INSIGHT

ICT Centre for the Differently Abled

KERALA STATE IT MISSION

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ICT CENTRE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED

space

About

A joint initiative of Kerala State IT Mission and SPACE

- INSIGHT initiated in May 2007
- First-of-its-kind initiative in Kerala using IT for the benefit of the differently abled
- The first Government initiative of this sort in the country
- The first of its kind venture in Kerala, in India and globally that uses free software in training and capacity building of the differently abled
- Benefited more than 800 visually impaired persons in Kerala

Objectives

- To use technology as an interface to enhance the quality of life of the differently abled
- To make technology accessible and available for hassle-free use by the target group
- To create opportunities for employment of the differently abled in ICT and allied sectors

Activities

- ICT Resource centre for the Visually Challenged
- Training and Capacity Building
- Content Development and Dissemination
- Knowledge Building and Advocacy
- Activity lab for children with special needs
- Technology Development for differently abled



Training & Capacity Building



- Free software operating system employed, and assistive technology called *Orca*
- Modules incorporated in the training mainly include:
  - using open office word processor and spreadsheet
  - using internet and utilities like CD writing, playing music and messenger services
  - installation of operating system and basic troubleshooting
- Self Paced training spread over 140 hours

Employability & Technology Development

- Employment Enhancement Support: Structured training programme in "communication and computer skills" certified by IGNOU
- Employability Portal: An accessible web portal that allows free profile registration of persons with all forms of disability in collaboration
- Job Fair: Conducted to create an interface between the recruiters and differently abled people
- Technology Development:

  Released alpha version of "Swaram TTS" - a free domain Text-to-Speech synthesis system in Malayalam

  Released alpha version of "OCR Insight"- an accessible ocr tool in English

Content Development and Dissemination

- “Swaram”, First audio magazine for the visually challenged in India
- 11 editions of “Swaram” released
- Conversion of books/periodicals etc
- Collaboration with other KFB and other agencies to produce relevant content

ICT for other differently abled people



- Conducted National Conference on Technologies for Mentally Challenged and Physically Challenged
- Conducted workshop on IT for autistic persons
- Conducted training for Physically handicapped in association with district panchayat

Current Focus

- Outreach and training to other districts
- Run toll free help desk
- Establish vocational centre for employability training
- Create audio content and set up audio library
- Research and development on accessible technologies for the differently abled and for autism children
- Establish a separate centre for autism activity lab

Thank you

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