

### 7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

Provide the details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust

Provide the web-link of the institution in not more than 500 words

#### **Institutional Distinctiveness: Faculty of Education –Human Resource Capability Grooming in Special children – Centre for Multimodal Material Production for Differently-abled.**

Alagappa University since its inception has its special emphasis for Teacher Education and Physical Education. Actually the University was formed by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1985 by taking over a few institutions/disciplines of studies, from the a galaxy of educational institutions that late Vallal Alagappa Chettiar floated in his 48 years of eventful lifetime. The founding nucleus part of the new University are the Education College and College of Physical Education and four disciplines of studies namely Tamil, Maths, Physics and Commerce.

The Education Faculty initially with the two colleges mentioned above expanded with the floatation of Departments of Education and Physical Education and Health Sciences. The College of Education stated a new stream Special Education to cater to the increasing demand for teachers for educating special children, that is children with intellectual disabilities.

The University's vision of Achieving Excellence in **all spheres** of Education, and mission of transforming the learners into **intellectually competent** human resources for the nation', stand strengthened by the Special Education Wing. The Special Education wing got into fame with performance.

To give a big push forward a new Department, 'Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Science got established in January 2016. Alagappa University is the first State University to start a regular department for the human resource development in the field of special education to tend, teach and train students with disabilities.

#### **Objectives of the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Service**

- To run special education courses for the preparation of human resources to serve children with special needs
- To carry out research for the development of new and innovative teaching and learning strategies.

- To run various training programmes for the special educators, parents and children with special needs
- To render extension / outreach service to the community through enabling unit, Alagappa University Resource School, Centre for Multimodal Material Production for Differently Abled and Vocational Store by Differently Abled.

Bolstered by the establishment of Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Service, the Centre for Multimodal Material Production for Differently Abled in 2013 got synergized and has been rendering a yeomen service by producing teaching aids, materials and tools for the use of teachers for special children.

**Human Resource Capability Grooming in Special children –Performance Arena include:**

- Production of Tactile Aids and Teaching - Learning materials for Differently Abled
- Trainee teachers trained to prepare Braille and Audio Books for Differently Abled
- Handling of the Recording services and Reading services w
- Organizing Continuing Rehabilitation Education Programmes in collaboration with National Institutes for Various Disabilities like NIVH and NIEPMD for the in service special educators.
- Alagappa University Resource Centre for Differently Abled started functioning from academic year 2015-16 onwards.
- Establishment of a University Resource School for Differently Abled Students (URSDAS)

The URSDAS has four special educators, three care takers, one speech therapist, one occupational therapist, one Braille recorder, one physiotherapist for rendering excellent services for the differently abled students numbering 80+. There is an exclusive centre extended from this centre for preparing splints and orthotics for children with locomotor disabilities.

The Resource School services include:

- Extending education services to the children with special needs in and around Karaikudi in cooperation with SSA Authorities
- Support teachers to teach children with special needs in schools
- Counselling service to parents to handle children with special needs
- Providing educational assistive and adaptive devices available in the centre to meet the needs of children with special needs
- Develop teaching and learning materials for the children with special needs

- Providing Therapy services for children with special needs.
- Artificial Limb production Unit and Braille & Audio Book Production Unit serve children with special needs in various forms
- Organized Awareness programme on Physiotherapy services for differently abled students
- Organized Awareness Programme on Tuberculosis for the Special Education Students in Collaboration with Apollo Reach Hospitals, Managiri
- Audio CD for Competitive Examinations for the students with Visually Impaired was prepared and distributed through Study Circle.
- Recording services for Tamil guide for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were also prepared
- Recording Services for B.Ed and M.Ed Low Vision and Totally Blind Students
- Large Print materials for the Semester Portions and Magnifiers were also provided to the M.Ed Student
- Organized International Day for the Disabled and conducted cultural and sports Competition for the differently abled students
- Conducted Two Weeks Refresher Course on Teaching Braille Mathematics and Science Braille Code for the Special educators from 10<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 in collaboration with National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Chennai
- Training of Vocational materials preparation by the students with Intellectual Impairments of Resource School was carried out for their personal adequacy and economic independence.

### **Infrastructure Facilities Available for Human Resource Grooming in Children with Intellectual Disabilities**

Equipment and Software for all types of Children with Special needs are available in the proposed department.

<b>Name of Tool/Material</b>	<b>Name of Tool/Material</b>	<b>Name of Tool/Material</b>
Digital Online Library	Power Chord Keyboard	Abacus
Basic D Braille Embosser	Articulation Tools	Instant Scanner and Reader
Tactile Material Maker	Dr. Speech Trainer	Thermoform Machine for TLM Preparation
Read It Scholar	Basic Speech Trainer	
HP Pro Daisy Player	Read Easy, etc.	Physiotherapy Materials
Angel Pro Daisy Player	Book Share Software	Resource Room Materials to teach Intellectual Children
FS Reader	Lex Instant Reader	
Blaze	DD Reader	Dr. Speech Therapy Software, Speech Trainer Software
Touch-typing Tutor	JAWS Software	
Book Sense Daisy Player	Speech Audiometry	Psychological Equipments and Tests
Braille Edge Display	Pedal Mouse	One Hand Braille Key board
Magic Screen Magnifier	Mouse Magnifier	Speech Trainer
Jaws Software,	Long Cane	Braille Slate and Stylus

Commendation: THE NAAC Peer Team that assessed and accredited the University with 3.64 CGPA with A+ grade in May 2017 was very much appreciative of the services of the Centre for Multimodal Material Production for Differently-abled.

‘Excellence in Action’ - the Motto of the University is driving the personnel to put in the best.