

Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.
Equal Opportunities Cell

1. Preamble

India is a country with lots of diversity and also inequalities. Hence it is all the more important to have proper policies and institutional mechanisms to promote inclusive growth. With this in mind, it is proposed to establish a nodal cell for creative interaction and promotion of equality among all the stakeholders of the society; mainly the students, staff and faculty of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. It is an effort to educate, counsel and empower the nation builders to realize their potential & bring them to the mainstream of society; which will enable them to contribute to the work place, community and the nation at large. The basic aim of Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC), is to ensure that persons (students, staff and faculties) from various diverse backgrounds of community, religion, region, gender or ability are not deprived of their rightful opportunities. They have access to all pedagogical and extra-curricular resources; which will promote inclusivity and harmony.

In 1995, the Persons With Disabilities Act (PWD) called for and enforced “full participation and equality of people with disabilities”. In 2016, a new legislation was formed - Rights of People with Disabilities Act (RPWD)- 2016. Under the Act, the previously mentioned reservation of 3 per cent seats in higher education institutes was expanded to 5 per cent for PWD. To initiate and regulate equal opportunities for differently-abled students across public universities in India, the University of Grants Commission (UGC) had in 2012, in compliance with the PWD Act, set up guidelines in the XIIth Plan. It is mandatory for all Universities and colleges to have an Equal Opportunities Cell (EOC).

2. Objectives

- To create awareness and provide guidance about various welfare schemes/ programmes/ fellowships/stipends offered by the Central /State governments for the welfare for the students belonging to these categories.
- To run various schemes funded by UGC, State and Central Government. For the underprivileged class students.
- To organize seminars /conferences/ workshop/ exhibitions/ cultural functions/sports events to increase social inclusion.
- To provide support and Assist students belonging to these categories and create barrier free access to various services
- To devise various measures to create socially conducive atmosphere in the university and establish redressal mechanism for grievance that may be reported by students.

3. Target Group

EOC works for affirmative action for the deprived sections such as persons from SC, ST, and OBC categories, persons from religious & language minorities, PWD (Divyangs) and Women.

4. Advisory committee EOC

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| 1. Dr.Tushar Deshmukh, Registrar | Chairman |
| 2. Dr.Mohan Kherde,Director, Knowledge Resource Centre | Member |
| 3. Dr.,Director, N.S.S. | Member |
| 4. Dr.Dinesh Satange Director, Student Development | Member |
| 5. Dr.G.L.Gulhane, HOD, Education | Member |
| 6. Dr.Vaishali gudadhe, HOD, Lib. Sci. | Member |
| 7) Dr.Hemant Khadke, Marathi | Member |
| 8) Prof. Rajesh Bhoyar, Comp. Sci. | Co Coordinator |
| 9) Dr. Varsha N. Nathar | Co-ordinator &Member
Secretary |

4.1. Duties of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee shall

- monitor various welfare schemes/ programmes sponsored by the Government of India/State Government, UGC or any agency/ organization as well as those devised by the university for the disadvantaged groups for their effective implementation
- be responsible for the effective functioning of Equal Opportunity Cell.
- submit the progress/review report of Equal Opportunity Cell to the Vice Chancellor.

5. Internal Committee

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| 1. Chairman | – | Dr.Mohan Kherde |
| 2. Member | - | Dr. K.B.Nayak, HOD, Sociology |
| 3. Member | - | Mr.J.S.Uikey, Lab Attendant , Botany |
| 4. Member | - | Mr. Pandey |
| 5. Student Mamber | - | Mr.Rahul Bawane, Political Science |
| 6. Member Secretary | - | Dr.V.N.Nathar, EOC Co-ordiantor |

6. Facilities Available on the campus

i). Physical Facilities: Ramps, Toilets

ii). Enabling Unit (In the University Library)

To meet the special needs of the visually impaired students the following facilities have been put in place at the Central Library of the University in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Office.

1. This Center is equipped with a CD and Book Racks is instituted at the ground floor of the Central Library building. It also provides special services to the visually impaired students/ researchers by providing E-Books/ Digital Books, apart from getting scanning works done for them on demand. The MAGIC software has been installed on 5 Desktops for the low vision students/ researchers. The Braille Printers are capable of printing English text, graphics and maps in Braille.
2. The following assistive technologies are also available:
Desktop - 30
JAWS - 30 on each computer

Kurzweil 1000 - 30 on each computer

Computer headphones - 30

HP flatbed scanners - 20

Lex Cam Scanners - 02

refreshable braille display - 02

Braille embossors - 02

This unit has been extended to different School/Centers like SSS-I, SSS-II, SIS, CSLG and Sanskrit Centre. This software supports the feature enabling reader to hear the e-text in different European languages and Hindi Language.

Library has also distributed the following: also in collaboration with the EOO

Angle Daisy Player - 52

Laptops - 40 (only to M. Phil and Ph.D scholars)

Wheelchairs - 15 (for Physically challenged students)

Locker facility - For visually challenged and Physically challenged students

Library is organizing training and orientation programme on the uses of assistive technology for the benefit of these students so that they can use of the latest assistive technologies in their day to day studies. Library is also a member of (Daisy Forum of India) DFI.

Registrar

Co-ordinator EOC