

Report on ‘One Day Awareness programme on the occasion of Helen Keller’s Day’

The Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRCSRE), Imphal, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), NG College Imphal, successfully organized a One-Day Awareness Generation Programme (AGP) on “ One- Day awareness programme on the Occasion of Helen Keller’s Day ”on 26th June 2025 . The event was held at the NG College, Imphal and witnessed active participation from the college's faculty members and 109 enthusiastic students. Their engagement contributed to the success of the programme, which aimed to raise awareness about inclusivity and the legacy of Helen Keller. The programme started at 10:00 am and ended at 2:00pm.

Dignitaries:

Chief Guest: DR. Sh. Shantibala Devi, Principal NG College

President: N. Khoibi Singh, Director, CRCSRE, Imphal

Guest of Honour: 1. Assoc. Prof. Adibo Newmai, Vice Principal, NG College

2. Dr. W. Dhiren Singh, Coordinator IQAC, NG College

3. Dr. Kh. Ronendrajit Singh, Asst. Prof. Programme Officer (NSS), NG College

4. K. Sandananda, Secretary
The Welfare Association for Blind Manipur

Resource Persons: 1. N. Kalpana Devi, Principal, Deaf & Mute School, Takyel

2. Mangibala Huiem, Headmistress, Govt. Ideal blind School, Takyel

3. Prasadi Kumar Mahto, Asst. Prof. Spl. Edn, CRCSRE, Imphal



The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, symbolizing the dispelling of ignorance and the illumination of knowledge and understanding. To honor the esteemed guests, shawls were graciously presented to the dignitaries as a mark of respect and appreciation. Following this, the welcome speech by Dr. K. Imoton Singh (Asst.Prof & HOD Dept. of English , Ng College) and Keynote speech by Ksh. Rameshori Devi , Asst. Prof .Speech (consl) highlighted Helen Keller’s indomitable spirit and the power of collaboration, encapsulated in Keller’s quote, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” She encouraged the youth to embrace inclusivity and perseverance in creating a supportive and compassionate society for all. The programme featured N. Hingish, a Sign Language Interpreter DISLI, (Consl.), and CRCSRE, who provided interpretation throughout the event, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all participants.



Following the welcome speech, Assoc. Prof. Adibo Newmai, Vice Principal, NG College addressed the gathering with a reflection on the powerful words and legacy of Helen Keller. He opened his remarks by referencing Keller’s own speeches, acknowledging the immense impact they continue to have on generations worldwide. Assoc. Prof. Adibo Newmai invited students to consider how, despite Helen Keller’s physical limitations, she achieved more than most people with full faculties. Assoc. Prof. Adibo Newmai concluded by expressing gratitude to the CRC (Composite Regional Centre) for its continued support and involvement in such meaningful programmes.



Dr.Kh. Rohendrajit Singh, Asst. Prof. Programme officer (NSS), Ng College, reminded everyone that Helen Keller's story is one of extraordinary courage. Known to many as a woman who was blind, deaf, and mute, Helen Keller nevertheless became a renowned writer, author, and activist, breaking barriers not just for herself but for countless others. He encouraged all to be brave, optimistic, and strong—to live not in fear of limitations, but in the bold pursuit of purpose, just as Helen Keller did.



K. Sadananda, Secretary, The Welfare Association for Blind Manipur, delivered a thoughtful and impactful address that underscored both institutional collaboration and the broader vision for inclusion. He reflected on how previous celebrations of disability-related observances were often limited in scope and confined to formal recognition. However, he expressed satisfaction with how the college had now taken meaningful steps to transform such events into engaging, educational, and community-oriented programmes that raise real awareness and inspire change.



As part of the ongoing Disability Awareness Programme at NG College, N. Khoibi Singh, Director CRCSRE, Imphal delivered an insightful address that built upon the themes of inclusion, legal rights, and practical awareness of disabilities. His remarks brought attention to the real-world challenges and the societal responsibility in.

N. Khoibi Singh provided a brief overview of the RPwD Act and its predecessor, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) Act, outlining how both laws aim to ensure equal rights, accessibility, and non-discrimination in areas like education,

employment, and public services. He also introduced the role of CRC, which exists to carry out this mission by offering rehabilitation services, training, and equipment distribution across the 21 officially recognized disabilities.

CRC's contributions were also highlighted, including the distribution of aids and assistive devices, and the availability of specialized training courses. These resources are essential for enabling persons with disabilities to live with dignity and autonomy.



The Dr. Sh. Shantibala Devi , Principal, NG college being Chief Guest began by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to participate in a programme of such social and educational importance. The Chief Guest urged everyone to see Helen Keller's life not as a story of struggle, but as a powerful lesson in perseverance and success. Her journey is a testament to human potential when nurtured with courage, support, and belief. The speech closed with a call to action: *Let us not only learn from Helen Keller's life, but also strive to transform our own lives—and the lives of others—into stories of success and purpose.*



The formal proceedings of the Disability Awareness Programme concluded with a sincere and appreciative Vote of Thanks delivered by Oinam Deepak, Administrative Officer, CRCSRE, Imphal. He began by extending heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries, guest speakers, faculty members, and students who contributed to the success of the day's event. He also acknowledged the wide range of services available at CRC, such as physiotherapy, clinical psychology (Cln. Psy) support, and counselling, which are made

accessible at subsidized rates. These services, he noted, play a critical role in ensuring that persons with disabilities receive early, effective, and affordable care to enhance their quality of life.



N. Kalpana Devi , Principal of the Deaf and Mute School delivered a heartfelt and enlightening address during the Disability Awareness Programme, aligning their message with the event's theme, "Cultivating Leadership: Together We Grow."

Highlighting the daily challenges faced by individuals who are deaf and mute, the Principal pointed out that communication barriers often lead to demotivation and social withdrawal. Many are isolated—not because of their condition, but due to societal

exclusion. To create an inclusive environment, it is vital that communities learn sign language and become capable of bridging this communication gap. The Principal stressed the importance of training students according to the specific needs of deaf or blind learners. Education must be tailored to accommodate them through adaptive methods, specialized devices, and accessible technology. Devices such as hearing aids, Braille tools, screen readers, and speech-to-text apps like 'LON FAO' were mentioned as helpful in day-to-day communication.



Mangibala Huirem, Headmistress of Govt. Ideal Blind School, delivered an enlightening speech on visual impairment during the Disability Awareness Programme. She began by defining visual impairment as recognized under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, distinguishing between blindness, low vision, and normal vision, and explaining their impact on daily life.

Mangibala highlighted key challenges faced by visually impaired individuals, including the inaccessibility of Braille textbooks, lack of assistive infrastructure, and social isolation. Discussing the educational landscape in Manipur, she noted the absence of dedicated schools for children with multiple disabilities and advocated for early intervention, access to tools, and inclusive education to improve the confidence and development of individuals with disabilities. Mangibala concluded with Helen Keller's quote: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart."



Prasadi Kumar Mahto, Assistant Professor in Special Education (Consl.) and a representative from CRC Imphal, delivered a compelling speech on policies and institutional support for persons with disabilities during the Disability Awareness Programme.

He emphasized the legislative framework, particularly the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which guarantees education, accessibility, employment, and equal opportunities for Divyangjan. Highlighting the role of national institutions, he focused on CRC Imphal, established under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as a key resource for rehabilitation, human resource development, and outreach.

CRC's services include:

- Rehabilitation Services: Special education, clinical psychology, speech therapy, and physiotherapy.
- Skill Development and Training: Employability skills, PM-DAKSH Training, and coaching for competitive exams.
- Awareness and Outreach: Seminars, workshops, and disability inclusion campaigns.

Mahato also described CRC's Assessment and Distribution Camps, which provide free aids and appliances, and shared success stories of individuals empowered through these initiatives. He concluded with a powerful message: "See their ability, not their disability," inspiring everyone to recognize and support the potential of persons with disabilities.

PHOTO:

