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WELCOME NOTE

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE NEED FOR BUILDING CAPACITY ON SLD IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

By

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CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ON SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES

Organised by

The Ministry of Education, Government of India and the National Institute of
Educational Administration and Planning, New Delhi

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Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)

7/8 Sarva Priya Vihar,
New Delhi, 110016
India



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Dear colleagues in the Ministry of Education, especially Dr Rina Sonawal Kouli and Dr D K Sharma, and Professor Shashikala Wanjari of NIEPA our colleagues from Changelnkk Foundation. I am pleased to be a part of this event that witnessed the launch of the BUILD Tutorials, jointly produced by Changelnkk Foundation and the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, the Regional Centre of Commonwealth of Learning.

The agenda of Inclusiveness and equity is at the core of the functioning of my organisation that strives to work with the 56 Commonwealth Member States in their pursuits to provide quality education and skills to all citizens. Our Theory of Change revolves around the idea of supporting our member states with resilient policy as well as strengthening intervening institutions to deliver education and skill development programmes in an equitable and inclusive manner. We believe that the above pathways will enable our member states to reach the unreached for a) enhancing the learning outcomes; and, b) improve lives and livelihoods.

We have been partnering with Changelnkk Foundation for sometime in advancing the agenda of inclusion, specially in educational institutions to develop the necessary capacity to screen, identify, accommodate, mainstream and support persons with specific-learning disabilities. Our aim is to spread the awareness in all developing commonwealth nations. Last year, responding to the requests made by the first lady of Mauritius, we helped to building capacity among all special educators in the island nation through a variety of courses that aimed to speak to their concern. Our collaboration with the Higher Education Commission and the Special Education Needs Authority (SENA) has helped special educators to attain some level of professionalism in responding to the needs of persons with disability in their educational institutions.

During this month of October, to align with the Global Go Red for Dyslexia Campaign, we are holding online training programmes aimed at schoolteachers in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. We believe that these efforts help to not only spread awareness on the issue but also bring about the attitudinal change in the minds of educators. These campaigns help to remove the stigma and the very way we look at persons with SLD, not as a liability but as an asset to their institutions.



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As the head of various departments within the HEIs invited to take part in this online session today, comprising of personnel from the Admissions Department; Office of Student Life/Campus Life Affairs; Office of Academic Affairs, Faculty, and Examinations Cell; IT Department; Career and Placement Cell, I believe that the change agenda cannot and should not confine itself to the faculty members. Today's programme is a testament to how the entire staff in a HEI ecosystem requires sensitized and trained. I commend the Ministry of Education and Changelnkk Foundation for initiating BUILD and I thank them for including my organisation, CEMCA, as a partner in this effort.

Globally, while there are various governmental efforts, we also see the efforts undertaken by certain other organisations. Noteworthy in this list are the International Dyslexia Association, the European Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia International and a range of national level non-governmental organisations such as Orchids in Delhi, Dr Anjali Morris Education and Development Foundation, Madras Dyslexia Association and so on.

Many countries have schools, centers, or clinics that are dedicated to providing an appropriate education to students with dyslexia. There are assessment instruments – for screening to assessment of achievements.

The one being released today, produced by COL-CEMCA and Changelnkk Foundation is a set of video tutorials, aimed at both non-faculty and faculty members in higher educational institutions in India as a reference tool and as a ready reckoner. We believe that the tool can be downloaded and referred to, whenever some one in the HEI fraternity is in doubt about the various aspects of Specific-Learning Disabilities.



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I am thankful to Ms Rina Sonawal Kouli for the soft launch of the video tutorials and I am thankful to the government for hosting these tutorials on the Madanmohan Malviya Teacher Training Mission Website. We hope to receive feedback from the users and improvise upon these modules and make these more relevant to the real-life situations in HEIs.

Once again, I thank each one of the participants while being grateful to Changelnkk Foundation for the partnership
