ONLINE WORKSHOP ON

UNDERSTANDING NEURODIVERSITY

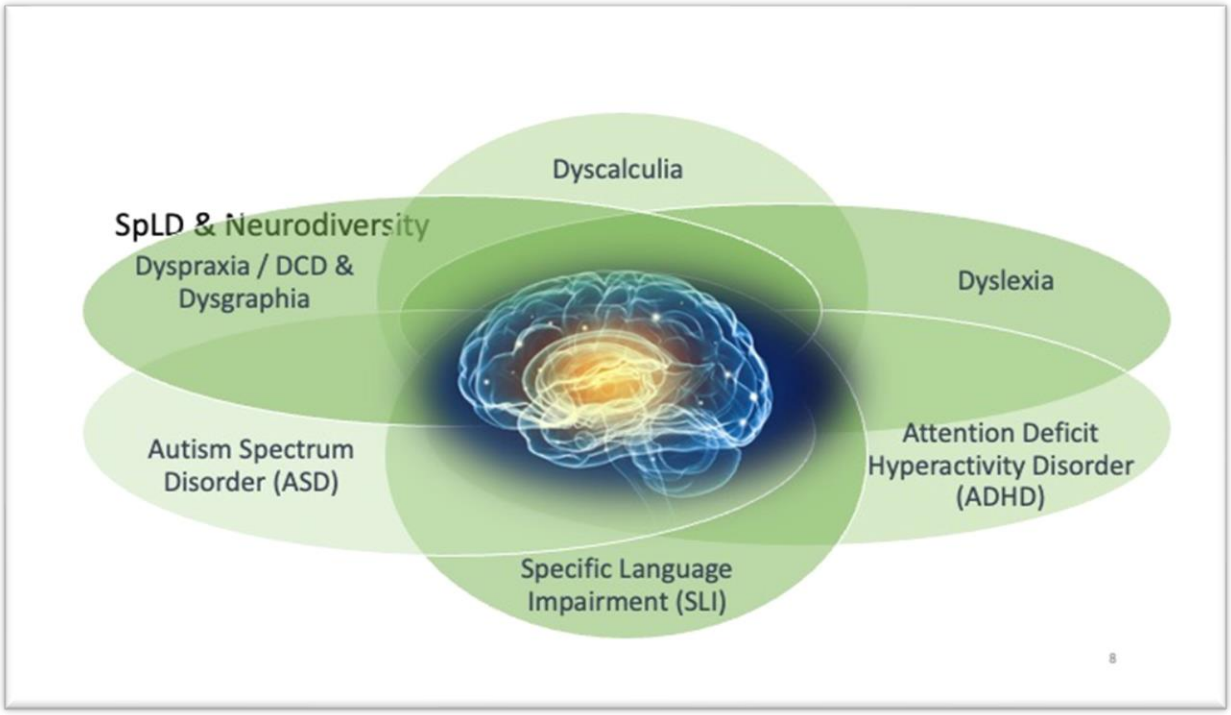
4 JUNE 2021 (10 AM TO 12 PM)

Organised by

School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata

In collaboration with

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi



Report Submitted by

Manobina Chakraborty
Inclusive Education Consultant, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Introduction

To secure the right to education of every child, schools are required to identify and accommodate neurodivergent children and young people along with the neurotypical students. Existing Teacher Training courses in India are yet to include this topic, and teachers lack knowledge, training, and experience to teach students with neurological differences.

Recognising this critical need, the School of Education at Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata organised an online workshop on Understanding Neurodiversity in collaboration with the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi.

Neurodiversity is a scientific concept arising from brain imaging. A number of brain studies have shown that people with learning or thinking differences are “wired” differently than their peers. In other words, some children are born with brains that think, learn and process information differently than others. The term neurodiversity has since come to include the following variations:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD or dyspraxia)
- Dyslexia
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Dyscalculia
- Other neurological disorders.

Aim

- Understand the basic concept of Neurodiversity
- Build positive mindsets towards supporting neurodivergent students
- Create awareness about inclusive education practices

Objectives

1. To impart knowledge about the concepts of neurodiversity and building positive mind-sets
2. To create sensitive processes and tools for effective screening of neurodiversity and assessment of learning needs
3. To enhance teachers' ability to understand and identify neurodiversity; increase awareness about the social and academic implications for students, and to increase the capability of implementing inclusive education practices.
4. To share, develop, and embed existing good practices for accommodation and intervention among professionals to support neurodivergent students.

Invitation

CEMCA, New Delhi invited Manobina Chakraborty to conduct a workshop on Neurodiversity for school teachers, faculty and students of the School of Education at Netaji Subhash Open University Kolkata.

Participants

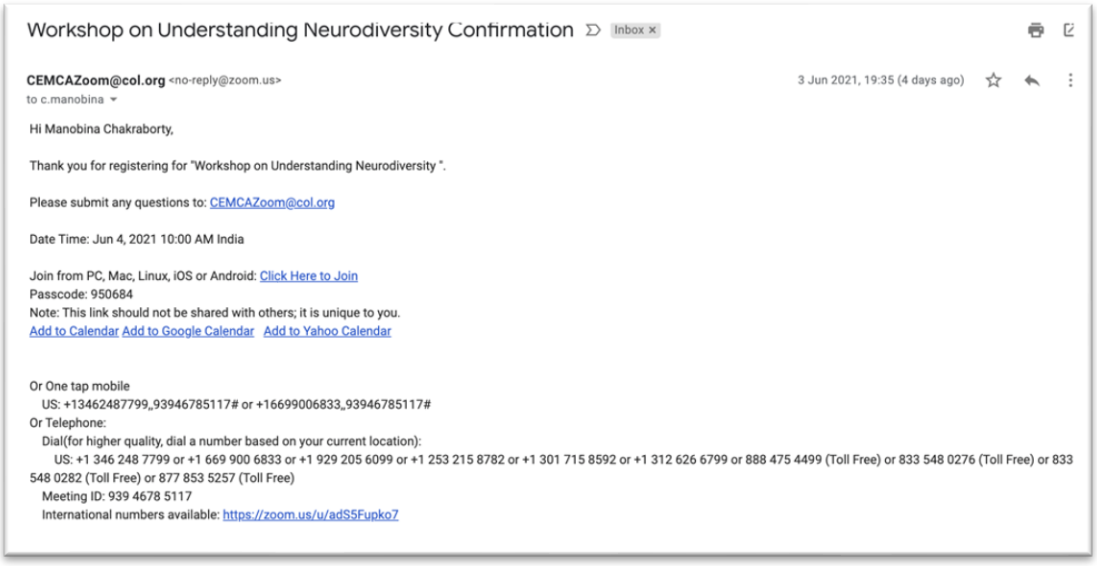
Eighty-five participants from various schools and universities in India attended the online workshop. Participants were mostly teachers, para teachers or aspiring teachers (B.ED. students). University lecturers, assistant professors, education consultants, and researchers also participated in the workshop. List of participants is placed in Appendix 1.

Methodology

The workshop was conducted online through the virtual platform ZOOM. The methodology used was interaction, PowerPoint Presentation, Audio-visuals, Online quiz and problem-solving discussions. The participants took part in brainstorming questions through chat box.

Date: The workshop was held on June 4, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:20PM

Venue: The workshop was conducted online through the virtual platform ZOOM.



Workshop on Understanding Neurodiversity Confirmation Inbox ×

CEMCAZoom@col.org <no-reply@zoom.us> 3 Jun 2021, 19:35 (4 days ago)
to c.manobina

Hi Manobina Chakraborty,

Thank you for registering for "Workshop on Understanding Neurodiversity ".

Please submit any questions to: CEMCAZoom@col.org

Date Time: Jun 4, 2021 10:00 AM India

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: Click Here to Join
Passcode: 950684
Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.
Add to Calendar Add to Google Calendar Add to Yahoo Calendar

Or One tap mobile
US: +13462487799,,93946785117# or +16699006833,,93946785117#
Or Telephone:
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)
Meeting ID: 939 4678 5117
International numbers available: https://zoom.us/u/adS5Fupko7

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Understanding Neurodiversity | 4 June 2021 | 10:00 -12:00 IST

Time	Activity
10 :00 - 10:05	Opening Announcements by Senior Programme Officer (Online & Blended Learning), CEMCA
10:05 - 10:15	Address by the Director, CEMCA
10:15 - 10:20	Introduction to the speaker
10:20 - 10:25	Ice-breaking Poll (1) and introduction to the topic by the speaker
10:25 - 10:35	Presentation and Video (Neurodiversity)
10:35 - 10:40	Poll (2) and discussion
10:40 - 10:50	Presentation and Video (Autism)
10:50 - 11:00	Poll (3) and experience sharing by the participants
11:00 - 11:10	Presentation and Video (Dyslexia)
11:10 - 11:15	Poll (4) and discussion
11:15 - 11:25	Presentation and Video (ADHD, Dysgraphia)
11:25 - 11:30	Poll (5) and Discussion
11:30 - 11:55	SEN accommodation in classroom: Inclusive Education practices (Interaction based on the questions sent by the participants through chat)
11:55 - 12: 05	Discussion
12:05 - 12 :10	Concluding speech by Director, CEMCA
12:10 – 12:15	Vote of Thanks by the Coordinator, School of Education, NSOU
12:15 – 12:20	Feedback

Workshop Proceedings

The workshop was conducted in presence of dignitaries from both CEMCA and NSOU.

From CEMCA:

Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director
Dr. Manas Panigrahi, Senior Programme Officer (Education)
Dr. Shiffon Chatterjee, Senior Programme Officer (Online & Blended Learning)

From NSOU

Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj, Professor, School of Education
Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Coordinator, School of Education

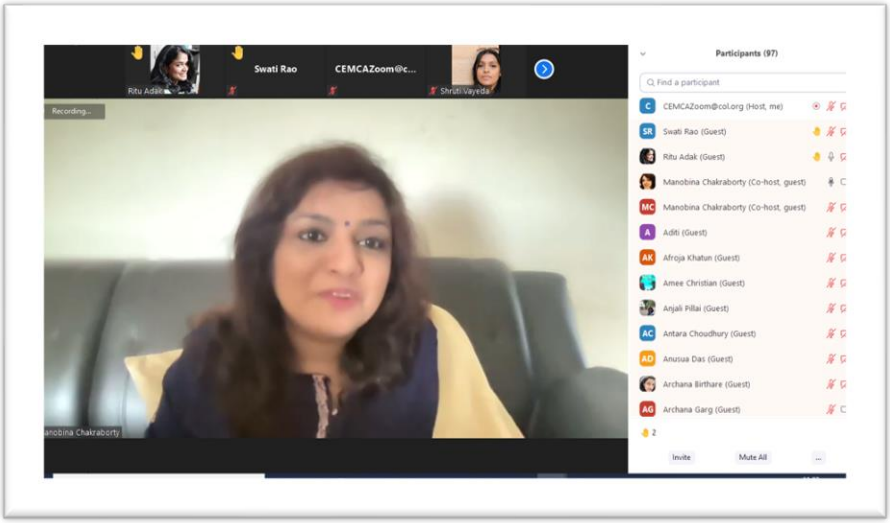
Prof. Madhu Parhar welcomed all the participants and gave an overview of the subject. She explained the meaning of Neurodiversity and discussed the need of inclusion of this subject in the Teachers' Training programmes in India.

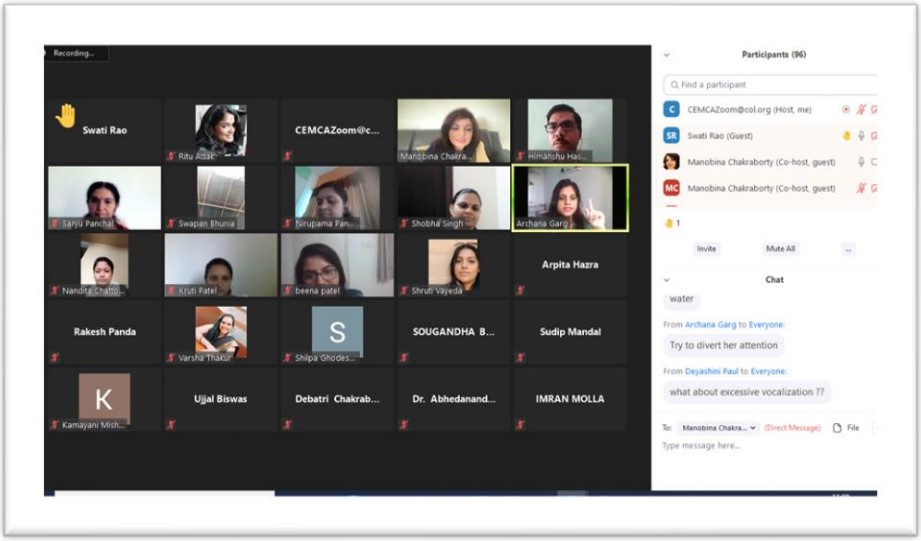
Details of the technical session

"Understanding Neurodiversity" workshop was based upon the importance of recognising and responding to individuals' profiles of learning strengths and needs. It recognised the principle that every teacher is a teacher of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and that teachers need to make 'reasonable adjustments' to their teaching in order to meet diverse learning needs.

The workshop addressed such issues by focusing not on labels but rather on support based on observable behaviours and learner profiling, and, further, on utilising a range of whole-class techniques to establish a 'neurodiversity-friendly classroom'.

Devised as a train-the-trainer model, it was intended to be cascaded by teachers at a 'core skills' level.





The workshop was divided into four sections:

***Part 1: 'Seeing the whole picture'*.** This section promotes the importance of holistic learner profiling, taking into account the range of strengths and challenges that might be present in a learner with an SpLD.

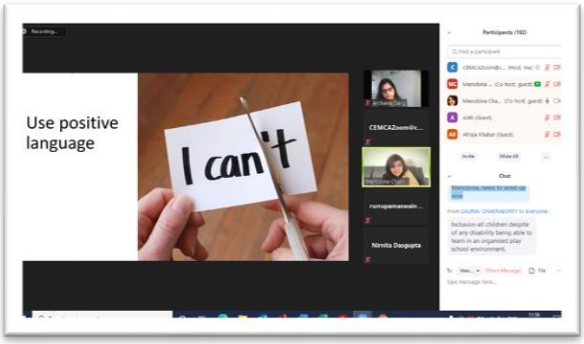
***Part 2: 'Understanding neurodiversity'*.** In this section of the training, a combined SpLD/neurodiversity checklist of dimensions of learning (both cognitive and affective) is presented, which has been devised to take into account the overlapping nature of SpLDs. The checklist aims to provide a framework through which to observe and understand learner behaviours, and encourages teachers to look beyond individual labels and preconceptions of what it might mean to have dyslexia, dyspraxia and so on.

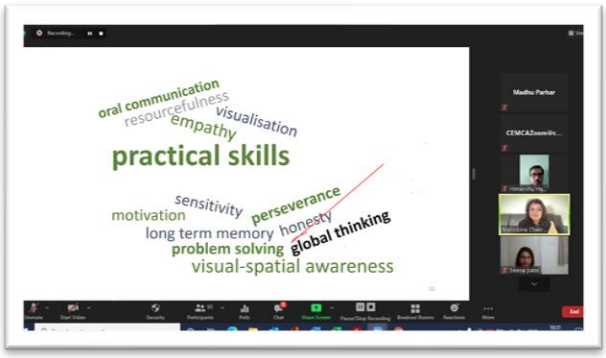
***Part 3:* Explanation about prominent Neurodiversity areas**, namely: Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADHD.

***Part 4: 'Classroom support strategies'*.** This section underlines the key message that 'The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit a pupil into a category' It offers a 'toolkit' of easy-to-implement 'core' strategies, also encouraging teachers to build on their own best practice in order to develop inclusive learning in their classrooms.

The toolkit offers strategies for:

- fostering self-esteem
- understanding challenging behaviour
- teaching metacognition
- using multisensory techniques
- making text reader-friendly
- breaking down instructions/reducing memory load
- allowing 'thinking time'
- keeping language simple.

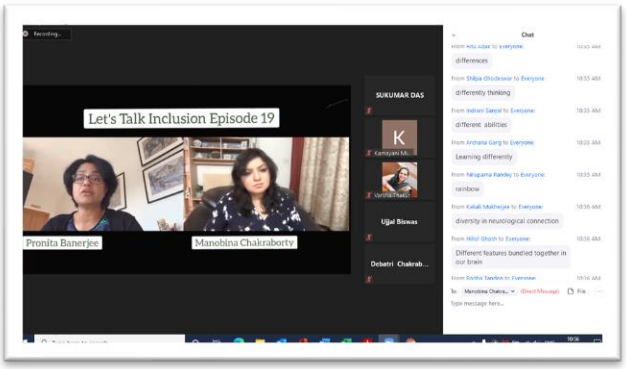


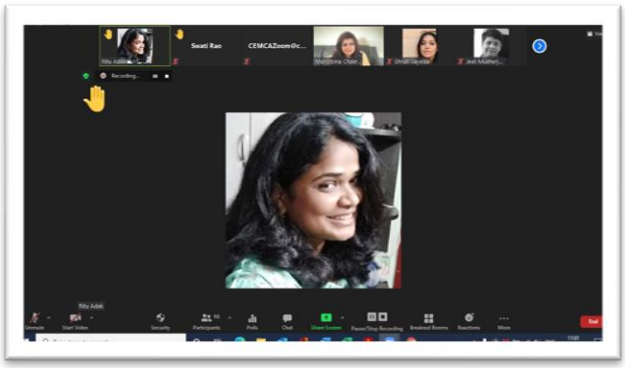


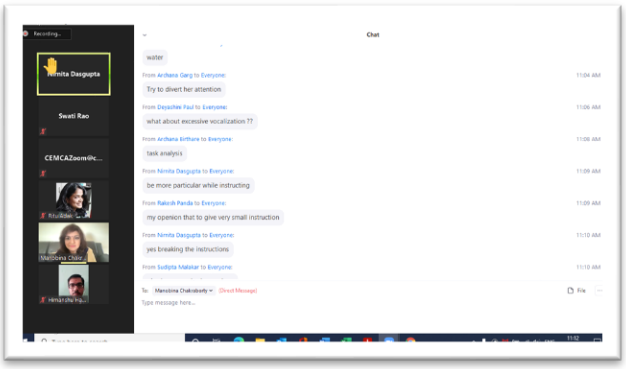
Conclusion

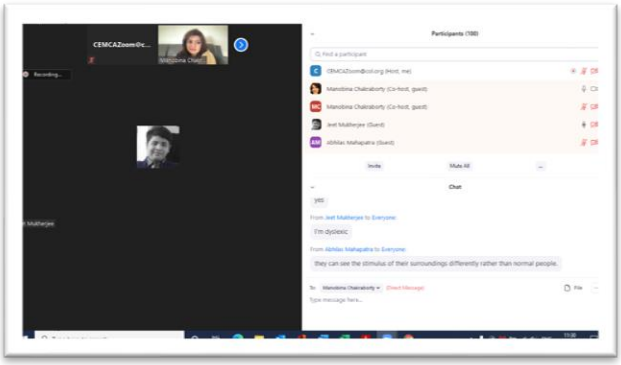
If there is one key 'take home' message from the findings of the Teaching for Neurodiversity initiative, it seems to be that encouraging teachers to focus upon individual learner strengths and needs – not just SEND 'labels' – and offering them a toolkit to get started on this can be empowering.

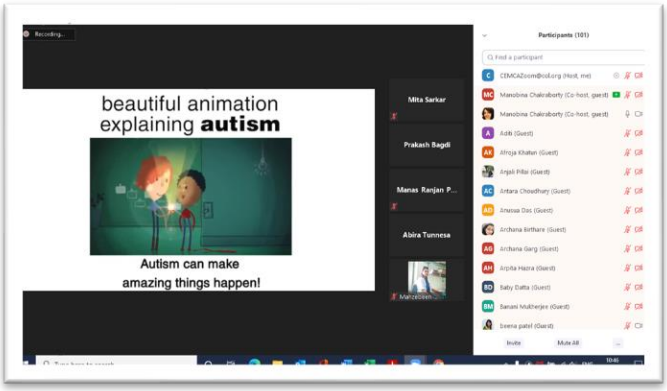
This initiative seems to have tapped a real area of training need in the teaching workforce and raises questions about the possibility of more of such training in initial teacher education.

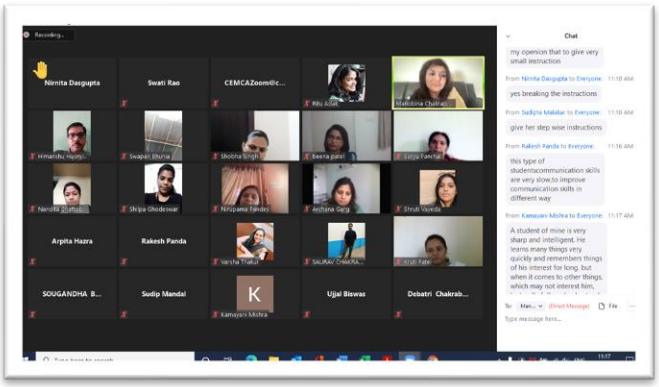


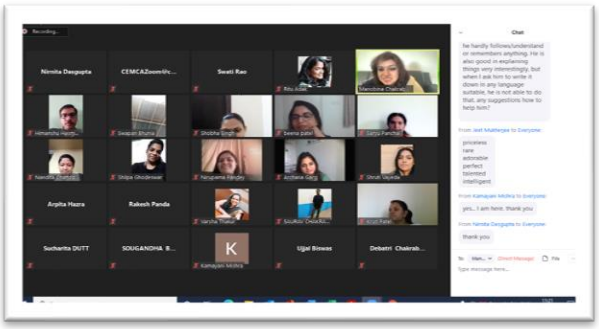


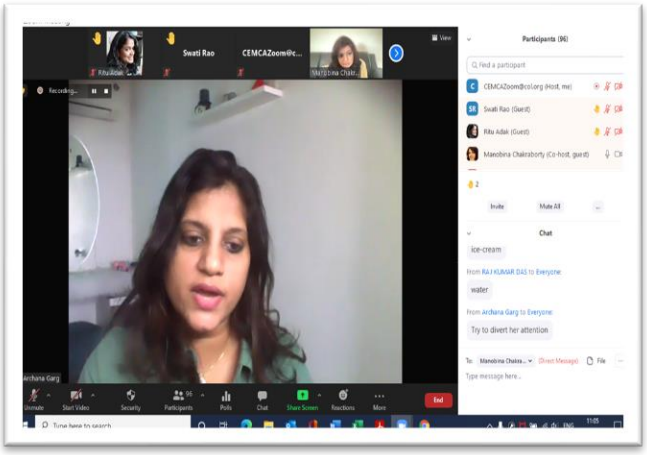




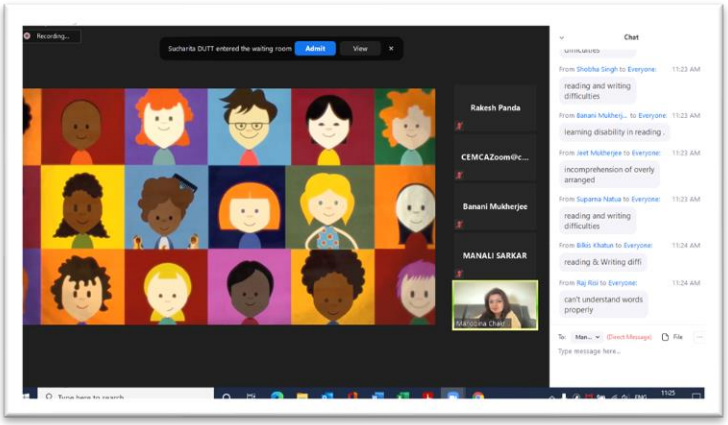

beautiful animation
explaining autism
Autism can make
amazing things happen!

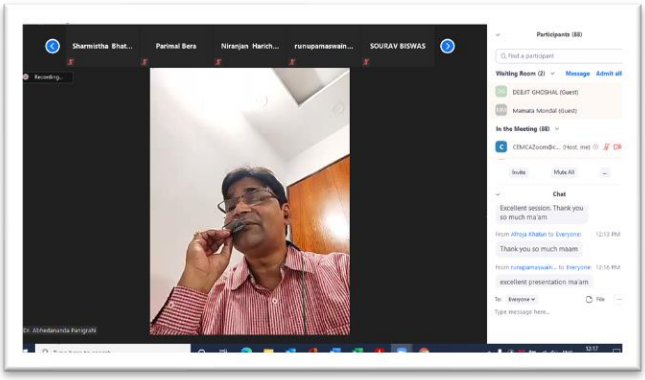




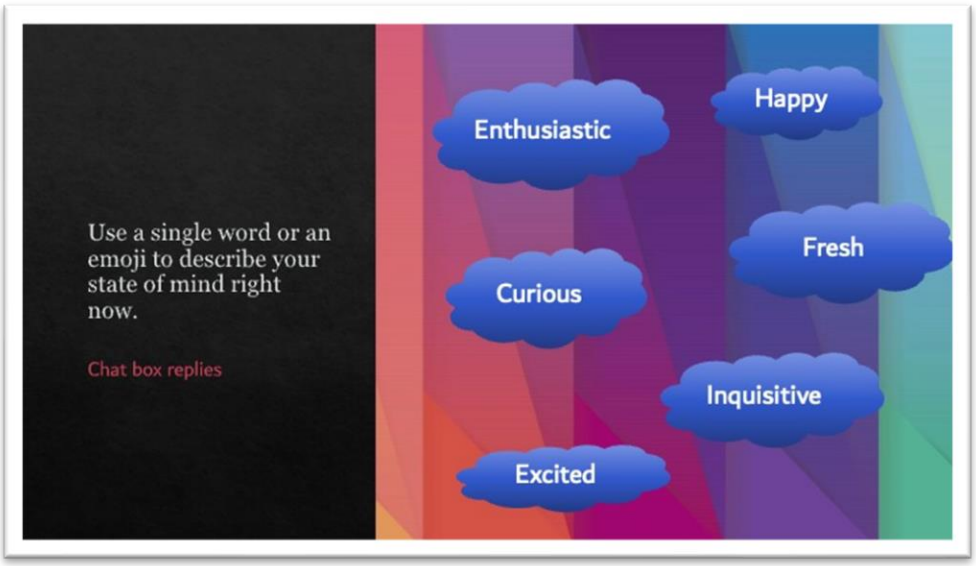


Differing Perceptions
Sensory Sensitivity and Information Overload
Communication Styles and Expectations





Some of the Responses received through Chat box during the workshop

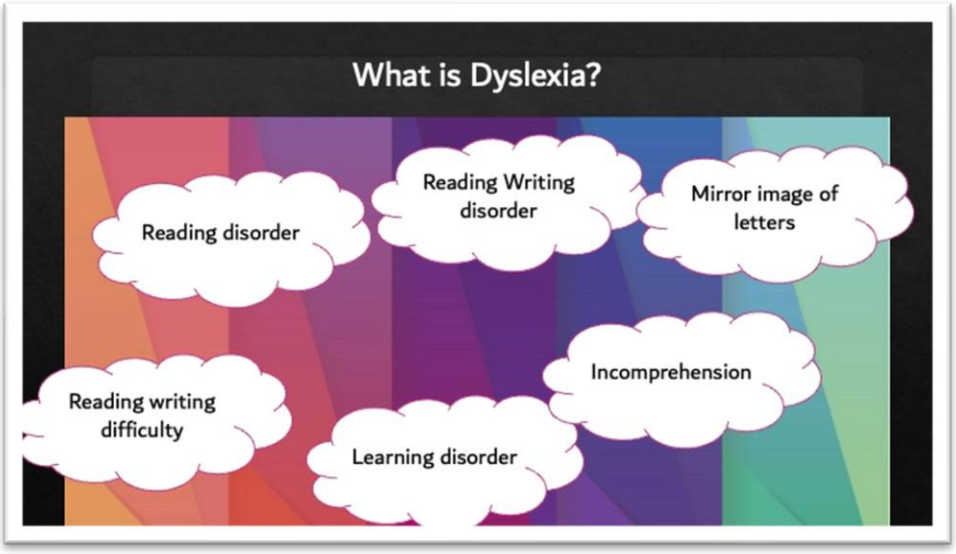


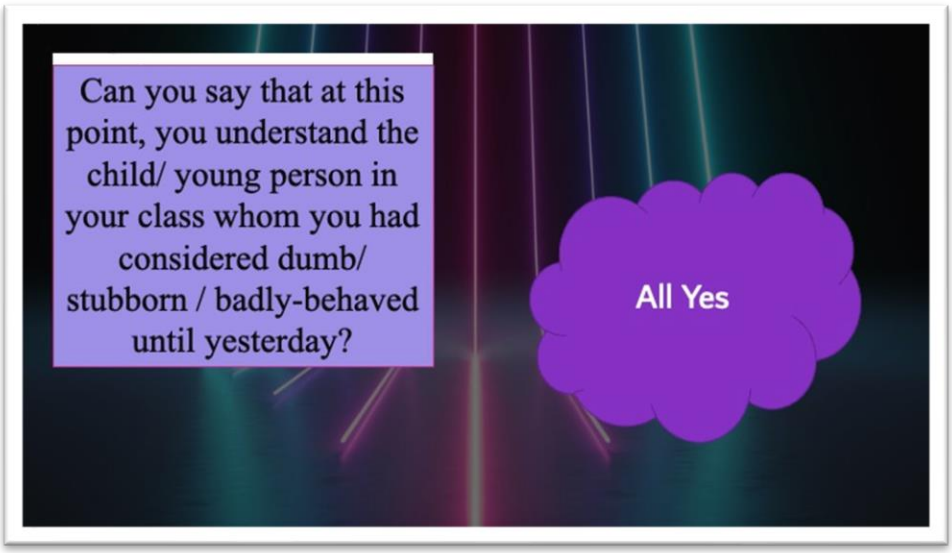
What have we learnt from the video 1?
Child' struggle
Child can't communicate
Child's inability
Teacher should understand the child
Child is helpless
Child can't retain attention
Teacher's attitude is wrong

How would you describe Neurodiversity in one word?
Chat box replies
Difficulty
Extraordinary
Unique
Different
Gifted
Rainbow

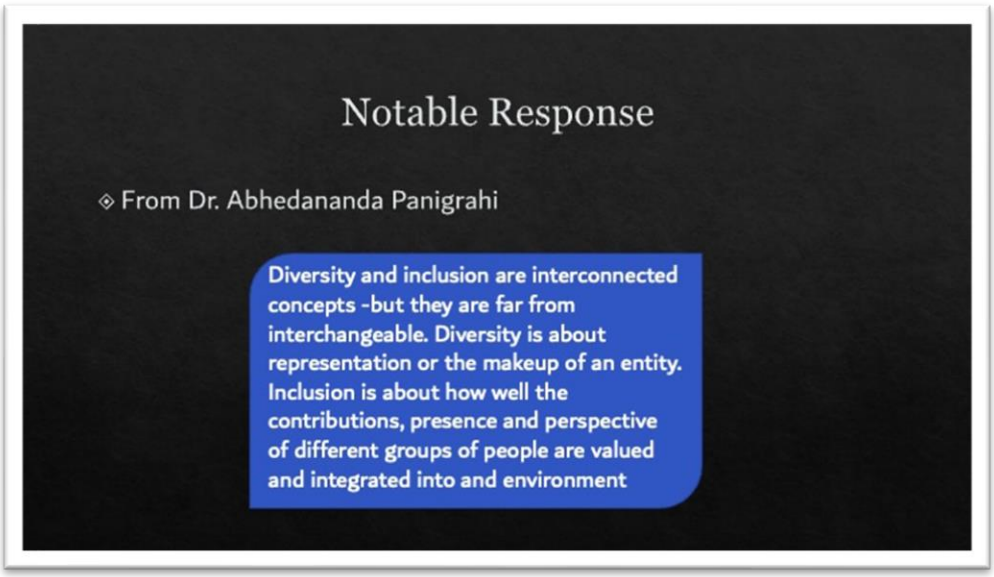
What is Autism
Chat box replies
different way of communicating
inability to communicate
neurological disorder

If you had to eat only one food for the rest of your life, which one would it be?
Fish-rice
Chicken soup
Daal rice
Smoothy
Idli smbhar
Fruit juice
Water
Curry-rice
Energy-giving food
Fruit Salad


What is Dyslexia?
Reading disorder
Reading Writing disorder
Mirror image of letters
Incomprehension
Reading writing difficulty
Learning disorder

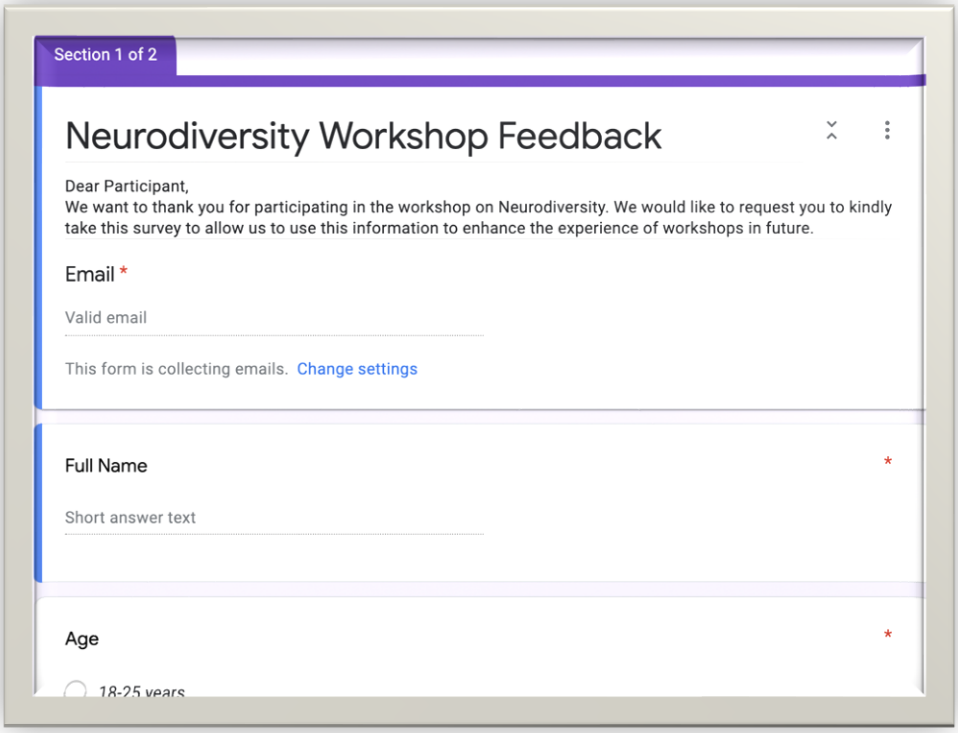

Can you say that at this point, you understand the child/ young person in your class whom you had considered dumb/ stubborn / badly-behaved until yesterday?
All Yes

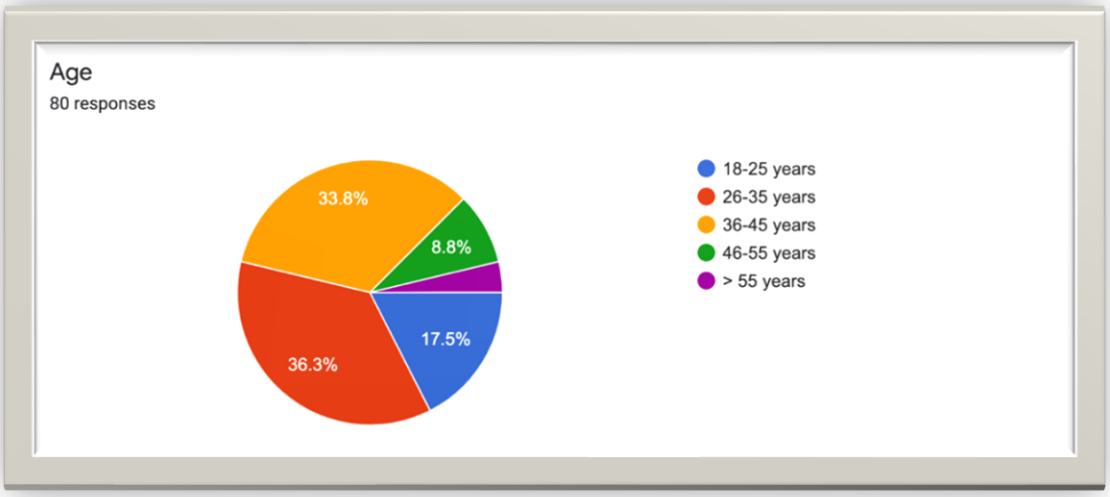
Tell us in one or two words, what "Diversity" and "Inclusion" mean to you?
Difference
Involvement
Including differently-abled
Acceptance
Indiscrimination
Getting together
Togetherness
Involvement for all

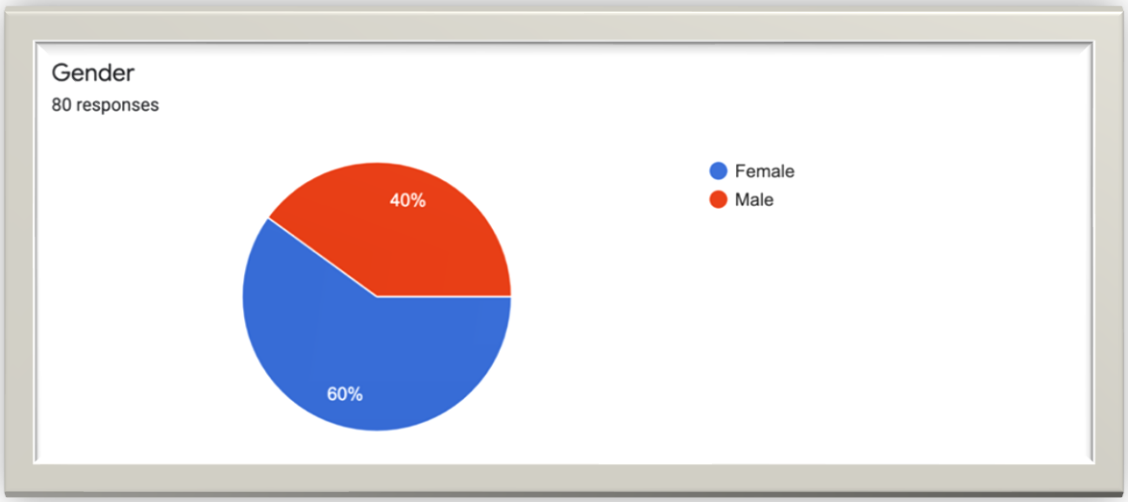

Notable Response
From Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi
Diversity and inclusion are interconnected concepts -but they are far from interchangeable. Diversity is about representation or the makeup of an entity. Inclusion is about how well the contributions, presence and perspective of different groups of people are valued and integrated into and environment

Feedback of the workshop

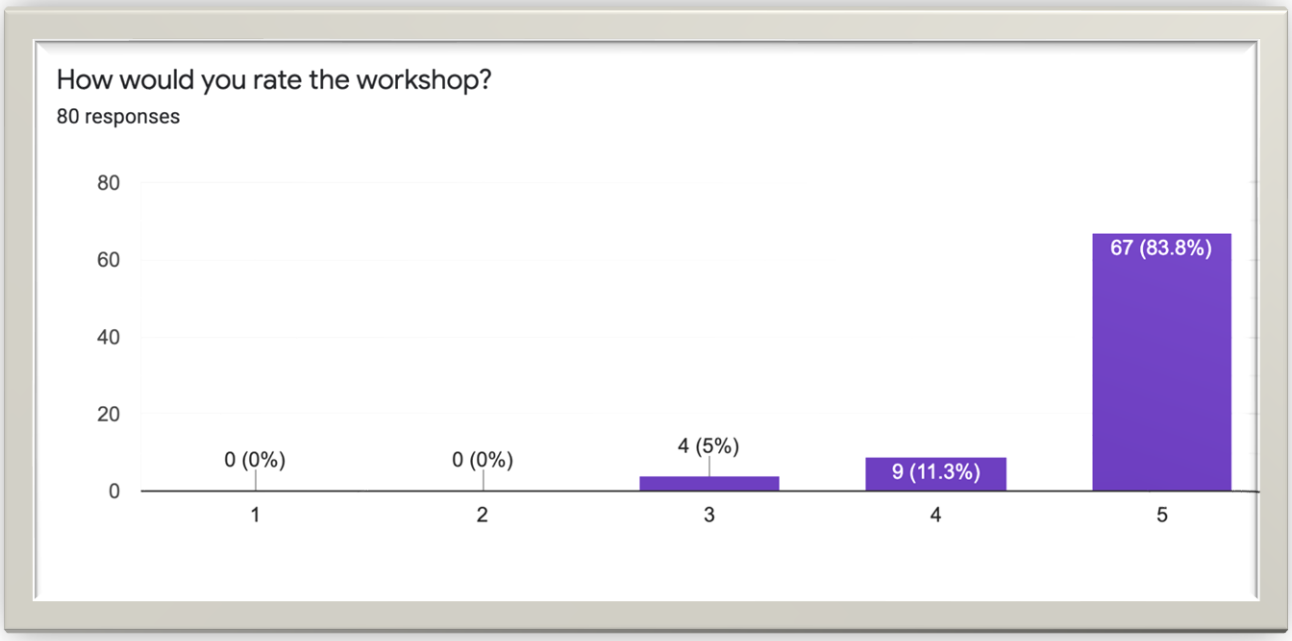
Participants were requested to fill up the feedback designed using Google form. Feedback link was shared via Zoom chat box at the end of the session.

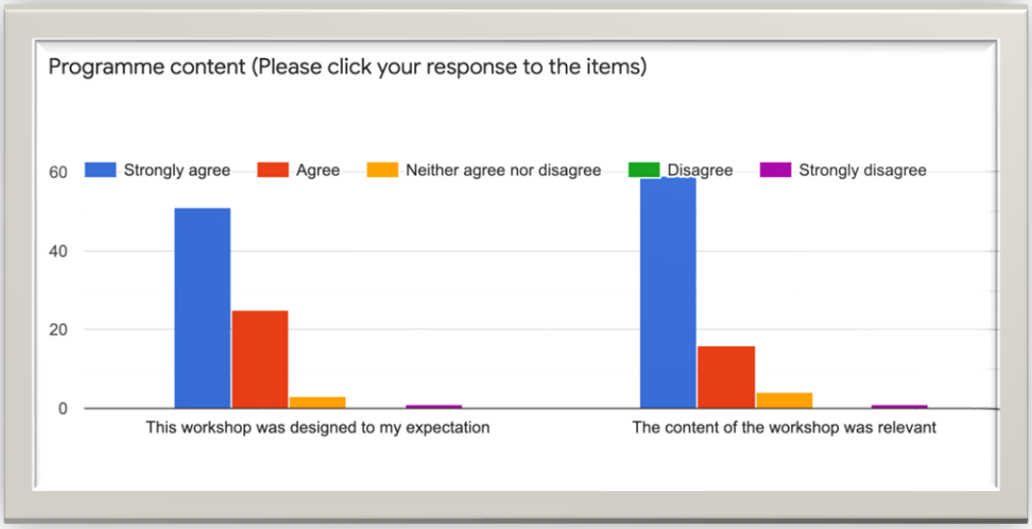


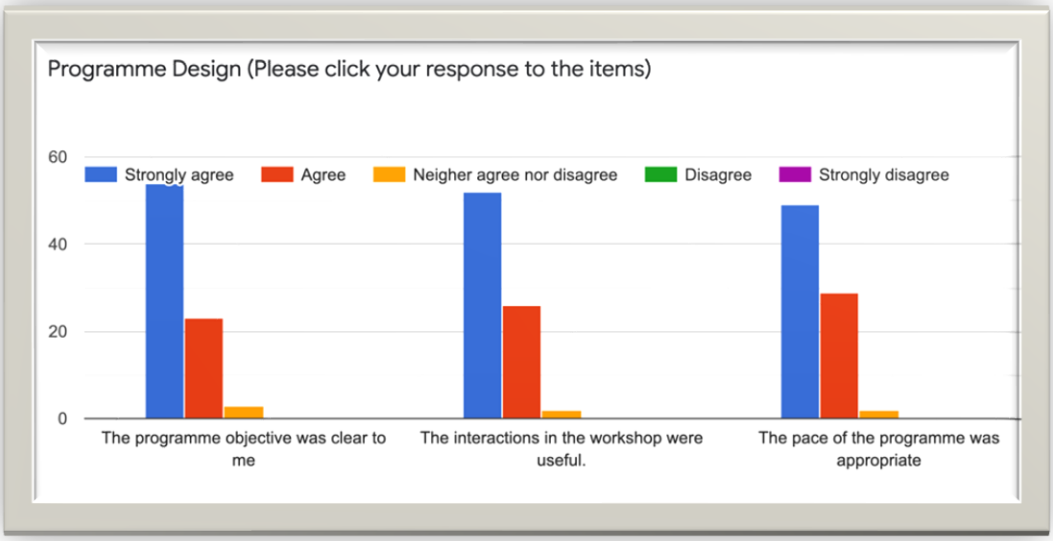


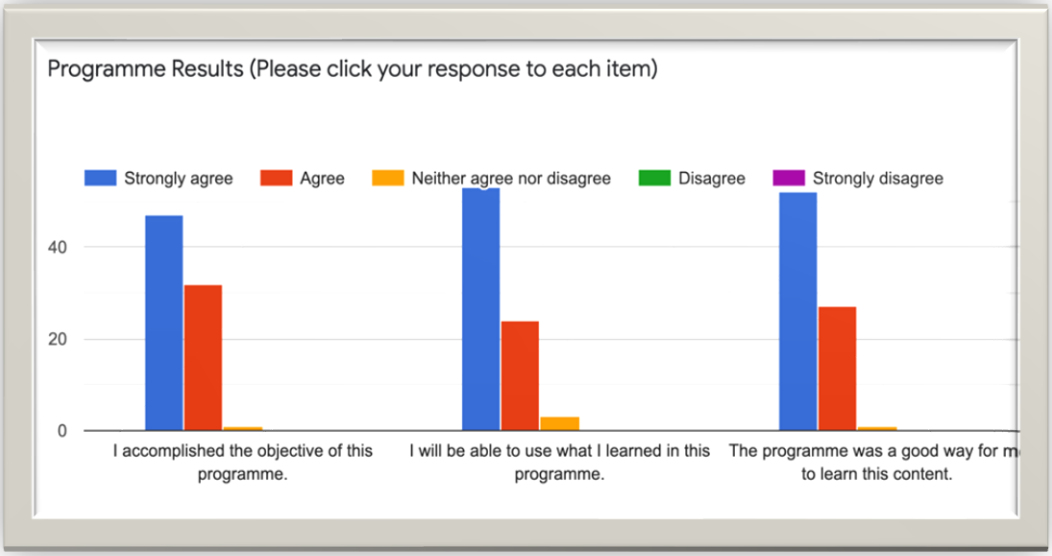

Gender
80 responses
Female
Male
40%
60%

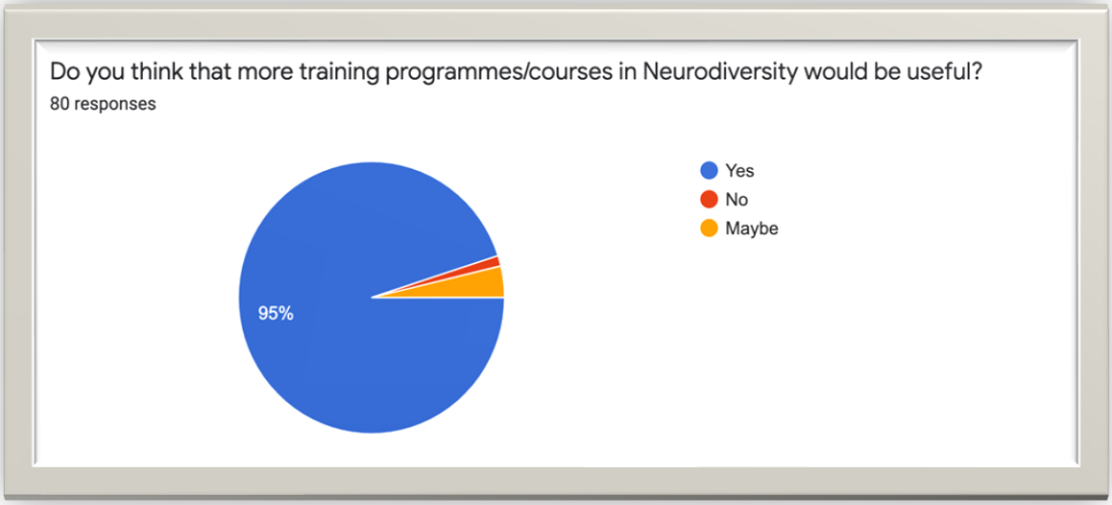
Feedback


How would you rate the workshop?
80 responses
80
60
40
20
0
0 (0%)
0 (0%)
4 (5%)
9 (11.3%)
67 (83.8%)
1
2
3
4
5


Programme content (Please click your response to the items)
Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
60
40
20
0
This workshop was designed to my expectation
The content of the workshop was relevant


Programme Design (Please click your response to the items)
Strongly agree
Agree
Neigher agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
60
40
20
0
The programme objective was clear to me
The interactions in the workshop were useful.
The pace of the programme was appropriate


Programme Results (Please click your response to each item)
Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
40
20
0
I accomplished the objective of this programme.
I will be able to use what I learned in this programme.
The programme was a good way for m
to learn this content.



Appendix

Appendix 1: List of participants

S.L. No.	Name	Gender	Institution	Designation
1.	Anusua Das	F	Peace Live Laugh Pvt Ltd.	Special Educator
2.	Abhilas Mahapatra	M	Chetana College Of Special Education	Assistant Professor
3.	Aditi Biswas	F	----	Psychologist
4.	Afroja Khatun	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
5.	Amee Jeremy Christian	F	Rachna School	PRT
6.	Anjali Pillai	F	Saaransh Foundation	Coordinator
7.	Antara Choudhury	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Assistant Professor
8.	Anup De	M	Visva-Bharati University	Former Research Scholar
9.	Archana Birthare	F	Freelancer	Special Educator
10.	Archana Garg	F	Saaransh Foundation	Rehabilitation Psychologist
11.	Baby Datta Chaudhuri	F	Nsou	Assistant Professor
12.	Banani Mukherjee	F	Annie Besant Day School	School Teacher
13.	Beena Bipin Patel	F	Saaransh Foundation	Communication Therapist
14.	Bhagyabanta Mangaraj	M	Service Centre For The Disabled	Special Educator
15.	Bhairavi Dave	F	Global Ssv School, Ahmedabad	Teacher
16.	Bilkis Khatun	F	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education

17.	Debanjan Sarkar	M	Netaji Subhas Open University	B.Ed. Student
18.	Debatri Chakrabarty	M	Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission	B.Ed. Student
19.	Debjani Saha	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	B.Ed. Student
20.	Debjit Ghoshal	M	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
21.	Deepika Agarwal	F	Saaransh Foundation	ABA Therapist
22.	Deyashini Paul	F	NSOU- Pradip Centre For Autism Management	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
23.	Drijesh Mukherjee	M	Aniket Special School	Assistant Teacher
24.	Hema Rani Kundu	F	Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission Barrackpore	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
25.	Himanshu H Mehta	M	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
26.	Indrajit Sanyal	M	Pradip Autism Center	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
27.	Kajari Chatterjee	F	Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission	Music Teacher
28.	Kakali Bhattacharyya	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Learner
29.	Kamayani Singh Mishra	F	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
30.	Kinkinee Ghosh	F	Ibm India Pvt. Ltd.	Senior System Engineer
31.	Kruti Patel	F	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
32.	Lopamudra Halder	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
33.	Mamata Mondal	F	Shelter	Student
34.	Manali Sarkar	F	Calcutta Blind School	Teacher
35.	Mayna Mukhopadhyay	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student
36.	Md Afsar Ali	M	Society For Mental Health Care	Assistant Teacher
37.	Md Kutubuddin Momin	M	Society For Mental Health Care	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
38.	Mirabai Pal	F	Ji Chetana College Of Special Education	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
39.	Mridul Krishna Ghosh	M	Vidyasagar Teachers' Training College	Principal
40.	Nabamita Ghosh Dastidar	F	Pradip Centre Of Autism Management	Student, Ex Lecturer
41.	Nadia Sadaf	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Learner
42.	Nandita Chattopadhyay	F	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
43.	Nirnita Dasgupta	F	Ananda Niketan Society For Mental Health Care	Student/ Educator
44.	Nirupama Pandey	F	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
45.	Parimal Bera	M	Niepid Rc Kolkata	Lecturer In Special Education
46.	Patel Riddhi Kiritbhai	F	Global Ssv School, Ahmedabad	Teacher
47.	Pradip Ballav	M	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, Special Education

48.	Pritha Podder	F	Calcutta Blind School	Assistant Teacher
49.	Radha Tandon	F	Praangan Education Trust	Director, Education Trust
50.	Raj Kumar Das	M	Vidyamandir G.D Vidyamandir	Contractual Teacher
51.	Rajarshi Maity	M	Akra Saktigarh Rabindra Vidyapith	Assistant Teacher
52.	Rashda Yasmine	F	GIIS	SENCo
53.	Rejina Biswas	F	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission	AT
54.	Renuka V Miskin	F	Global Ssv School, Ahmedabad	Teacher
55.	Rimita Bhar	F	D. N. Mondal B.Ed College	Assistant Professor
56.	Runa Chatterjee	F	Tapati Balika Vidyabithi	Headmistress
57.	Sagarika Adhikary	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Private Tutor
58.	Sanjib Kumar Ghosh	M	S.F.B.G.E	Yoga Trainer
59.	Saryu Paresh Panchal	F	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
60.	Saurav Chakraborty	M	Shishu Sarothi	Special Educator
61.	Sayan Bhattacharyya	M	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, Education
62.	Seema C. Pathak	F	Global Ssv School, Ahmedabad	Teacher
63.	Sharmistha Bhattacharyya	F	Carmel Convent High School	Teacher
64.	Shilpa Ghodeswar	F	Saaransh Foundation	Special Educator
65.	Shobha Singh	F	Saaransh Foundation	Communication Therapist
66.	Shreya Sau	F	Netaji Subhash Open University	Student, B.Ed. in Special Education
67.	Shruti Jaydeep Vayeda	F	Saaransh Foundation	Co-Ordinator In charge
68.	Shubhra Sau	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, B.Ed.
69.	Somnath Goswami	M	Vivekananda Mission Asram Training Centre For The Teachers Of The Visually Impaired	Lecturer
70.	Sougandha Bhattacharjee	F	Bidupara Junior High School	School Teacher
71.	Sourav Biswas	M	Netaji Subhas Open University	Learner
72.	Subhabrata Kar	M	Union Christian Training College, Berhampore, Murshidabad	Assistant Professor
73.	Subrata Choudhuri	F	Kalyani Shikshayatan H.S School	Para Teacher
74.	Suddha Kalyan Sarkar	M	Calcutta Blind School	Teacher
75.	Sudipta Malakar	F	Bhimpur Mohonananda College Of Education	Assistant Professor
76.	Sukumar Das	M	Burdwan Tikarhat "Aniket "Special School (M.R)	Assistant Teacher
77.	Supratik Mukherjee	M	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student, Education

78.	Supriya Mondal	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	B.Ed. in Special Education
79.	Swagata Chakraborty	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Student
80.	Swapna Deb	F	Netaji Subhas Open University	Consultant
81.	Swati Rao	F	Rachna School	Teacher
82.	Tanay Das	M	Education Centre	Teacher
83.	Tohida Banu	F	Society For Mental Health Care	Student
84.	Vandana Thakur	F	Rachana School	TGT
85.	Varsha Thakur	F	DPS Gandhinagar	Psychologist