



# GURUDEV ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGE

( Affiliated to KANNUR UNIVERSITY )

Managed by the Catholic Diocese of Bathery

## DISABLED-FRIENDLY, BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The main objectives of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1996 enacted by the Government of India on January 1, 1996 are to create barrier free environment for persons with disabilities and to make special provisions for the integration of persons with disabilities into the social mainstream. It enjoins upon the institution to ensure within their economic capacity provision for installation of facilities for the benefit of persons with visual handicaps, kerbs and slopes to be made in pavements for the easy access of wheelchair users, devising appropriate symbols of disability and warning signals at appropriate places. In regard to non-discrimination in the built environment, provisions have been made for ramps in Academic buildings, adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users, Braille symbols and proper signage and elevators.

### **The focus of the policy is on the following:**

- Adequate space for persons using mobility devices like wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, as and those walks with the assistance of other persons.
- To build a barrier free environment for disabled and physically challenged persons in the form of ramps, and provision for lifts in future.
- To provide necessary signage including tactile path, lights, display boards and signposts for the easy movement of the disabled persons.

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- To provide scribe facility for the person who require human assistance during the course of examination and academic activities.
- To ensure the accessible, gender-sensitive, safe, usable and functional washroom facilities should be provided for disabled persons.
- To ensure the proper text and pictogram signage such as tactile path, lights, display boards, signposts are necessary, located to be visible and touchable.
- The use of signage of male and female symbols, in accordance with local customs and standards, with raised outlines and bright color contrast will be more evident to everyone and particularly helpful for persons with visual impairments.
- Learners with disabilities need to be adequately and appropriately supported.
- To augment screen reading software and braille facility for the needy person.
- To ensure the accessibility of software and technology for the people with disabilities.
- Provision for enquiry and information: Human assistance, reader, scribe, soft copies of reading material, screen reading.

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