

Creating solutions in minutes for people with disabilities.

Overview

According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that 20% of the population in India experiences a physical, sensory, or cognitive disability that impacts their ability to complete essential tasks at home, work, school, or employee. In addition, India leads the world in the largest population of individuals who experience blindness. Creating solutions to overcome challenges experienced by individuals is the responsibility of everyone. This course is an interdisciplinary course in which everyone comes together to learn about innovative ways in creating solutions in minutes for people disabilities. Students are challenged to think innovatively, and creatively to solve every day challenges. This is a hands on learning and doing course.

This course will introduce participants to assistive technologies for persons with disability, through the demonstration of assistive technologies made with everyday materials. We will encourage participants to find local materials, and create assistive solutions with these materials. The emphasis will be on understanding the importance of trial and error in problem solving, understand the limitations of tools and materials selected and use materials that save time and money.

The course will run through a combination of lectures and hands-on experiments. Students will get credit for demonstrating assistive solutions using common materials like PVC pipes, corrugated plastic, thermal plastic beads, adjustable and bendable materials. Case studies and assignments will be used to encourage creative problem solving, testing and a final presentation.

Dates for the Course	9th January, 2017 to 13th January, 2017
Host Institute	IIT Madras
No. of Credits	1
Maximum No. of Participants	50
You Should Attend If...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You are an engineer or research scientist interested in creating solutions for persons with a disability▪ You are a caregiver or a rehabilitation worker who needs to create simple assistive devices for persons under your care.▪ You are a student or faculty from academic institution interested in learning a new interdisciplinary area, and encouraging your peers to deliver solutions to the differently abled.
Course Registration Fees	<p>The participation fees for taking the course is as follows: Student Participants: Rs.1000 Faculty Participants: Rs. 2000 Government Organization Participants: Rs. 2000 Non-for-profit Organization Participants: Rs 2000 Industry Participants: Rs. 5000</p> <p>The above fee is towards participation in the course, the course material, tutorials and assignments, and laboratory equipment usage charges.</p> <p>Mode of payment: Demand draft in favour of “Registrar, IIT Madras” payable at Chennai The demand draft is to be sent to the Course Coordinator at the address given below.</p>
Accommodation	<p>The participants may be provided with hostel accommodation, depending on the availability, on payment basis. Request for hostel accommodation may be submitted through the link: http://hosteldine.iitm.ac.in/iitmhostel</p>

Course Faculty



Dr. Therese Willkomm, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of New Hampshire and has lectured in all 50 states and 8 foreign countries, including India, on the creation of solutions for people with disabilities using every day items in extraordinary ways. She has designed and invented over 1400 technology solutions for people with disabilities and is the author of two books on creating solutions in minutes. Dr. Willkomm has created over 700 video clips that demonstrate how to fabricate these solutions as well as actual people with disabilities using the solutions



Dr. Namita Jacob is the Program Director of Chetana Charitable Trust. She has extensive teaching experience in complex disabilities, provides research supervision to Masters and Ph.D. students across several disciplines. Dr. Jacob has authored 3 books on complex sensory impairment, early intervention and special education, that have been translated into numerous languages and used across the world. She works as an educational specialist for Perkins International in the Asia-Pacific region developing programs for children with disabilities in partnership with Governments, universities and NGOs.



Prof. Anil Prabhakar is faculty in the Dept. of Electrical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. His research interests are in assistive technologies and photonics. He is a founder-Director of Enableity Foundation for Rehabilitation, a not-for-profit (Sec. 8) company incubated by IIT Madras to deliver indigenous assistive technologies, at affordable prices, to the differently abled.

Course Coordinator

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