



DIFFERENT UNITS OF THE CENTRE

- **Electronic Reading Unit :** The Centre is equipped with Text Reading machines, stand alone for non computer users, PC based devices for reading of printed books by the blind, Screen magnification software, video magnifiers for the partially blind and those with low vision, display talking books players for listening to audio books created by the Centre or Sourced from other NGOs. There can be various text books of all classes and various courses on Arts, Commerce, Science, and Management.
- **Braille Book Production Unit:**
 - **Books:** This unit is equipped with 2 embossers or high speed Braille printers, wherein English and Kannada language is translated into Braille language and printed
 - **Audio CD's:** 13 audio CD's on the text books for optional subjects are prepared by the Centre for its distribution to the needy students who do not know Braille language (Appendix 2)
 - **Software:** The Centre has installed a number of software for access of reading material by the students
 - Pearl Instant Open Book Reading and Scanning Software: This has portable reading camera, which scans and reads out to the students ;
 - JAWS for Windows Screen Reading Software, which guides the impaired students regarding how they are proceeding with the system ;
 - Duxbury Translation Software: This helps converting / translating English and Kannada into Braille language ; and
 - Bonita Mouse Magnifier (poor vision reading software)
- **Career Counseling / Job Placement Unit:** This unit is for providing information on different opportunities that can be pursued by visually challenged students in order to improve their skill and hence employability, based on their aptitude and qualifications.

The Centre in collaboration with the NGO, ENABLE INDIA is organizing a series of program on continuous basis. The thrust of these of programs is in the form of job profiling, computer and employability training, career workshops to create awareness on job market based on the need of the corporate industry, contact classes and finally placement services. (Appendix-3)

This is a unique partnership model, where the educational institution, the NGO and the corporate sector will come together. The Bangalore University Braille Resource Centre will be a catalyst in coordinating these three-tier linkage programs.

- **Financial Aid :** The University has been supporting these students by offering each student a scholarship of Rs. 500/- per month for ten months which is paid in one installment in an academic year. The scholarship offered by the University is of great help as these students come from very poor socio- economic background, without parental care. They stay in hostels run by charitable trusts.
- **Infrastructure of the Centre**
 - 10 Computers with required software
 - 25 Computer tables
 - 10 Head phones with Mike
 - WIFI
 - Online UPS with 2hrs. backup
 - 4 kinds of Software's
 - 2 Braille embossers, 2 printers and one Bonita Mouse Magnifier
- **Activities of the Centre during 2014-15**
 - ❖ The Centre procured books on Political Science, History, Sociology, Economics, and General English in Braille Language. 50 copies each were distributed to the libraries of 32 colleges for distribution among the visually impaired students.
 - ❖ Job profiling was done on 23rd July 2014, where in 15 students participated and are getting on hand training.
 - ❖ The second two-day workshop on Career Orientation for the Visually Challenged students was organized on 11th and 12th September 2014. This programme was organized in collaboration with NGO, Enable India and supported by Tech-Mahindra Foundation. During this workshop, 85 students of different affiliated colleges participated. From corporate sector two companies namely, Lake View which deals with medical transcription and Vindya information Pvt. Ltd, participated.
 - ❖ Five books on Sociology, Kannada, Economics, Environment Science and Political Science were recorded and Audio CDs were prepared.
 - ❖ Books of IV, V and VI Semester of History, Kannada, Sociology and Political Science have been translated into Braille language and given to the students.
 - ❖ From June 2014, onwards the Centre has scanned 50 books on different subjects.
 - ❖ The third two-day Career Workshop was conducted on 13th and 14th February 2015, in which 52 students from 16 colleges and one PG department took part.



- ❖ A-day workshop on Disability Awareness for Civil Society was conducted on 4th March 2015. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Umashree, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Empowerment of Disabled and Senior Citizens, and attended by over 150 students and staff of Bangalore University. This event was followed by a cultural programme by the visually impaired students in order to exhibit their talents and abilities to the members of the civil society.

Future Plans

- **Assistive Devices:** Centre plans to purchase some more assistive devices to offer more effective services to these students in their attempt towards higher education, like SARA, which is used to convert hard into soft copy and Pocket Magnifier which will zoom and display on screen etc.
- **Examination Unit:** As the centre has PC's with assistive technology, it can serve as an examination hall with a capacity of 20 students at a time.
- **Distance Education Unit :** Another ambitious program of the centre is to provide distance education by giving online tutorials to students unable to visit the centre. The Unit can also monitor the provision of the study materials in Braille, audio etc. undertake assessment of answer sheets, online or written and conversion of Braille answer sheets to regular text for easy correction by faculty, test taking etc.
- **MOU with NGO:** The Centre has plans of entering into an MOU with ENABLE INDIA (NGO), to have collaborative technical activities to enhance the welfare of visually challenged students.
- **Government Assistance:** The Bangalore University plans to seek help from the Dept. of Children and Women's Welfare, Dept of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Education, Govt. of Karnataka to expand its horizon for assistive efforts to these students.
- **Tie-Ups:** The Centre plans to tie up with Netralaya and other hospitals with ophthalmology super specialty and Eye Banks to help students with corrective measures to gain vision. The Centre will make concerted effort to get sponsorships from well-established charitable trusts both in India and abroad.
- **Conclusion**

Establishment of a learning resource centre for the visually challenged students will benefit them to have equal opportunity for education, research, training, as well as employment as their sighted peers. This is an important step in attaining social mobility

through “inclusive education”. The centre is helping these visually challenged students to develop holistically by extending assistance both in higher education and is pursuing their professional ambitions.

APPENDIX I

List of Colleges, with number of Visually Challenged students enrolled in the Braille Resource Centre

Sl No.	Name of the College	No. of Students
1.	St. Joseph Autonomous College	5
2.	Govt. First Grade College, Vijayanagara	31
3.	BES College, Jayanagar	3
4.	G. F. College, Yalahanka	8
5.	Mahalakshmi Ammani College	2
6.	Govt. First Grade College, Malleshwaram, 18 th Cross	4
7.	Govt. First Grade College, Yedyur	8
8.	K.L.E Society’s College	12
9.	Govt. First Grade College, HSR Layout	3
10.	APS College , N.R. Colony	13
11.	Maharani’s Arts and Commerce College	24
12.	Surana College, South End Circle	9
13.	M.S. Ramaiah Arts College	3
14.	Govt. First Grade College, Chickballapur	2
15.	Govt. First Grade College, Devanahalli	3
16.	Govt. First Grade College, Frazer Town	12
17.	Braite Institute of Management & Science, Magadi Road	1
18.	A.V.K Brite First Grade College	1
19.	Chirst University	1
20.	SSMRV College , B’ lore	3
21.	Jyothi Nivas College	3
22.	Seshadripuram First Grade College	6



Sl No.	Name of the College	No. of Students
23.	Govt. Arts College, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Road	2
24.	BSV College for Women	1
25.	B.N.M Degree College	1
26.	Vivekananda Degree College	1
27.	National College, Basavanagudi	1
29.	Dr. Sri Jachani Govt. First Grade College, Chikkaballapur	1
30.	NMKRV College , B'lore	3
31.	Vijaya Teacher's College, Jayanagar	1
32	RPA First Grade College	1
33	Adrasha Vidya Kendra First Grade College	3
34	Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Bangalore University	2
36	Govt. First Grade College, Kolar	1
PG Departments		
1	Department of History, Jnana Bharathi Campus BUB	1
2	Department of Sociology, Jnana Bharathi Campus BUB	1
3	Department of Economics, Jnana Bharathi Campus BUB	1
4	Department of Kannada, Jnana Bharathi Campus BUB	1
5	Department of Commerce Central College Campus BU	2
6	Department of Communication, Central College Campus BU	1
7	Department of Sociology, Maharani's Arts and Commerce College	2

APPENDIX II**List of Audio CDs prepared as on 2015**

Sl No.	Title of the book	Author	Sem	Audio CD/Braille
1.	General English	Dr. Geetha Bhaskar	II	Audio CD
2.	Psychology-Samanya Manovijnana- Part-2	Madhu Chandra M. K. Dr. L. N. Shrimathi	II	Audio CD
3.	Economics- The Indian Economy- Part-2	Dr. H. R. Krishnamurthy Hosabeedu	VI	Audio CD
4.	Political Science- International Institutions -Paper-B	Prof. S. K. Kabburi	VI	Audio CD
6.	Optional English-Literary Vistas Vol. I	Dr. Geetha Bhaskar & Dr. K. S. Vaishali	II	Audio CD
7.	History- Swathantra Bharathada Ithihasa	K. N. Ashwathappa	VI	Audio CD
8.	History- Aadhunika Asia	Prof. C. N. Lokappa Gowda	VI	Audio CD
9.	Economics-Arthika Tatvagalu	Dr. H. R. Krishnayya Gowda	VI	Audio CD
10	Literary Vistas Vol.1 : Optional English	Dr. Geetha Bhaskar and Dr. K. S. Vaishali	I	Scanned copy in PDF Format
11	Introduction to Mass Communication and Journalism, 2 nd Edition	Naresh Rao and Suparna	I	Scanned copy in PDF Format
12	History- Bharathadali Pravasodhyama	Dr. B. R. Parinitha	VI	Braille book is available in 6 volumes Prepared by BUBRC
13	History-2: Samakalina Prapancha	K. N. Ashwathappa	VI	Software prepared at BUBRC

APPENDIX III

**Action Plan of Centre to Facilitate Placement of Visually Challenged Students in the Corporate Sector**

Event/Project/Program	Details	Tentative Dates
Job Profiling For Passed Out students	Job profiling will be done for the passed out visually impaired candidates and suggestion for further process of training and employment will be provided. [2012, 2013 & 2014] Candidates will be registered with Enable India which is Placement Cell of Karnataka Government for persons with disabilities at Bangalore University, Braille Resource Centre.	June 2015 4 th Week
Career Centric Computer & Employability Training for passed out students	Career Centric Computer & Employability Training is full day training for a period of 6 to 8 months which covers Computers, English, Life Skills and all employability modules. This course will be conducted for the passed out students/candidates who are seeking job at En-Able India premises at Koramangala 1 st Block, Bangalore	2 nd week of July 2014
Career Workshops For Awareness	A 2 day workshop will be conducted for second and final year visually impaired students. The objective is to provide awareness on job market for persons with vision impairment, skills required for various jobs, guidance on careers with role models and employers, helping students on setting their career goals and action plan to reach the goal at Venue - Bangalore University Braille Resource Centre	August 2015
Contact Classes	Monthly one-day follow up & review on Employability. Contact classes will be conducted for final year and passed out students, at Bangalore University Braille Resource Centre	September 2015
Placement Services	Placement events will be conducted at Braille Resource Centre for the trained candidates. Placement support will be provided for the candidates after the Career Centric Computer & Employability Training at Bangalore University Braille Resource Centre	Feb. 2 days & March 2 days 2016
Company Engagement	Company volunteers will be engaged during the above training for providing exposure to work place environment, skills assessment, mentoring etc.	Throughout the year