Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Resource Center for the Differently Abled (RCDA)

Annual Report (2017-2018)

Loyola College, Chennai is the forerunner in India that provides access and assistance for excellence in the field of higher education for the differently-abled students. Over the years, progressive developments have taken place to facilitate learning process to the differently abled students. Resource Centre for the Differently Abled (RCDA) has taken several initiatives for the welfare of the differently-abled students to help them develop on par with others.

This academic year around thirty differently abled students were admitted in our College, most of the students are in the arts department. Totally around one hundred and forty differently abled students are studying in our College this academic year.

Regular computer classes are conducted on all working days for I & II year under graduate students. We emphasize on fingering exercise, screen reading software like JAWS and NVDA, MS office, Internet etc. Students are encouraged to attend music classes regularly and special training is given for participating in various competitions inside and outside the campus. Special coaching is given by the Physical Education Department for the differently abled students interested in sports.

The resource centre organized an orientation for the first-year students on 12th July, 2017 about the facilities available in the resource centre. They were introduced to the staff in the centre. Review meetings were periodically conducted to plan out the future activities and welfare programmes for the stakeholders.

During the academic year 2017-2018 various voluntary organisations visited the Resource Centre for the Differently Abled and observed the activities and resources available.

Regular Counseling sessions on the need of assertiveness were held throughout the academic year 2017-2018 for the I year undergraduate students by the College Counseling team in collaboration with RCDA. Students with specific problems were given special counseling.

A summer camp on Basic Computers and English for communication is held every year in the month of May for the school final visually challenged students. Around twenty students benefited through the camp held in May 2017.

During this academic year, RCDA financially supported forty nine visually challenged students through the sponsorship of Help the Blind Foundation. The Centre with the support of Help the Blind Foundation have managed the expenses of most of the visually challenged students staying in Loyola hostel.

Members of Sri Sathya Sai Association, Chennai volunteered to be the scribes. Around 1000 scribes have helped during the continuous assessment tests. For the semester exams, RCDA in collaboration with Dean of Research office organized scribes with the support of the research scholars of our College. RCDA thanks them for their whole hearted support to the differently abled students of our College.

Competitions like singing and elocution were conducted and prize winners were awarded during the celebration of Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola on 28th July 2017. The students enthusiastically participated in the Ovations and received a standing ovation from the audience for their music performance. Our students actively participated in special events, seminars, competitions and workshops conducted by various organizations working for the Differently Abled students. Resource Centre encourages the differently abled students participating in such events by arranging OD and vehicles, if needed. Our students participated in various sports events organized by the Physical Education department, as part of the College Sports day and won prizes. They performed in the Carol competition held in our College church and won a consolation prize.

This year a special initiative was taken by the resource centre in motivating the differently abled students to prepare and appear in competitive examinations for employment in Government Sectors. Around 90 differently abled students appeared for various competitive examinations.

An orientation on Writing for Media – I, was organized on 26th July 2017 Mr. Umamaheswaran, Web Team Head of the NEWS7 Television channel was the speaker of the program. He quoted current issues as example for writing articles. He motivated the students to develop the practice of reading in order to write better. He encouraged the students to raise questions and clarified by quoting examples.

Input session on Writing for Media – II, was organized on 6th September 2017. Mr. Nelson Xavier, Special Correspondent of the NEWS7 Television channel was the resource person. His talk was focused on how the print media takes the NEWS and views to the people by referring to Ms. Anitha's suicide. He motivated the students by saying that the area chosen for study can in no way interrupt the students' goal.

In November 2017 The Regional Director, National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH) visited the resource centre and interacted with the staff members on activities and programs for the visually challenged students. Mr D. K. Patel, Founder, Help the Blind Foundation, Hong Kong along with the officials from Chennai office visited the Centre and met Rev. Fr. Principal. They interacted with the visually challenged students and the staff of the resource centre about the regular programs.

The administrative members, staff and students visited the Little Flower children's home Chennai on 20th December 2017 and celebrated Christmas along with the little ones. About twenty visually challenged students cheerfully took part. They entertained the kids with Christmas carols and games. The kids enthusiastically performed a group dance. The students contributed for a day's meal. Dresses and gifts were also given.

RCDA organized an interactive session for the differently abled students with Rev. Father Principal on 13th February 2018. Around fifty students were present during the session. The students narrated their experiences in the College and the usefulness of the resource center. The students opined that the resource centre (RCDA) is very useful in imparting computer knowledge. They thanked Rev. Father Principal for the music classes which helped them learn and compose music. Father Principal encouraged the students to make use of the facilities available and motivated them by announcing cash awards for the best performers in academics, sports and music.

THEIA `18 Intercollegiate Cultural and Sports Meet for the visually challenged students is to be held on 5th March 2018. Competitions such as Singing, Spelling, Quiz, Running Race and Shot-Put are organized for the day. Chief Guest for inauguration will be Mr. Madurai Muthukalai, Film Actor and the special invitees are Mr. Daniel (film actor) Mr. Yogi and Mr. Raja (comedians). The Rev. Fr. Secretary, Rev. Fr. Principal and the Deputy Principal will felicitate the event. Chief Guest for the Valediction is Mr. Unnikrishnan, Playback singer. Mr. Suresh Sanghia, Film Director will be the special invitee. Around 350 students from various city Colleges will take part in the event. The winners will be awarded with trophies and certificates. Overall trophy will be given to the top scoring College.

For the first time in the history of resource centre, as a part of THEIA `18 **'திறனாளியம் விருது' - 2018**, award presentation is initiated. This award is presented to a person working for the wellbeing of the differently abled in the society. This will be awarded every year, hereafter as a token of appreciation.

The Principal Interacting with RCDA students

Sports for the visually challenged students

Input Session on Writing for Media

Honoring the Institutions working for the Differently Abled

Chief Guest for the Inauguration of THEIA 2018

Chief Guest for the Valediction of THEIA 2018

Intercollegiate Programme (THEIA 2018)

Competitions for the visually challenged students

Sponsors visit to the College

Music performance by RCDA Students

Overall Champion won by the visually challenged students of Presidency College, Chennai

Award Presentation - **திறனாளியம் விருது (2018)** to Mr. Rajumurugan, Film Director