



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA GOA

Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2024-25

Name of Activity	SESSION "HELEN KELLER - AN INSPIRATION"
Date/Duration	26th June 2024
Venue	Post Graduate Classroom
Name of organizing Department/Cell	Abbe Faria Post Graduate Department of Psychology and Caritas-Goa. MoU activity
In collaboration with	
Name/s of Faculty Coordinator	Dr. Vijay Viegas
Stratum of Event	State Level
Name & details of Resource Person/s If any	Mr. Gabel Mascarenhas, Project Manager, Caritas Goa
Report	<p>On 26th June 2024, Mr. Gabel Mascarenhas, the Project Manager of Caritas Goa, conducted an enlightening session titled "Helen Keller - An Inspiration" for the postgraduate students of the Department of Psychology at St. Xavier's College, Mapusa-Goa. The session aimed to create awareness about 'deafblindness' and was part of the ongoing collaboration between Caritas Goa and St. Xavier's College, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).</p> <p>Attendees</p> <p>The session was attended by 63 postgraduate students of the Department of Psychology, Department of Science and Department of Commerce who showed great enthusiasm and interest in learning about the challenges and achievements associated with deafblindness. The session was an eye-opener, providing students with a deeper understanding of the condition and the inspirational life of Helen Keller.</p> <p>Session Highlights</p> <p>Introduction to Deafblindness</p> <p>Mr. Gabel Mascarenhas began the session with a detailed introduction to deafblindness, explaining it as a unique disability that combines both hearing and visual impairments. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition and Types: An overview of the different types of deafblindness, including congenital and acquired deafblindness. • Prevalence and Causes: Statistics on the prevalence of deafblindness globally and in India, along with common causes such as genetic conditions, illnesses, and accidents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges: Discussion on the multifaceted challenges faced by individuals with deafblindness, including communication barriers, mobility issues, and social isolation. <p>Helen Keller's Life and Legacy</p> <p>The focus then shifted to the life of Helen Keller, a pioneering figure who overcame the limitations of deafblindness to achieve remarkable success. Mr. Mascarenhas covered various aspects of her life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Life: Helen Keller's early years, including the illness that led to her deafblindness at 19 months old. • Breakthrough with Anne Sullivan: The pivotal moment when Anne Sullivan became her teacher, leading to Helen's breakthrough in communication through the manual alphabet. • Educational Achievements: Helen Keller's academic journey, including her graduation from Radcliffe College, making her the first deafblind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. • Advocacy and Activism: Her lifelong advocacy for people with disabilities, her work with organizations like the American Foundation for the Blind, and her contributions to social causes. <p>Inspiration and Impact</p> <p>Mr. Mascarenhas emphasized Helen Keller's role as an inspiration to millions worldwide. Key takeaways included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perseverance and Determination: Helen Keller's unwavering determination to overcome her disabilities and lead a fulfilling life. • Innovative Communication Methods: The various methods developed to facilitate communication for individuals with deafblindness, inspired by Keller's experiences. • Legacy: Helen Keller's enduring legacy in the field of disability rights and her influence on policies and programs supporting people with disabilities. <p>Interactive Session and Q&A</p> <p>Following the presentation, Mr. Mascarenhas engaged the students in an interactive session, encouraging them to ask questions and share their thoughts. This segment was particularly valuable as it allowed students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify Doubts: Gain clarity on the complexities of deafblindness and the support systems available. • Discuss Innovations: Explore recent advancements in technology and communication aids for people with deafblindness. • Share Perspectives: Share their reflections on how Helen Keller's story resonated with them personally and professionally. <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The session concluded with Mr. Mascarenhas reiterating the importance of empathy, understanding, and support for individuals with disabilities. He encouraged the students to apply the lessons learned from Helen Keller's life in their future careers as psychologists and advocates for disability rights.</p> <p>Feedback and Impact</p> <p>The session received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students, who appreciated the opportunity to learn about deafblindness in such a detailed and inspiring manner. The collaboration between Caritas Goa and St. Xavier's College</p>
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	<p>continues to play a crucial role in enhancing students' awareness and understanding of critical issues related to disabilities.</p> <p>Future Collaborations</p> <p>This session was part of the ongoing partnership between Caritas Goa and St. Xavier's College, aimed at enriching the educational experience of students through awareness programs and workshops. Future sessions and activities are planned to further this collaboration, fostering a more inclusive and informed academic environment.</p>
Brochure/Poster	NA
Photographs	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PHOTO-2.pdf
List of participants With signatures	NA
Certificate	NA