



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA GOA

Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2025-26

Name of Activity	“SELF ADVOCACY & EMPOWERMENT - PERSONS’ WITH DISABILITIES (PWD) - OWL HOUSE - VALUE ADDED COURSE (VAC)
Date/Duration	19th August 2025
Venue	College Seminar Hall
Name of organizing Department/Cell	Abbe Faria Post Graduate Department of Psychology
In collaboration with	
Name/s of Faculty Coordinator	Dr. Kshipra Vora Ms. Maryjane De Souza Ms. Vaishnavi Ghosarwadkar (In-charge) Ms. Janice Zuzarte
Stratum of Event	State Level
Name & details of Resource Person/s If any	Ms. Jo Chopra - Latika Foundation

Report	<p>Objectives of the Course</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create awareness and sensitivity towards neurodiversity and persons with disabilities. 2. To equip students with tools for self-advocacy and personal empowerment. 3. To foster inclusive attitudes and understanding within academic and professional settings. 4. To provide experiential learning through interaction with experts in disability advocacy. <p>The Department of Psychology conducted a value-added course on “Self-Advocacy and Empowerment for Neurodiversity” on 19th August 2025, in collaboration with The Owl House, aimed at sensitizing students toward neurodiverse populations and fostering inclusive practices. The session was led by Ms. Jo Chopra, founder of the Latika Roy Foundation, Dehradun, and an accomplished disability advocate.</p> <p>Ms. Chopra highlighted the lived experiences of neurodiverse individuals and the social, cultural, and systemic barriers they face. She introduced strategies for self-advocacy, communication of needs, and personal empowerment, emphasizing the role of empathy, active listening, and allyship in creating inclusive spaces. Students participated in reflective exercises, case discussions, and scenario-based role-plays designed to deepen their understanding of neurodiversity and practical approaches to support inclusion.</p> <p>The course also underscored the importance of recognizing individual strengths, promoting autonomy, and challenging biases that affect persons with disabilities. Through these activities, students developed both cognitive and affective understanding of inclusivity, gaining insights into ethical, social, and professional responsibilities in working with diverse populations.</p> <p>Outcomes / Learning</p> <p>The value-added course successfully enhanced students’ awareness, empathy, and practical skills in self-advocacy and empowerment. Participants gained actionable strategies to support neurodiverse individuals, foster inclusive environments, and integrate principles of equity and sensitivity in their academic, professional, and personal lives.</p>
Brochure/Poster	NA

Photographs	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/images-of-SELF-ADVOCACY-EMPOWERMENT-PERSONS-WITH-DISABILITIES-PWD-OWL-HOUSE-VALUE-ADDED-COURSE-VAC.pdf
List of participants With signatures	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Attendance-SELF-ADVOCACY-EMPOWERMENT-PERSONS-WITH-DISABILITIES-PWD-OWL-HOUSE-VALUE-ADDED-COURSE-VAC.pdf
Certificate	NA