

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth exploration of learning disabilities, focusing on understanding, identifying, and addressing various types of learning challenges. Students will gain knowledge about the psychological, educational, and social aspects of learning disabilities. The course will cover topics such as assessment methods, intervention strategies, inclusive education, and the role of educators and families in supporting individuals with learning disabilities.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of different types of learning disabilities.
- Apply effective assessment and intervention strategies to support individuals with learning disabilities.
- Promote inclusive educational practices within various learning environments.
- Understand the legal and ethical considerations related to learning disabilities.
- Collaborate with families, educators, and specialists to create supportive learning environments.

Course Structure

Module 1: Introduction to Learning Disabilities (4 credits)

- Definition and types of learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia, ADHD, dyscalculia)
- Cognitive and neurological foundations of learning disabilities
- Historical perspectives on learning disabilities
- Early identification and the importance of early intervention
- Myths and misconceptions about learning disabilities

Module 2: Assessment and Diagnosis (4 credits)

- Assessment tools and techniques for learning disabilities
- The role of standardized testing and informal assessments
- The process of diagnosis: clinical and educational perspectives
- Case studies of assessment and diagnosis

Module 3: Intervention Strategies and Support (5 credits)

- Evidence-based instructional strategies for students with learning disabilities
- Adapting curriculum and teaching methods for diverse learners
- Use of technology and assistive devices in learning support
- Behavioral and cognitive interventions

- Collaborative teaching and co-teaching models

Module 4: Inclusive Education and Classroom Management (5 credits)

- Principles of inclusive education and universal design for learning (UDL)
- Classroom strategies for managing diverse learning needs
- Building a positive and supportive classroom environment
- The role of teachers, special educators, and paraprofessionals
- Challenges and opportunities in inclusive education

Module 5: Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Disabilities (4 credits)

- The impact of learning disabilities on self-esteem and social relationships
- Strategies for fostering social skills and emotional resilience
- The role of peer support and mentoring
- Addressing bullying and social exclusion
- Family dynamics and the role of parents and caregivers

Module 6: Legal and Ethical Considerations (4 credits)

- Overview of laws and regulations related to learning disabilities (e.g., Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016; The National Trust Act, 1999)
- Rights of students with learning disabilities
- Ethical issues in assessment, diagnosis, and intervention
- Advocacy and the role of educators and families
- Cultural competence in addressing learning disabilities

Module 7: Collaboration and Community Engagement (4 credits)

- Building partnerships with families and communities
- Working with multidisciplinary teams (e.g., psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists)
- Community resources and support networks
- Transition planning: from school to post-secondary education or employment
- Case studies of successful community collaborations

Teaching and Assessment Methods

- Lectures
- Group Discussions
- Case Study Analysis
- Seminars
- Practical Workshops

- Fieldwork
- Project Work
- Examinations
- Psychology lab practical sessions

References

Lokanadha, G., Reddy Learning Disabilities, Discovery Publishing

Annapurna, M., Mentally Handicapped Children and Family Stress, Discovery Publishing

Singh, D., New Dimensions in Child education and learning processes, Kanishka
Publishers

Rayalu, T. R., Fear unrest and anxiety of Adolescents, Discovery Publishing

Chadha, A., A Guide to Educating children with Learning disabilities, Vikas Publishing

Deshprabhu. R., Child Development and Nutrition Management, Book Enclave