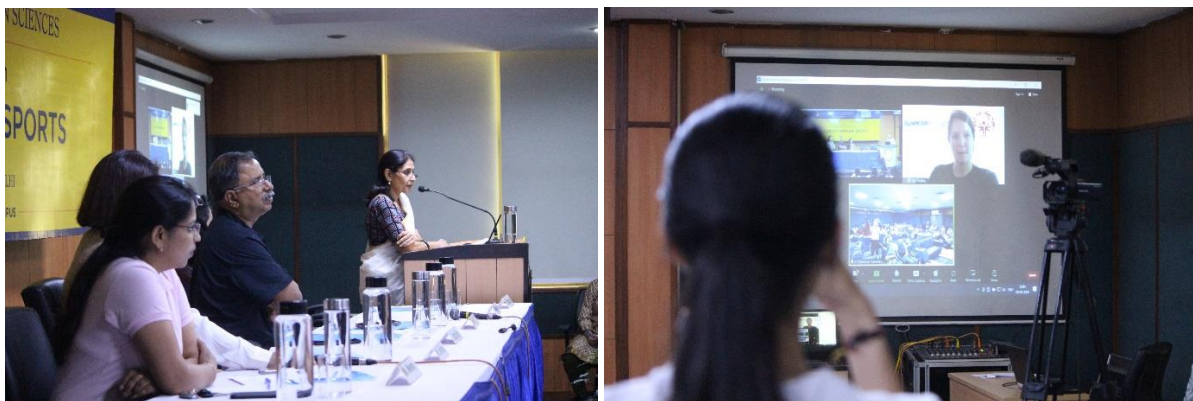
The second and final day opened with Dr Jayanti Pujari's address on Research in Inclusion through Sports, of which she has been an active part since 2017. She underscored the



satisfaction derived from writing research papers, beyond mere publication, mentioning the significance of initiatives like the Young Athlete Program. Ms Rebecca Ralston, Senior Director, Early Childhood and Preventive Health joined the conference virtually, encouraging introduction of the young athlete program widely, to nurture positive mind-sets and behaviour from the outset. Ms Chitra Shah while agreeing, went further in her session outlining the significant role of siblings in secretively cultivating the positive personality of children with special needs. She highlighted the work conducted in Puducherry, including creation of inclusive playgrounds and the promotion of sports as a catalyst



The Panel Discussion that followed received a robust exchange on the topic, 'Celebrating the success of Promoting Inclusion through the Unified Champion School Programming' by the esteemed panelists, Dr Vandana Sharma, MBCN, Ms Aksi Naqvi, Kothari International School, Ms Neeraj Singh, Jaypee Public School, Greater NOIDA, Dr Amitav Mishra, IGNOU (Indira Gandhi Open University, Delhi) and Ms Pam Rolink, from the SOAP Regional office.



"For Special Olympics to create equal access to quality education for students with ID and inclusion through sports it is a must to work together with Government entities and other organizations from global to local levels. It is only through such collaboration that we can, in a sustainable fashion, reach more students with ID and create a more inclusive educational environment for all. Special Olympics cannot do it alone, we need the government officials, educators, coaches, students and the wider community to carry out the message of inclusion."
– Pam Rolink, who joined virtually



Dr. Karthikeyan Ramachandran, Associate Professor, Dept of Physical Medicine, and Rehabilitation, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, SRM University Chennai, India, recommended the updating of disability data, the establishment of guidelines and legal frameworks for healthcare facilities and the integration of rehabilitation services.

Parent partnership in Inclusion was addressed by Prof. Dr. Clara Wepener Stellenbosch University, Research Fellow: University of Pretoria program, who joined the conference virtually. She mentioned that research has proved that sports has the potential to improve problem solving and decision-making skills among children with disabilities, it can improve their mental health, communication skills and also aid in reducing anxiety

Report- International Conference on 'Inclusion through Sports'

The last session at the conference highlighted the Role of Educators (General, Physical & Special) in Implementing Developmental Sports for Social Inclusion through an activity-based approach

The valedictory function commenced with a summary of the past two days presented by Dr Jayanthi Pujari. The function was presided by Mr Vikas Trivedi, Member Secretary, Rehabilitation Council of India and had the keynote address delivered by Mr Himanshu Gupta, Secretary CBSE.

Mr Gupta is instrumental in facilitating the MoU signed between SO Bharat Delhi Chapter and the Directorate of Education, Govt of Delhi NCT in July 2023. In his address he emphasised on a holistic approach towards promoting Inclusion, making the role of all the stakeholders equally important. He acknowledged the significant role of families in designing a functional curriculum that harmoniously infuses sports activities into the general curriculum.



AGENDA

DAY- 2 (Tuesday, 9th April, 2024)

TIMINGS	OPENING
10:00 - 10:05 am	Lighting of the Lamp & Saraswati Vandana
10:05 - 10:10 am	Welcome Address & Overview of the International Conference by Prof. (Dr.) Jayanti Pujari, Director, AIRS, AUUP
10:10 – 10:25 a.m	Address by Dr. S.K. Srivastava, Sr. Director, Vice President & Advisor at FPO
10:25 – 10:40 a.m	Unified Cultural Expression
10:40 – 11:00 am	Address by Chief Guest – Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur, Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India
11:00 - 11:20 a.m	Key Note Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Srista (MoE) ➤ Mr. Dipak Natali, Regional President and Managing Director, Asia Pacific (SOI)
11:20 - 11:30 am	Blessings by Prof. (Dr.) Balvinder Shukla, Vice Chancellor, AUUP
	Vote of Thanks by Mrs. Pallavi Chauhan, Joint Director, AIRS, AUUP
<i>National Anthem in Sign Language</i>	

11:30 - 01:00 p.m.	<p>Session 2:</p> <p>Panel Discussion on 'Developing Effective Partnership for Social Inclusion'</p> <p>Moderator- Ms. Mukta Narain Thind (SOB)</p>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Neha Mathur Rastogi, Words Work ➤ Dr. Kalpana Sharma, NIS Patiala ➤ Deepak John Nayak, Sports Consultant ➤ Ms. Ambreen Khan, WWF ➤ Mr. Akshay Tyagi, The Lalit ➤ Ms. Seema Tuli, Amarjyoti Spl. School
01:00- 02:00p.m	Lunch Break	
2p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Open Discussion/Question answer session	
02:30- 04:00 p.m.	<p>Session 3: 'Strengthening Social Inclusion through Sports Activities' (Activity Based Session)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Sulekha (SOB) ➤ Dr. Ajit Kumar (ASPESS, Amity University)

DAY- 2 (Tuesday, 9th April, 2024)

TIMING	SESSION	SPEAKER
10:00 - 10:30 a.m	Session 1: Research in Inclusion Through Sports: Present Status and Future Prospects	Prof. (Dr.) Jayanti Pujari, Director, AIRS, AUUP
10:30- 011:00 p.m	Session 2: Plenary Session on 'Promoting Inclusion Through Young Athlete Programme: Embracing Differences'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Rebecca (SOI) ➤ Ms. Chitra Shah
11:00 – 11:15	Tea Break	
11:15 - 12:15 p.m	Session 3: Panel Discussion on 'Celebrating Success: Unified Champion School Program' Moderator – Ms. Raman Rekhi (SOB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Vandana Sharma, MBCN ➤ Ms. Aqsi Naqvi, Kothari Int. School, Noida ➤ Ms. Meeta Bandula (Jaypee School) ➤ Dr. Ajay Singh, Govt of Delhi ➤ Dr. Amitav Mishra, IGNOU ➤ Pam Rolink, SOAP
12:15 – 1:15	Developing Inclusive Health Systems & It's impact on Sports Dr. Karthikeyan Ramachandran, Principal Investigator, Rosemary Collaboratory & Associate Professor, Dept of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, SRM University	
01:15 – 02:00 pm	Lunch Break	
2p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Open discussion/Question answer session	
02:30 – 04:00 pm	Session 4: Role of Educators (General, Physical & Special) in Implementing Developmental Sports for Social Inclusion – Unified Sports Module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Sulekha (SOB) ➤ Dr. Ajit Kumar (ASPESS, Amity University)
04:00 – 05:00 p.m.	Valedictory Function	

Report- International Conference on 'Inclusion through Sports'

Valedictory Function

Tuesday - 09th April, 2024	
TIMINGS	PROGRAMME FLOW
04:00 - 04:10 pm	Report Presentation of International Conference by Prof. (Dr.) Jayanti Pujari, Director, AIRS, AUUP
04:10 – 04:15 pm	Address by Dr. S.K. Srivastava, Sr. Director, Vice President & Advisor at FPO
04:15 – 04:25 pm	Address by Chief Guest – RCI Chairperson – Dr. Pujari
04:25 – 04:35 pm	Mr. Himanshu Gupta, Secretary, CBSE
04:35 – 04:45 pm	Experience sharing by Participants and their learning outcome from the International Conference 'Inclusion Through Sports'
04:45 – 04:55 pm	Address by Dr. Dr. W. Selvamurthy, President, Amity Science, Technology & Innovation Foundation Chair Professor for Life Sciences & Chancellor, Amity University Chhattisgarh.
04:55 – 05:00 pm	Certificate Distribution
05:00 - 05:05 pm	Vote of Thanks by Ms. Raman Rekhi, Director – Communications & Initiatives, Special Olympics Bharat

References: Report on the Conference prepared by Amity University UP NOIDA