

# Introduction · protection of the rights of person

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INTRODUCTION Within a year thousands of students enter to the university.

With lots of hopes. They come here to continue their learning, to learn essential skills to pursue a particular career to find a better job with a good salary, to meet new friends, to have more independence, to experience the university life etc. So each and every student that comes to our university, “University of Sri Jayewardenepura” also have the same hope and university too help them to a certain extent to accomplish their goals. But the problem is all the students here do not have the ability to get the use of these opportunities easily as others. We have some students with different disabilities. Such as physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, vision impairments, hearing problems, mental disabilities, arms or leg handicapped etc. These students should not be discriminated and disadvantaged by the university.

University need to ensure some adjustments to facilitate those students. So our main concern through this report is to help those students with disabilities, who could not make their voice to the society and suffering a lot because of these problems. In order to help this problem, we first gathered information about the students with disabilities by talking with them, and also we gathered information about the facilities available here in our university by providing a questionnaire to some faculties. By doing all these what we hope is to point out the missing facilities available and to provide some recommendations to help these students. So they will get the same opportunities. As all the other students in the university.

LiteraturereviewTo get the base to ourreport we went through some past researches and past paper articles about theissue. When referring to the work of previous researchers. We first found theresearch done by· UvKiran, Babasaheb Bhimroo University, Lucknow. On infrastructure facilities fordifferently abled students. A comparative study of government andNon-Government institutions. The primary goal of thatresearch was to identify the differences in infrastructure facilities andstudent's level of satisfaction. The result show that Non-Government institutionswere providing more infrastructure in comparison to government students fordisable students. According to their research none of the institutions havewalking aids, internal phones and two-way radio remitter facilities.

Majority ofthe Government institutions have very low level Of satisfaction regarding theavailability of facilities for disable students. Next we referred the,· Protectionof the rights of person with disabilities. Act no: 28 of 1996. Thatact was establish for the establishment of a national council for person with disabilities, for the promotion advancement and protection of rights of persons with disabilitiesin Sri Lanka.· Researchon managing the transition to university for disabled students; by Mark Taylor, Mike Baskett and Chris Wren. Purpose of that research is to examine mechanism for managing thetransition for school to university for disabled students. There they haveoutline a number of areas that need of students with a disability.

They recommend that education infrastructure are required to make reasonable adjustment for with a disability. · Article on the differently abled community of Sri Lanka by Jayani Balasubramaniam

There she has given her review and opinion about developing the facilities for disabled people in Sri Lanka to create a positive change in the world.

Through all these past researches what we found in conclusion is that facilities available for disabled is lack. And need to be improved. So through our research we aim to highlight those issues and provide recommendation for those issues, with the help of these past researches.

Data analysis and recommendation Main aim of our research is to increase the facilities in our university for disabled students. So that they can also achieve a great success if they are given enough support and opportunities. Since disabled people are actually differently abled people, they should also be given enough facilities within the university to improve their skills. So they will also get the opportunity and pleasure of enjoying a normal life as all the other students.

We should not look at them as a burden. Instead we should encourage them to face their life challenges with courage. There can be different types of disabilities. Mainly we can categorize them into 13 areas such as, 1.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) 2. Blind or low vision (BLV) 3. Cognitive disabilities (CD) 4. Deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) 5. Deaf-Blind (DB) 6.

Development delays (DD) Early childhood only 7. Emotional disabilities 8. Language or speech impairment (LSI) 9. Multiple disabilities

(MD)10. Other health impairments (OHI)11. Orthopedic impairment (OI)12. Specific learning disabilities (SLD) 13. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) Belonging to one of these would be considered as disabled.

The main thing is we should understand that students with disabilities are not different from others. But they have some special needs that need to be addressed carefully. According Jackie Conckley (We referred google documents) there are many ways in which you can help disabled people. He has mainly highlighted some general rules for helping disabled. 1.

Treat them as equals We should also treat these students as equal to others because they are no exceptions. They also like to have friends, have fun and to engage in university activities as others. So we should not hesitate, and be afraid to make them participate in all the activities. We should always encourage them. 2. Ask before you help You should not always jump in and help those people.

Because without knowing their need we could make a harm to them than good. So should politely ask whether they need any help and especially we should not offer any medical advice to them without proper knowledge.

3. Never assume someone does or does not have a disability.

Without knowing the correct incident we should not call them disabled.

Because with the disabilities they could act and feel different. Those kinds of behaviors can have an adverse effect on them. 4.

Do not stare at the disabled We should not just stare at the disabled students. So then they will feel embarrassed. They also live a life as

others. Simply look at them as the way you look at others. 5. Respects and understand confidentially When interacting with such people, we should be respectful in both act and words. And we should always protect their privacy.

All these rules are applied when dealing with such students. In general when it comes to a university other than all these we should ensure some special facilities for them to help their studies. According to our research some students tend to drop university due to lack of facilities, which is not a good sign anyway. Unless universities take necessary steps to improve facilities the rate of disabled students dropping out of the university will increase drastically. Universities welcoming the application of disabled students also make them responsible for adjusting. Necessary facilities to access the course.

If you cannot facilitate you should not admit them. If you admit you should fulfill their needs. Data analysis and recommendation Data analysis Number of disabled and available facilities in each faculty To find the number of disabled students in each faculty and how they treat them and to find the available special facilities. We did a small research by providing a questionnaire to each faculty. Given below are the results. 1. Faculty of Humanities and Social Science · There are about 30 disabled students out of which 5 have hearing aids. · One important issue we got to know is that those five students are learning the lecture through the gestures of the lecture.

And because of using microphones they could not see the movements of the lips of lecturer. And they tend to lectures because of this issue. · No

special arrangement have being taken to help those students. Some students have reported their issues with the department office, but they said that there is nothing to do with that. And we could not consider it as an responsible answer. Main issues identified Through the whole research, we could identify some major issues faced by disabled as follows.

1. Lack of elevators There is only four or five elevators for the entire university. There is a difficulty for them to reach. The lecture hall at least there must be sloped stairs to take wheel chairs easily.
2. Transportation problems There is a problem for them to travel from one place to another, for that they always need a help from another student. So it is better to have a special kind of transportation system if possible to help them.
3. Lack of human support for some students they always need a support person. Always their friend can not fulfill this need. There should be some person at special places like canteen, library, administrative building to help them to reach their needs.
4. Accommodation problems These students should be provided with special accommodation facilities. Such as special hostel rooms in ground floor with attached bathrooms.
- 5.

Lack of sanitary facility There is only one washroom for the disabled in the entire university. While improving the facilities for other students, we think that their facilities should also be improved.

6. Library facilities One issue in the library is that, there is no elevator for the library. They also have an issue to access the books they want.

It is good to have a library assistance to help the students to find the book they want. What they request is to increase the technology in a way to support them, increase the number of braille books, apply voice recognition software etc. 7. Lack of counseling facilities Disabled means not only physical disabilities, mental disorders can also be taken into this category. So there must be a proper counselling service specially designed for the needs of disabled students.

Then they can share their ideas with them without hesitating.