

Contents we believe
that we should
provide a

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objective of our report is to identify an issue in University of Sri Jayewardenepura and to provide recommendations for the issue. As our problem, we selected the university insufficiency of facilities for disabled students within the university premises.

Disabled are one of the vulnerable party in our society, who needs a special care. They along with their family face many challenges every day in their life. With that situation, we believe that we should provide a special concern for such students in our university as well. To gather information about disabled students and to find whether there are sufficient amount of facilities for them, we did two researches, one with the faculties in the university and the other, with the students. As per the results of the research, we were able to identify that there are no sufficient facilities and the students are disappointed about the situation.

In order to overcome this issue, we came up with some recommendations to help them in the way we can. Through our recommendation we want to bring the attention of management to remove the drawbacks and to increase the facilities for disabled students within the university. We hope that our report and its recommendations will cause a change in their lives for

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their betterment. 2 3 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. As we see our university provides a variety of facilities to students to help their studies. There are qualified lecturers, lecture halls with good facilities, friendly staff, and a huge library, there are lots of clubs to join, you can sing, dance, there are no. of sports facilities, a gymnasium and many more. But there is a question whether all these facilities are arranged in a way, so that disabled students can also enjoy those. Without any further discussions the answer will be no. Because lack of

consideration was extended on the needs of them when designing those facilities.

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 questioner 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 some opportunities. As all the other students in the university. 4 Literature review To get the base to our report we went through some past researches and past paper articles about the issue. When referring to the work of previous researchers. We first found the research done by UvKiran, Babasaheb Bhimroo University, Lucknow.

On infrastructure facilities for differently abled students. A comparative study of government and Non-Government institutions. The primary goal of that research was to identify the differences in infrastructure facilities and student's level of satisfaction. The result show that Non-Government institutions were providing more infrastructure in comparison to government students for disable students. According to their research none of the institutions have walking aids, internal phones and two-way radio remitter facilities.

Majority of the Government institutions have very low level of satisfaction regarding the availability of facilities for disable students. Figure? 1 www.researchgate.net Next were referred the, Protection of the rights of person

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with disabilities. Act no: 28 of 1996. That act was established for the establishment of a national council for persons with disabilities, for the promotion, advancement and protection of rights of persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka.

· Research on managing the transition to university for disabled students; by Mark Taylor, Mike Baskett and Chris Wren. Purpose of that research is to examine mechanisms for managing the transition from school to university for disabled students. There they have outlined a number of areas that need of students with a disability. They recommend that education infrastructure are required to make reasonable adjustments for those with a disability. www.emeraldinsight.com · 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 are in lack and need to be improved. So through our research we aim to highlight those issues and provide recommendations for those issues, with the help of these past researches.

5 Methodology 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 to Jackie Concley (we referred to Google documents) there are many ways in which you can help disabled people. He has mainly highlighted some general rules for helping disabled people. 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 disability 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.

6 Data analysis and recommendation 6.1 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 (refer annexure 01) · 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 lecturer.

And because of using microphones they could not see the movements of the lips of lecturer. And they tend to drop lectures because of this issue. · No special arrangement has been taken to help those students, even though they have reported the issue to the department.

Faculty of Medical Sciences · As per the gathered information they currently don't educate any disabled students. · But they have made necessary arrangements and facilities to get them join with the faculty.

3. Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (refer annexure 03) · According to their information provided they currently educate 02 disabled students. · They said that they are satisfied with the available

facilities and also mentioned that they don't think lack of facilities as a barrier for their studies⁴.

Faculty of Applied Science (refer annexure 02). This also have no disabled students currently. And they are not satisfied with the available facilities and also consider it as a barrier to pursue their goals, and is willing to increase the facilities. Here we have graphed the results of the research as follows. 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 lectures hall, at least there must be sloped stair case to take wheel chairs easily. Because a small stair case can be a huge barrier for them. 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 cannot 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, and 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. 6.

2 Recommendations 1) Staircase with a slope - Differently abled students such as students with leg handicapped and students who are using wheelchairs cannot use usual staircases. They want staircases with a slope. Many public and private companies, supermarkets, banks and hospitals are using staircases with a slope. - When consider about our university, we cannot see such kind of staircases.

So, it is useful that, building such kind of staircases in our university. - For an example, this is the picture of faculty of Humanities and Social Science. In here there is no staircase with a slope.

So, students who are using wheelchairs cannot go that faculty. - This is the picture of Central Hospital, Maradana. In that hospital, we can see that kind of staircase, specially built for patients using wheelchairs. 2) Walking paths for Blind students - According

to the data obtained from the Blind Students' Association of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, there are 19 blind students in our university. For that students, there should be special walking paths called 'Tactile Paving'. "Tactile Paving" is a system of textured ground surface indicator found on footpaths, stairs and train station platforms to assist pedestrians who are visually impaired." (Wikipedia) - When consider about our university, there is on such kind of walking paths for blind students.

So, building such kind of walking paths are very convenient for blind students. This is a picture of tactile paving. 3) Elevator facilities - It is must to have elevator facilities in the university buildings even for differently abled students. But, some buildings such as Second building of Soratha building, Administration building and Library do not have any elevator facilities.

- So, leg handicapped students and students using wheelchairs cannot participate for the lectures in the first, second and third floor lecture rooms in the second building of Soratha building and also if they wanted to go for upper floors in the Administration building for some reason, there was no way to go. Thus, it is possible to build elevators in such buildings. 4) Disable Student Allowance (DSA) - It is useful to grant a Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) for differently abled students. According to the University of Cambridge Disabled Students' Allowances can help with the cost of, o Specialist equipment for an example a computer if any person need one because of his/her disability o Non-

medical helperso Extra travel expense because of his/her disabilityo Other disability-related costs of studying- Our universityshould establish a reasonable adjustments fund which will help support the costof the following Non-Medical Help(NMH) tasks such as,· Note takers· Study assistants· Proof reading· Specialist studyskills· Specialist mentoring- This is a specialfacility available in the University of Cambridge. So, if our universityprovided this kind of allowance, it would be a really help for differentlyabled students. 5) Counselling facilities - “Counsellingpsychology is a psychological specialty that encompasses research and appliedwork in several broad domains” (Wikipedia)- Our university hasa counselling center.

But, our recommendation is, make special counsellingfacilities for differently abled students.- Sometimes, that students are mentally depressedbecause of their disability. So, if our university provided special counsellingfacility to that students, it would be very serviceable. 6.

3 Third partyrecommendations Other than our recommendations, we thought of gettingrecommendations from students and university staff. Following are some recommendations obtained fromuniversity staff. Ø Common facilities, class room facilities, libraryfacilities, washroom facilities, canteen facilities, common rest roomfacilities and transport facilities should be improved in the university fordifferently abled students.(Refer Annexures) Following the recommendations obtained from thestudents. (Refer Annexures 04-14)Ø Should give extra financial facilitiesØ Should give more attention for themØ Should give all the medical facilities in free

ofcharge for examples wheelchairs, spectacles and medicinesØ Add more elevators because the central elevator is notfunctioning to every lecture room in the Soratha buildingØ Add more lecture facilities for themØ Provide aspecial canteen for themØ Provide special sanitary facilitiesØ Provide medical facilities to examine them ones in a month and for emergency casesØ Aware other students the way to deal with

them 7 Conclusion This report is intended to help the students withdifferent disabilities to face their challenges. Since limited attention isextended to help those students, we through this report hope to make a noise tobring the management attention to help disabled students. We basically did tworesearches, one with the faculties of Universities of Sri Jayewardenepura, andthe other one with the students in the university.

As per the research welearnt that a very low level of facilities and services are rendered to thestudents with disabilities. The level of satisfaction of the disabled studentsabout the facilities is reducing drastically. Many of the students have droppeddown university because of lack of facilities. Through our research we mainlyidentified transportation problems, accommodation problems, difficulties toreach the library, sanitary problems, lack of human support, and lack ofequipment as main issues of them. So from our report we recommend somefacilities that could be implemented in our university to help the disabledstudents. Some of our recommendations are to make stair cases with slopes, increase the no of elevators, and have a special fund to help, adopt userfriendly technologies, build barrier free environments, provide financial helpt to buy equipments, to have signal boards for disabled students, to provide a human assistant etc.

This is our genuine effort to help the students with disabilities, because it brought tears to our eyes while listening to their stories. Our only hope is to make this successful and to bring management attention to help those students. 8 References <https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2017/faces-of-the-pack-sri-lanka-startup><http://www.ft.lk/article/518805/Exclusion-through-inclusivity:-The-differently-abled-community-of-Sri-Lanka>https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262380294_Infrastructural_Facilities_for_Differently_Abled_Students_-_A_Comparative_Study_of_Government_and_Non-Government_Institutions<http://srilankalaw.lk/Volume-VI/protection-of-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-act.html> 9 Appendices