



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Bharati College, Delhi University

And

Saksham

For

Implementation of Program 'Aarohan'

An Initiative towards

**Creating Opportunities for Inclusion of Students with Blindness and Low Vision in
Higher Education**

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter called the MOU) is entered into on – (date), by and between Bharati College, a constituent college of the Delhi University represented herein by its Principal/Nominee of the Principal (hereinafter referred as 'Bharati College', the institution which expression, unless excluded by or repugnant to the subject or context shall include its successors - in office administrators and assigns).

AND

SAKSHAM, 486, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060, represented herein by its Founding Managing Trustee, Dipendra Manocha, (hereinafter referred to as 'Saksham' which expression, unless excluded by or repugnant to be subject or context shall include its successors - in office, administrators and assigns).

(Bharati College and Saksham herein after also jointly referred to as 'Bharati College' and individually as Party)

WHERE AS

A. Bharati College is a constituent college of Delhi University .

SAKSHAM is non-profit organisation registered as charitable trust on 14th February 2003, created with the sole purpose of empowering persons with visual impairment and print disabled. It plays a key role in advocacy and acts as a service provider in the field of rehabilitation, education, livelihood, independent living, training and offering assistive technology solutions for students with visual impairment. Bharati College and Saksham believe that collaboration and cooperation between themselves will promote more effective use of each of their resources, and provide persons with disabilities with enhanced opportunities.

B. Bharati College intends to cooperate and focus their efforts on co-operation within the area of inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in education and extracurricular activities. Skill Based Training, provision of Assistive Technology Solutions and workshops for students with visual impairment, associated staff members and peer group.

NOW THEREFORE IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL PROMISES SET FORTH IN THIS MOU, BHARATI COLLEGE AND SAKSHAM TO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

CLAUSE 1

SCOPE OF THE MOU

Saksham in collaboration with Bharati College proposes to implement the program 'Aarohan'. The project attempts to address the above- mentioned challenges through its multi- pronged approach and aims at taking students with visual impairment of the college ahead together with their sighted peers. This project will be housed at Bharati College and the Principal shall authorize the enabling unit at Bharati College to roll out and implement the project.

1.1 Objectives of the program 'Aarohan' is to provide reasonable accommodation based on need assessment for the following:

1. Facilitate quality education for persons with blindness or low vision and their full participation in educational and recreational activities of the college
2. Skill development of students with blindness or low vision to prepare them for education, livelihood and independent living

1.2 Focus Areas

1.2.1. Ensure access of appropriate assistive technology solutions in an affordable manner

As a part of the program, a thorough assessment will be conducted to understand the specific needs of each beneficiary, based on which the most suitable assistive device will be made available to them.

The range of assistive device which have been shortlisted for this intervention include:

- Laptop
- Electronic (Refreshable) Braille Display
- Android Tablets/Smartphone with physical keyboard
- DAISY players
- Tactile Books
- Mobility kit

To ensure that the devices become affordable and obtainable for the end users, their cost will be subsidized /provided free of cost as per the subsidy schemes/funds available at Saksham and Bharati College. Our target is that within two years, every student with blindness or low vision at Bharati College must have a device of their own along with training which would enable them to read and write in mainstream script.

1.2.2 Providing accessible content

The study material (notes and reference material, text books and prescribed books) of their syllabus will be made available to the students in accessible format which they can read with the help of provided devices such as braille, large print and audio.

In addition, books with tactile diagrams will also be made available to the students as per their requirement to aid them in education of subjects like Science, Mathematics, Geography, Economics etc. These books contain embossed tactile diagrams which can be explored by visually challenged students through touch of their fingers, and allow them to understand various diagrams, images and other visual concepts that are highly critical and integral to the learning of these subjects.

1.2.3 Membership of online libraries such as Sugamya Pustakalaya and Bookshare for every student and faculty with blindness or low vision.

These libraries provide access to more than a million copyrighted books free of cost to persons with print disabilities in braille, large print and audio format.

1.2.4 Trainings and workshops

It has been well documented and researched globally that training is vital for the successful adoption of any assistive technology and accelerate the process of cascading any new concept or program.

- Therefore, Saksham will bundle up devices with the requisite training (duration of the training as per the complexity of the technology/device being provided). This will be given by Assistive technology trainers of Saksham. Awareness and sensitization workshops will also be organized for the students, Parents, staff members and supporting staff.
- Training and orientation sessions will also be arranged for producing accessible content which will involve digitization of notes, preparing assignments and making images and diagrams accessible.
- Employment Oriented workshops, trainings and courses will be provided regularly for guiding the students and help them set their career goals.

1.2.5 Organise Recreational and Sports activities for Students with Blindness or Low Vision

Recreational activities like inclusive and special sports, shows of audio-described movies, etc. will be organized from time to time for students with Blindness and low vision.

1.2.6 Awareness and Sensitisation activities for non-disabled students and staff members

Many fun activities would be organized to facilitate social inclusion of PWD. Simple day to day activities with blindfolding the sighted students would be organized which will make them realise the challenges of a student with visual impairment and help to sensitize them

1.2.7 Making Built Environment Accessible for PWD

Saksham will help the institute make the necessary adaptations with the existing infrastructure for making the built environment accessible for Persons with Disabilities, subject to availability of requisite financial resources. This may include putting up braille signboards, tactile markings, installing anti- skid and colour reflecting tapes, installation of inclusive signage and indoor navigation system, etc.

1.2.8 Provide Need based support to faculty by special educators

Special Educators of Saksham shall provide support as and when required to the faculty of the college. This would help them to provide necessary support to students with Visual Impairment and low vision in the classroom for their inclusion and education.

1.2.9 Organise Financial Resources

Bharati College and Saksham shall arrange funds for carrying out the above- mentioned activities through leveraging various schemes of the government of India and through CSR / Individual donations.

1.2.10 Research and Development

Saksham and Bharati College will jointly conduct research projects with the help of students and faculty members. This would help in identifying gaps in the area and will guide future endeavours of both the organizations towards the mission.

1.2.11 Audit of stem labs

12. Audit of STEM Labs

Saksham in collaboration with premier institutes like IIT Delhi, will conduct audit of STEM and other labs and make the necessary accommodations/adaptations which can facilitate inclusion of students with disabilities in the STEM Laboratories.

1.3 Administration and arrangement for Aarohan Project (Bharati College)

Bharati College and Saksham would designate one person each as single point of contact for this program. Both would be responsible for smooth running of the resource centre and implementation of all the activities under the Aarohan program at Bharati College.

1.4 Roles and Responsibilities pertaining to the resources deployed in the program

1. Bharati College would provide space to run proposed activities at Bharati College.
2. Any equipment of Bharati College or Saksham used for the program implementation will remain property of the respective organization.
3. Any equipment purchased through the funds raised by Bharati College or Saksham under any government scheme or through CSR/Individual donation will remain property of the respective organization that receives funds for it.
4. If resources permit, Bharati College would designate human resources for the resource centre who would be trained by Saksham for smooth implementation of the Aarohan program.

CLAUSE 2

VALIDITY

2.1 This agreement will be valid until it is expressly terminated by either Party on mutual agreed terms,

2.2 Both Bharati College and Saksham may terminate this MOU upon 90 calendar days' notice in writing. In the event of termination both Bharati College and Saksham have to discharge their obligations

CLAUSE 3

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BHARATI COLLEGE & SAKSHAM

3.1 It is expressly agreed that the Bharati College and Saksham are acting under this MOU as independent entities which have come together for the purpose of facilitating the education and empowerment of students with visual impairment and the relationship established under this MOU shall be construed as a partnership.

For SAKSHAM



Authorised Signatory

For BHARATI COLLEGE

Authorised Signatory

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