



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL, JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Equal Opportunity Cell, true to its name, upholds the values of inclusivity and equity. In the academic year 2022-23, EOC successfully organized several events, embracing the spirit of leaving no one behind.

The session started in July with a webinar on "A Journey Towards Inclusion" on 20th July, led by esteemed speakers such as Ms Sian Tesni, Global Advisor for Inclusive Education at CBM, Dr R. Shilpa Manogna, Lecturer in Special E & In-charge Head NIEIPD, Hyderabad, and Ms Bridgetta Mary Prema, Consultant (Inclusive education) at CBM International. This session shed light on various disabilities affecting students and called for the inclusion of differently-abled students in the realm of education.

In September, EOC undertook an awareness campaign on Instagram with the hashtag "Smash The Education Barrier," to promote inclusive education by dispelling myths and promoting better integration of students with disabilities in a classroom setup.

On 7th November, EOC in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre, JMC organized an Open Mic called Zarafat based on the legacy of Frida Kahlo. The event featured an art exhibition displaying beautiful digital and handmade sketches, while participants performed their original poetry, songs and stories, or those of legendary poets and artists.

On 10th January 2023, the Equal Opportunity Cell of Jesus and Mary College organized a special lecture on the topic 'Impediments to Inclusion in Higher Education and Accessibility

Guidelines 2022'. The speaker was Dr Vaishali Kolhe who is an associate professor and the former Chairperson of The Centre for Disability Studies and Action, School of Social work at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. This event was conducted to mark the International Braille Day. The lecture highlighted the impediments to inclusion in higher education and the accessibility guidelines for 2022. This insightful session aimed to make higher education more accessible for differently-abled individuals.

In this academic year, EOC was also allotted a room which was decorated by the members to imbibe the spirit of EOC. The room is utilised to store KIBO, a device purchased by society to help visually impaired students. A faculty member also donated a wheelchair to the society which is stored in the room.

In March, EOC observed "Developmental Disability Awareness Month" by creating informative posts on social media about the relevance, history, and ways to observe the day.

EOC also organized the highly-anticipated annual inter-college competition "PRAYAS-2023," providing a platform for students with benchmark disabilities to showcase their talents in their areas of interest and expertise.

The society concluded the year by hosting an interactive and motivational session for its annual event "UNNATI-2023" on 11th April, featuring guest speaker Ms Priya Bhargava, the winner of the Miss Wheelchair India Beauty Pageant. The talk emphasized the importance of perseverance and improvement, with Ms Bhargava sharing her personal story from her childhood and young adulthood.

EOC extends its sincere gratitude to the convenor and faculty members for their support and encouragement throughout this incredible academic year. The society also thanks the team members for their involvement, participation, and hard work in making the events memorable.