# GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT(GITAM)

**(Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to BPUT, Odisha)**
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*In Search of Platonic Excellence*

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## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY POLICY

| Name of Policy | Assistive Technology Policy | Department responsible | All Department |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Prepared by | Prof. (Dr.) Arun Kumar Parida |
| Institute Level | | Checked by | Prof. (Dr.) Smruti Ranjan Nayak |
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| Number of pages | 01-04 | | |

*"Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 states that the appropriate Government and the local authorities shall endeavour that all educational institutions funded or recognized by them provide inclusive education to the Children with disabilities and towards that end shall make building, campus and various facilities accessible."*

### 1. Objectives

Assistive Technology (AT) Group at Gandhi Institute of Technology & Management, Bhubaneswar, aims at:

- Enhancing the lives of the differently abled community and thus ensuring their participation in the society and in educational systems.

- Assisting the differently abled students in the college by helping them to overcome the issues with learning, writing, reading and communicating effectively with the help of assistive technology related tools, software support and services, thereby fostering their inclusion and participation in the learning process.

- Providing appropriate training to the staffs in the college on how to support students with special needs and how to use the technology effectively with their students.

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2. **Who can benefit from Assistive Technology in the college?**
   - Students and Staff with Disability.
   - Students who are slow learners and having issues with memorizing concepts/tasks.
   - Aged people / Persons with disabilities attending the workshops/seminars/conferences etc.
     Organized by the college.

3. **Policy Statements**

   - Gandhi Institute of Technology & Management, Bhubaneswar is against all forms of discrimination, on any grounds, including disability.

   - To ensure the inclusion and participation, and for enriching the educational experience of the differently abled students, GITAM ensures equal access to all educational equipments, visual and auditory information provided as a part of the teaching learning process.

   - The institute ensures that the differently abled can access/avail the Assistive Technology related support and services provided to them, any time during the college working hours.

4. **AT related facilities in the campus**

**Conveyance facilities**
   - Wheel chair is available for mobility purposes within the campus.
   - Ramps for accessibility in the main entrances are available.

**Campus facilities**
   - To aid students with hearing impairment, all the important announcements and notifications are displayed on the LED Display boards placed at entrance of college.
   - Special toilets are provided for physically challenged students.

**Teaching – Learning facilities**
   - Institute has adopted Cooperative learning techniques like Think- Pair-Share, Scaffolding, Adaptive learning and other ACL techniques, to help students with learning disabilities and mild cognitive impairments

- Institute ensures the conduct of remedial classes /special classes to help students with special needs and students who are slow learners.
- Scribe assistance or additional time is provided for writing the exams, on written request. Provision to allot a separate room, which are easily accessible, by such students, is available.
- An AT group has been formed in the college, which focuses on conveying the importance of technology in enhancing the lives of the differently abled community.
- Desktop systems equipped with text to speech converters, Screen magnifier software, screen readers etc. are made available on request.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

The Assistive Technology Team consists of

- Principal
- AT Group Head
- Faculty in AT group
- Technical Staff

The AT team will carry out the action plan and will ensure that equal access is provided to all and that the quality of education is improved by incorporating inclusion in educational system.
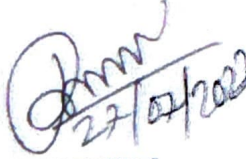
## 6. Action Plan

1. Define strategies to incorporate more inclusiveness in education and to ensure the proper functioning of the AT group.
2. Install ramps for easy access to the different blocks in the buildings.
3. Allocate space and budget to build toilets for persons with disabilities in each campus block.
4. Provide training to staffs and students, to create awareness and to enable them to effectively communicate with differently abled students.
5. Encourage students to undertake projects related to AT

6. Initiate voice recording of textbooks and study materials to make audio textbooks available to students with visual impairment

7. Budget allocation for AT group

## 7. Mechanism of Action Plan

The AT group should lay down well-defined procedures as mentioned below, that follows the indicated stages.

    I.   Define the AT-related activities for the Academic year

    II.  Create Implementation guidelines to make the campus more accessible.

    III. Review: Monitoring and follow-up

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