



Dr. P Lavanya  
Head, Dept. of Education

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## REPORT ON THE SYMPOSIUM

The Department of Education organized a one-day symposium on “*Rethinking Classroom Practice: Pedagogical Interventions for Diverse Classrooms*” on 2nd April 2026. The symposium aimed to provide prospective teachers with insights into inclusive pedagogical practices and strategies to address the diverse needs of learners in contemporary classrooms.

The programme commenced with Vedam recitation, followed by the inaugural address by Prof. Rani P. L., Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, Literature and Languages, and Director, Anantapur Campus. She highlighted that even in today’s fast-paced world driven by AI, a teacher’s role will “never be irrelevant but pertinent”. It can never replace the human connection that teachers bring into classrooms. She emphasized the 3C’s - Creativity, Curiosity, and Compassion, which are essential for budding teachers as they enter this noble profession.

Following this, the symposium began with a presentation by Dr. Onita Nakra, Counsellor and Educational Psychologist at American School of Dubai. She explained that autism is a spectrum, with each being different. She highlighted common characteristics such as repetitive behaviours, preference for routines, and challenges in social interaction, including difficulty in communication and expressing emotions. She also shared key indicators like delayed speech and limited communication, along with statistics on its prevalence. The speaker emphasized that children with autism may face social challenges, making it difficult to build relationships, and highlighted the important role of parents and teachers in supporting them. The session concluded with a round of questions and answers.

Succeeding this was a co-presentation by Ms. Ambika Subramanian, Head and Special Educator, and Ms. Daniella Acca Varghese, Special Educator at Vidyanikethan Academy, on ‘Managing Classroom Behavior: Inclusive and Supportive Approaches for Teachers’. The session was interactive, involving students in case-based discussions. The speakers emphasized understanding the reasons behind student behaviour, creating a positive and respectful classroom environment, and using simple strategies such as clear rules, positive reinforcement, and calm communication. They stressed guiding students rather than punishing them and highlighted the importance of empathy, consistency, and strong teacher-student relationships.

The afternoon session began with an online session by Dr. Rajashree Srinivasan, Professor in Education at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. She introduced Universal Design for Learning (UDL), emphasizing the need to address diverse learner needs through multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression. She also shared a sample lesson plan, which helped students understand the practical application of UDL.

This was followed by a session by Dr. Umakanth Prasad, Vice Principal, Department of Education, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan. He spoke on classroom adaptations for learners with visual impairment, highlighting strategies such as clear verbal instructions, use of tactile and audio resources, and organized classroom environments. He also referred to the expansion of recognized disabilities and relevant educational provisions supporting inclusive education.



Before concluding, a summary of the key takeaways was presented by Ms. Shriya Gurung of I B.Ed., followed by the vote of thanks by Ms. B. Sai Soujanya Kumari, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, SSSIHL.

The symposium emphasized the importance of inclusive, empathetic, and flexible teaching practices to address the diverse needs of learners in contemporary classrooms. It also reinforced the need for continuous professional development and the adoption of innovative pedagogical strategies.

Overall, the symposium served as a meaningful academic platform for broadening perspectives and strengthening the commitment of prospective teachers towards inclusive and reflective classroom practices.

The Department of Education expresses our sincere gratitude to all the distinguished resource persons for their valuable contributions and to the administrators for their constant support and encouragement.

With regards,  
Yours sincerely,

*Kavya P*