

**Govt. Rehabilitation Institute for Intellectual
Disabilities (GRIID)**

Sector-31C, Chandigarh-160047

GRIID-TIMES



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Dear Readers,

It is a matter of immense pleasure to present year's first issue of the quarterly newsletter, covering January-March 2025. The newsletter highlights the achievements and activities of the institute in various spheres. All the sections of GRIID contributed, participated in activities, held events, and organised programs throughout the year. It is a matter of pride that the Hon'ble Punjab Governor and U.T. Administrator, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, inaugurated the sensory garden of GRIID and appreciated the work performed by its staff in the rehabilitation of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students from special school took part in various events hosted by the school and other organisations. Additionally, Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini also visited GRIID and admired the rehabilitation facilities for children with developmental disabilities provided by the institute.

Various workshops were organized by School and College, comprising workshops on TLM preparations and a workshop on sensory disability. Diagnostic camps were also organised by the clinic in various Govt. Schools of Chandigarh, stepping ahead in disability diagnosis and certification.

GRIID also hosted its 5th Annual Research Day, wherein more than 15 research papers were presented, and participants from Panjab University, SGT University Gurugram, and several other institutes and Universities attended the event. College students also participated in various sports events, cultural programs, and youth festivals organised during this period. Various days of significance and National importance, like Cerebral Palsy Day, Down Syndrome, were observed.

Through the issues of GRIID-TIMES in the new year, we hope to meet the expectations of our readers, stakeholders, and service seekers.

Wishing all a happy reading and a great year ahead!

Best Regards,
Dr. Ajeet Sidana

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GRIID SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION-26TH JANUARY, 2025

The 76th Republic Day was celebrated with great patriotic zeal and full enthusiasm. Prof. AK Attri, Director, GRIID was the Chief Guest of the celebration. The program included flag hosting, the National Anthem, and cultural performances. Special school students represented our institution in another U.T. level program and performed a cultural program. Prof. AK Attri, Director, GRIID, read out last 6-month report and achievements of the institution.



In his report, Prof. Attri highlighted the significance of the constitution, as we Indians are fortunate to have the largest constitution in the world. He also detailed and congratulated staff for the achievement of all three sections i.e., school, clinic, and college of GRIID. Lastly, he congratulated staff members for their immense hard work in making the

lives of persons with intellectual disabilities dignified in society.

The commendation award was also presented to the students and staff of GRIID for their meritorious services. The program was concluded with the distribution of sweets

INAUGURATION OF SENSORY GARDEN AT GRIID

Hon'ble Governor and Administrator, Chandigarh, Shri. Gulab Chand Kataria inaugurated the newly constructed Sensory Garden at GRIID on 28th January, 2025. Mr. Dev Jit Sarkar, CEO & Director, Swaraj Engines Ltd., was also present at the event as the construction of garden has received a generous contribution by Swaraj Engines Ltd. Shri Kataria took a round of the whole garden and interacted with the special educators involved in therapeutic interventions, appreciating their commitment in improving the lives of these children.



The sensory garden is an innovative space designed to provide therapeutic and recreational benefits to individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), intellectual and developmental disabilities. It

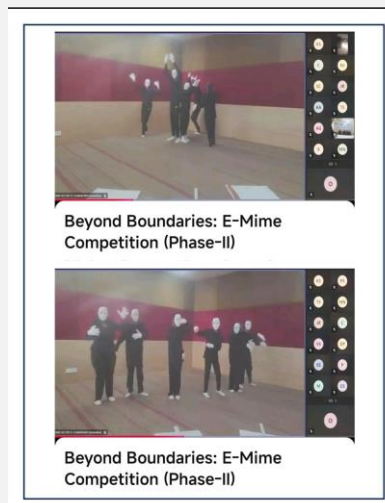
incorporates elements that stimulate the senses of sight, sound, touch, taste, smell, and proprioception.



MIME COMPETITION (VIRTUAL MODE)

A virtual mime competition titled “**Beyond Boundaries**” was organized on 20th February 2025 in which 26 teams all over India participated in various categories of competition. GRIID special school student participated in various categories. Certain themes were decided for this competition like climate change, tree plantation, save tree-save environment etc. The group of 16 years and above students won Gold Medal in their category by performing their act on climate change, names of whom are given below-

S. No.	Name of Students
1.	Sahibjit
2.	Abhay Sharma
3.	Tushar
4.	Anjali
5.	Vandana
6.	Nisha
7.	Puja



WORKSHOP ON TEACHING LEARNING MATERIAL AND ADAPTIVE DEVICES

One day workshop was conducted on the development of teaching learning material and adaptive devices wherein more than 150 parents and special educators of the institute participated. Ms. Parmjeet Kaur was the resource person for this workshop, which was conducted to with the objective to equip parents and educators with the development of innovative Teaching Learning Material (TLM) and strategies incorporating play activities to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes by using readily available resources, promoting effective learning and development of children. The workshop was inaugurated by the welcome speech of Joint Director.



Hands-on training imparted during the workshop aimed to increase creativity, resourcefulness and confidence among special and vocational instructors. The workshop was concluded with an expression of the need to conduct a similar workshop in the future.



DENTAL CHECKUP CAMP FOR THE SPECIAL CHILDREN ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY (21ST MARCH 2025)

On the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day i.e. 21st March GRID organized a special dental checkup camp under the supervision of Dr. Gurvanit Kaur Lehl, Professor & Head of the Dental Department at GMCH, along with a dedicated team from PGIMER, Chandigarh. Dental checkup drive focused on providing screening and dental care for children with Down Syndrome. A total of 51 children were examined during the camp. Students who require further treatment were also referred to GMCH-32 and PGIMER, Chandigarh, for specialized health care facilities.

Parents who attended the camp appreciated the efforts and found it to be beneficial. Parents also requested similar health care initiatives in the future to ensure continued medical support for children with special needs. The collaborative effort between GRID, GMCH, and PGIMER highlighted the importance of oral health care for children with Down Syndrome and reinforced the commitment to their overall well-being.



GRIID CLINIC ACTIVITIES

DISABILITY DIAGNOSTIC CAMPS

Several camps were organized in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry, GMCH & GRIID Clinic under Samagra Shiksha at various Government schools in Chandigarh for the assessment of Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and intellectual disability (ID) from January to March 2025.

On 3rd February, a medical assessment camp was held at Govt. Model Senior Secondary School (GMSSS) Sector-47 D, Chandigarh, where 27 Children with special needs were assessed, 8 IQ certificates were issued and 19 were referred to GMCH-32 for SLD assessment. In GMSSS, MHC medical camp was held on 10th February where a total of 30 CWSN were assessed, out of which 18 were referred to GMCH for SLD assessment. Next Camp was held on 17th February at GMSSS, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh, where 3 IQ certificates were distributed out of 30 patients.



17th February 2025 at GMSSS, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh
Another camp was conducted on 3rd March at GMSSS, Sector-29 C, Chandigarh. A total of 26 Patients were assessed. 1 IQ certificate was issued, 12 were referred

to GMCH-32, Chandigarh, for SLD assessment, 1 was diagnosed as ADHD, 3 children were normal, 7 cases were borderline IQ.



DOWN SYNDROME DAY (21st March, 2025)

On 21st March, Down's Syndrome Day was observed, where children from school as well as from attending clinic follow-up were called for a dental checkup, in which their dental problems were dealt by dental staff from PGIMER and GMCH, Chandigarh. A total 49 children were checked for their dental problems.

As part of the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) initiative, Dr. Yashvinder Kapil, CBR In-Charge, along with Ms. Seema, Clinical Psychologist, from CBR team, conducted an IQ assessment at the doorstep of a child with disability.



During the visit, the team not only completed the assessment but also provided valuable guidance to the parents regarding various support services and benefits available through GRIID and other government and

non-government agencies. This CBR effort aimed to provide holistic support and promote the overall development and well-being of the child.

As part of the mandatory curriculum for the two-year Diploma in Special Education (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), trainees are required to engage in practical work within Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) settings. Under the supervision of Dr. Yashvinder Kapil, In-charge of the CBR program, all D.Ed. trainees participated in various communities across Chandigarh for over a month as part of their practical work. During this period, trainees gained practical experience in assessing and managing children with high support needs. They also set individualised goals and provided training in self-help skills to twenty-two such children residing in local colonies and villages of Chandigarh.



TRANSFORMED DISABILITIES INTO ABILITIES

Mr. Rahul has successfully transformed his challenges into strengths and has been placed at Hotel Homtel, Chandigarh, following a screening and interview conducted by the HR Manager at GRID, w.e.f. 11th August 2023. Through his dedicated service

and passion for learning new skills in the hospitality industry, Mr. Rahul has emerged as a role model for his peers and fellow employees at the hotel. Adding to his achievements, Mr. Rahul has been nominated for the **Best Employee Award — a proud moment for GRID**, as he received his foundational training in functional academics, pre-vocational, and vocational skills at our institution.



GRID COLLEGE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES LOHRI CELEBRATIONS

On 13th January, GRID College enthusiastically and fervently celebrated the Lohri festival. In Punjab and other parts of India, this auspicious occasion, one of the most important harvest festivals, was celebrated by college students, faculty members, and staff. It is a time to welcome warmth as winter draws to a close and to celebrate the harvest of rabi crops, especially sugarcane.



The highlight of the celebration was the symbolic lighting of the Lohri “**bonfire**” done by the Joint Director. In keeping with the tradition of Lohri provided a variety of sweets, including peanuts, popcorn, and many other things.



Which were shared with students and teachers. Lohri celebration at school was a tremendous success, fostering a sense of unity and joy among the students and staff.



WORKSHOP ON VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

On 17th January, a workshop was held for college students to provide them with experience teaching visually impaired students. The aforementioned session was facilitated by resource persons from the Institute for the Blind, Sector-26, Chandigarh. The workshop's primary goal was to provide students with practical cross-disability training because they were expected to visit schools to complete their practical work.

REPUBLIC DAY ACTIVITY BY COLLEGE TRAINEES AT VATIKA SPECIAL SCHOOL

Republic Day activity in Vatika Special School for Deaf and Dumb, Sector-19 C, Chandigarh, on 23rd January was conducted by the students. All activities conducted by trainees were enjoyed by the students.

WORKSHOP ON HEARING IMPAIRMENT

In order to provide hands-on training to college trainees a workshop was organised on 24th January. The workshop's primary goal was to provide trainees with practical cross-disability skills, or students with hearing impairment. The aforementioned session was facilitated by resource persons from the Vatika Special School, Sector-19, Chandigarh

PLEDGE CEREMONY FOR BETI BACHAO BETI PADAHAO ABHIYAN

College of Special Education organised a pledge ceremony on 21st January, 2025 for “**BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO**” Abhiyan.

PLEDGE CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL VOTERS DAY

College of Special Education organised a pledge ceremony on 24th January 2025, for “**National Voters Day**” to encourage students for active participation in the democratic process.

REPUBLIC DAY-2025

On 26th January, the Republic Day function was celebrated in GRIID in which Prof. (Dr.) A. K. Attri, Director, GRIID, was the Chief Guest of the program. Flag hosting was done by our Chief Guest, followed by a speech in which he mentioned that Chief Minister of Haryana and the Governor of Punjab appreciated the

work done at GRIID, that how seriously children with special needs are being cared by professionals and staff of the institute. Following commendation, awards were also given to students and faculty of GRIID;

S. No.	Name of Awardees	Designation
1.	Ms. Shikha	Asst. Prof.
2.	Mr. Aditya Singh Bhadauriya	B.Ed. Special Education (ID)
3.	Mr. Sanyam Khanna	D.Ed. Special Education (IDD)

WHEELCHAIR CRICKET TOURNAMENT

College students extended their volunteers services at the **Wheelchair Cricket Tournament** organized by Women and Child Care Welfare Foundation on 1st and 2nd February 2025.

NON-FIRE FOOD MAKING COMPETITION ON BASANT PANCHMI 3RD FEBRUARY 2025

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON TUBERCULOSIS ON 4TH & 5TH FEBRUARY 2025

On 4th February, the students of the **GRIID** organized an awareness campaign focused on Tuberculosis (TB). The primary objective of the event was to educate the general public about the causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of TB, as well as to dispel common myths and reduce the stigma associated with the disease. Students from D.Ed. 2nd year and a group of girls from B.Ed. 2nd year actively participated in the event, contributing with great enthusiasm and dedication. As part of the campaign, the students prepared and displayed informative posters

that highlighted key facts about tuberculosis, including how it spreads, the symptoms to look out for, and available treatment options. They also distributed pamphlets containing concise and accessible information on TB, including the importance of early diagnosis and contact details for local health centres.

Overall, the event not only increased public awareness about tuberculosis but also encouraged the participating students to contribute meaningfully to social and health-related causes. It was a successful and impactful initiative that combined community service with student engagement.



NSS NATIONAL INTEGRATION CAMP AT CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY

Trainees of GRIID College represented the institution in 7-day National Integration Camp organized by NSS Unit at Chandigarh University from 5th to 14th February 2025.



The program included cultural performances, yoga, invited lectures, prabhat pheris, tree plantation drive, and several other activities.

EDUCATIONAL TRIP (AMRITSAR) BY COLLEGE TRAINEES

A two-days educational trip on 20th & 21st February was organised for GRIID college students to visit Pingalwara, Amritsar, Punjab, a charitable organization founded by Bhagat Puran Singh in 1924. Pingalwara is a home for the homeless, a hospital for the sick, and a cradle for orphaned and abandoned children. Pingalwara has a range of facilities, including medical services, which comprise two dental clinics, an ultrasound centre, an eye clinic, an artificial limbs centre, and a physiotherapy centre.



On 2nd day of trip students also visited nearby places like Golden Temple, Jaliawalabag and Wagha Boarder. The trip was indeed beneficial for all students as they learnt and witnessed the functioning and practices of other organisations.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

GRIID College of Special Education observed International Women's Day on its premises on 10th March 2025. The program commenced with an introductory address by Dr. Karrupasamy, Course Coordinator. The guest of honor, Prof. Priti Arun from the Department of Psychiatry, GMCH, Sec-32, Chandigarh, delivered an inspiring speech.



A thoughtful quotation drive was also conducted by the college trainees, where women employees from various departments of GRIID College, including the school, clinic, and office, were presented with inspiring and uplifting quotations.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

World Down Syndrome Day was observed by college on 21st March by tagging the ribbons representing the symbol and significance of this Day. Students of M.Ed., B.Ed. And D.Ed. guided the parents and also took their views on the dental camp.



NATIONAL CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS DAY

National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day was observed on the 25th March at the Special School, GRIID. Ms. Reena, faculty, hosted an event to observe **Cerebral Palsy Day**. The event aimed to raise awareness about cerebral palsy and provide an opportunity for both the trainees and faculty of GRIID to engage with and support children with cerebral palsy. The observance was marked by a series of interactive activities, games, and a special refreshment.



ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY, 2025

5th Annual Research Day was organised in honour of the birth anniversary of the late Prof. B.S. Chavan former Director of the institute and a pioneer in the field of disability rehabilitation. The event as platform for knowledge exchange and academic enrichment, attracted over 100 professionals, research scholars, and students from various institutions across Chandigarh, Punjab, and nearby states.

Theme for this year's Research Day was **“Building Capacity in Inclusion for Children with Special Needs”** highlighting the significance of inclusive education and service delivery for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Program was honoured by Prof. A.K. Attri, Director, GRIID who was invited as Chief Guest along with other dignitaries, including Dr. Ajeet Sidana, Joint Director, GRIID, Dr. M. Karuppasamy, Course Coordinator, Dr. Reena Jain, Clinic In-Charge, Mr. Jaspal Sharma, Administrative Officer and Mrs. Vandana Singh School Principal GRIID.

Prof. Anand Sharma from the Dept. of Pharmaceutical Management at NIPER, Mohali Punjab was the resource person for this event. More than 20

research papers were presented covering a wide array of themes related to intellectual disabilities, inclusive education, assistive technology, early intervention, and community-based rehabilitation. The technical sessions were chaired by eminent academicians, including Prof. Dazy Zarabi and Dr. Saifur Rehman faculties from Dept. of Community Education and Disability Studies (DCEDS), Panjab University. Among the presenters, Ms. Manisha Sharma, Ms. Alpna Gautam, Ms. Jasjeev Pal Kaur and Ms. Priya were awarded for their best paper presentations, a testament to their outstanding contribution to the field.

5th Annual Research Day not only paid homage to Prof. B.S. Chavan's dedication for research work also promoted the importance of collaborative academic efforts in creating a more inclusive and accessible society for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
