

MI EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DIGEST

APRIL - JULY 2020

National Education Policy (NEP)-2020

National Education Policy 2020 was launched on 29th July 2020 paving way for transformational reforms in school and higher education sector in the country. NEP-2020 has recommended to provide barrier-free accessible, equitable and inclusive education system for students with different types of disabilities by providing appropriate technology based tools and teaching-learning materials by 2030.

Ever since the commencement of training programmes at Mobility India (MI) in 2002 in the field of prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitation therapy, MI has always been encouraging and providing inclusive education with priority being women and students with various disabilities like Physical disabilities, learning disabilities and also with speech and hearing disabilities. Time to time, based on the requirements, appropriate teaching-learning materials have been developed and provided to students to make the education accessible and equitable to all.

With the launch of NEP-2020, it is important to know expert opinion on its impact in the context of higher education in the field of Allied Health Courses in Karnataka. In this regard, Ms. Ritu Ghosh, Academics Director-MI has interviewed Prof. Rajesh Shenoy-Syndicate Member, Dean-Allied Health Sciences (AHS) and Physiotherapy and Board of Studies for Allied Health Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) Karnataka, India. Below are the excerpts of interview.



Ms. Ritu Ghosh
Academics Director
Mobility India



Prof. Rajesh Shenoy
Syndicate member & Dean
AHS & Physiotherapy, RGUHS

1. What are your overall views on the new NEP 2020 in general?

NEP 2020 overall is a positive and hopeful development for the education sector in India. This policy will have far reaching impact and bring in much needed changes in education system in the country. The policy focuses on holistic development of student moving away from the rote learning with an emphasis on test preparation. The policy tries to bring in more equity with emphasis on creativity.

NEP 2020 in short allows children to find their interests, it has tried to restructure the primary & secondary school curricula but the earlier focus on examination driven progress is not an important aspect here in the new policy. The same trait is seen even in undergraduate & postgraduate education where students are given flexibility to choose subjects of their interest and preparing them doing effective research.

2. How does NEP 2020 would affect the education system in the context of Allied Health courses?

Hopefully the course duration of several Allied Health Science courses across will be uniform and if the AHS Council is in place then we can expect an futuristic curriculum to be implemented across the country. NEP2020 will usher in a reinvented AHS education focusing on duration, structure and design of AHS courses which will match the role requirements that graduates will play in healthcare industry. As said earlier there would be a drastic improvement in way the students are assessed within well-defined parameters focused on working pattern of these professionals in primary care and secondary hospitals. The need to move towards proficiency tests for these AHS graduates would be more relevant in order to provide qualified healthcare professionals.

3. What should be the priorities actions of RGUHS or in general for its implementation?

All bachelors courses should be of minimum 4 years duration and syllabus should be in line with the industry demands. Introducing an exit exam after completion of internship for all graduate students which should be akin to proficiency test with more emphasis on testing clinical skills they have learnt. RGUHS should make provisions for students to enrol for add on online courses which provide additional skills to these graduates. Colleges of offering AHS courses should move towards getting accreditation which will in turn help in creating quality educational institutions. RGUHS should create multi entry and exit options for degree courses being offered which will benefit many and also create job opportunities for the youth.

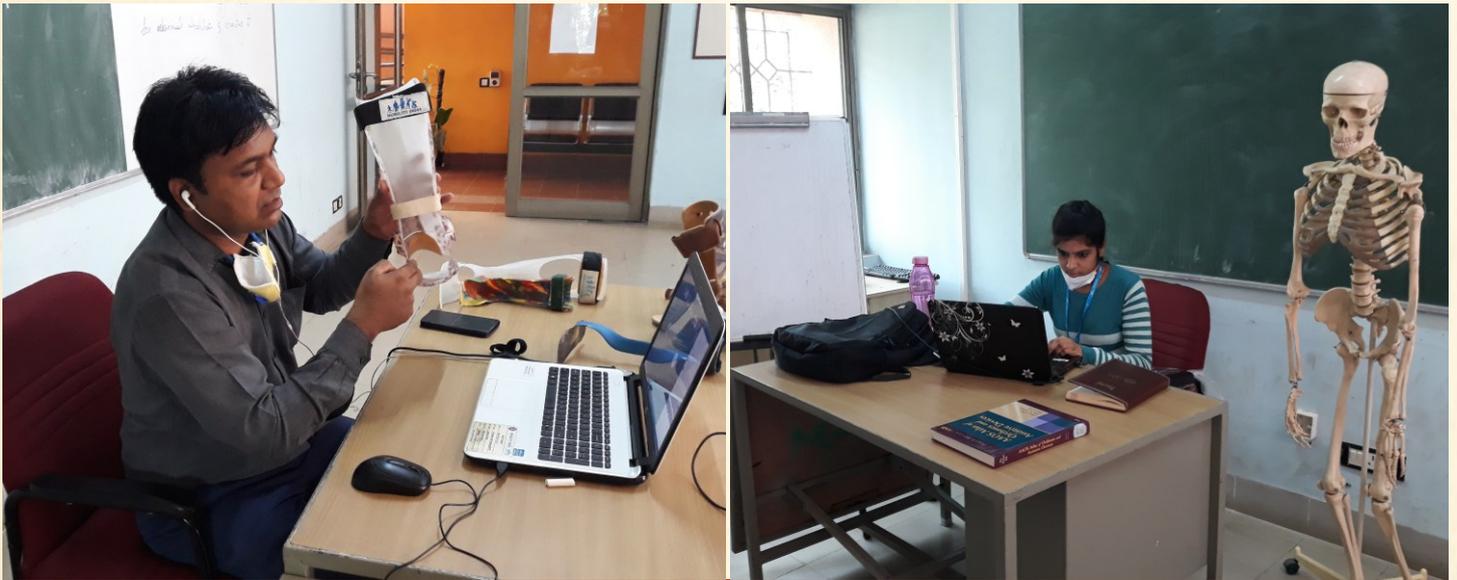
4. Inclusive and equitable education system has been included in new NEP 20, this has to be implemented by 2030. How are we ready and equipped for this? Your comments.

Inclusive and equitable education system is the heart of this education policy. There is a dire need to restructure the whole system with the purpose of creating wide range of educational opportunities which includes curriculum, pedagogy and other opportunities. The policy clearly avoids discrimination or segregation of those with disabilities and also those with learning disabilities. The policy recognizes the challenges faced by gendered categories and minorities also and has proposed a series of laudable steps including special education zones (SEZ) to address the structural challenges of education in inaccessible areas.

5. COVID19 has derailed many things. Your views on how will this have impact on its implementation?

In my opinion COVID19 has been responsible to fast forward certain technological advances which the schools & colleges would have taken years to implement like gearing up for online classes, online assessment, etc. The original NEP had 23 chapters but later a new chapter online and digital education was added keeping in mind the circumstances arising out of the COVID19 pandemic. If all things fall in place as the Government envisages the new policy will be put to action in the academic year 2021. Though there is a dire need to reduce the digital divide if we are able to overcome this then India can take the full advantage of online education to its full potential. There is no quick fix solution to this digital divide and due to this pandemic which has created the largest disruption in the education system world over. A big number of children to youth living in poor or rural areas are facing the brunt of this disruption. But acknowledging the existence of these issues can be a first step towards addressing them and keeping these issues in mind implementing the policy would be the right way ahead.

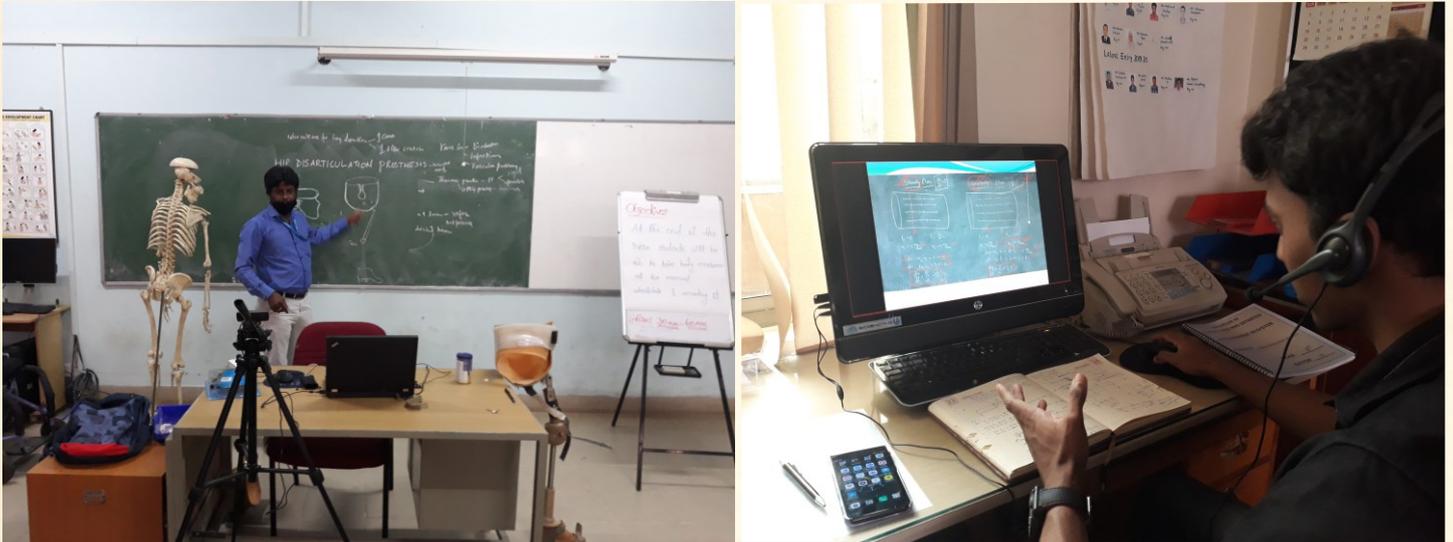
COVID-19 Educational Disruption and MI's Response



MI faculty L-R Mr. Rajdeep Kumar-Sr. Manager P&O Training and Ms. Shubhlata-P&O Trainer conducting online sessions using various models and materials

The spread of pandemic Covid-19 drastically disrupted every aspect of human life including education globally. The change of teaching mode from offline to online all of a sudden is indeed a great challenge to any educational institution. However with a positive note, even prior to nation-wide lockdown, MI came up with various measures and provided structured training to MI faculties on managing and providing continuous teaching-learning support to students with some tools and techniques during the pandemic. A separate support system was given to students with disabilities for the uninterrupted training by providing them with relevant material and resources.

A dynamic team of Multidisciplinary faculty including Prosthetist & Orthotist, Physiotherapist, Occupational therapists of MI have put in lots of effort in persistently preparing & conducting interactive sessions via different E-education platforms, using digital tools for completing curriculum of Bachelor in Prosthetics and Orthotics and Rehabilitation Therapy on time in best possible ways.



MI Faculty L-R Mr. Kamaraj, Prosthetist & Orthotist-Manager P&O Training, Mr. Jibanjeet Mohanty P&O Trainer during the sessions

MI faculty have put in a lot of efforts and successfully conducted online theory and practical sessions with live demonstrations to provide better understanding in the subject.



MI Faculties L-R Ms. Minakshi, Prosthetist & Orthotist-Manager P&O Training and Mr. Ramsagar Ravidas, Prosthetist & Orthotist-Clinical Trainer P&O Training during the online practical sessions on spinal orthotics.

WHEELCHAIR SERVICE TRAINING PACKAGE: Blended & online learning in an Integrated Program

World Health Organisation (WHO) has designed a specialised Training Package for health care professionals i.e., Wheelchair Service Delivery Packages (WSTP) - Basic level course. This course provides better understanding and knowledge along with skills on wheelchair service and providing the users with appropriate wheelchair for people in need following WHO standards.

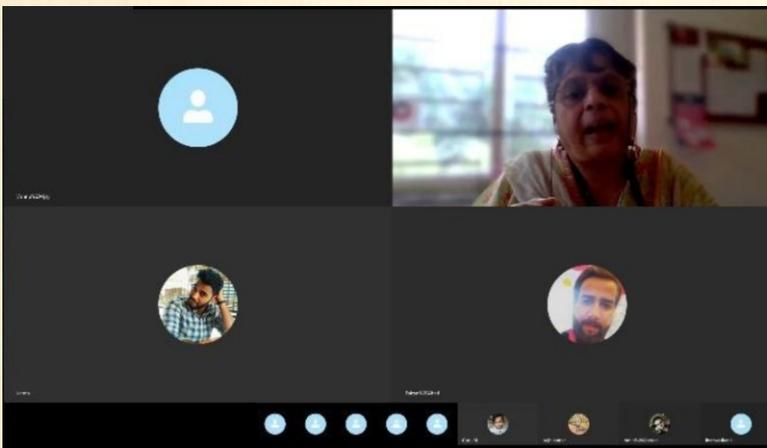
During this pandemic, certified experienced faculties of MI conducted combination of blended as well online WSTP-Basic course as per integrated curricula of Prosthetics & Orthotics and Rehabilitation Therapy courses.



ISWP Certified MI's Expert Wheelchair Trainers, Ms. Vennila-Physiotherapist-Sr. Manager Therapy Training and Mr. Rajdeep Kumar, Prosthetist & Orthotist - Sr. Manager Training P&O conducting the blended WSTP- Basic Level training for P&O and Rehabilitation Therapy students

PANDEMIC SPECIAL: SKILL DEVELOPMENT ONLINE SESSIONS

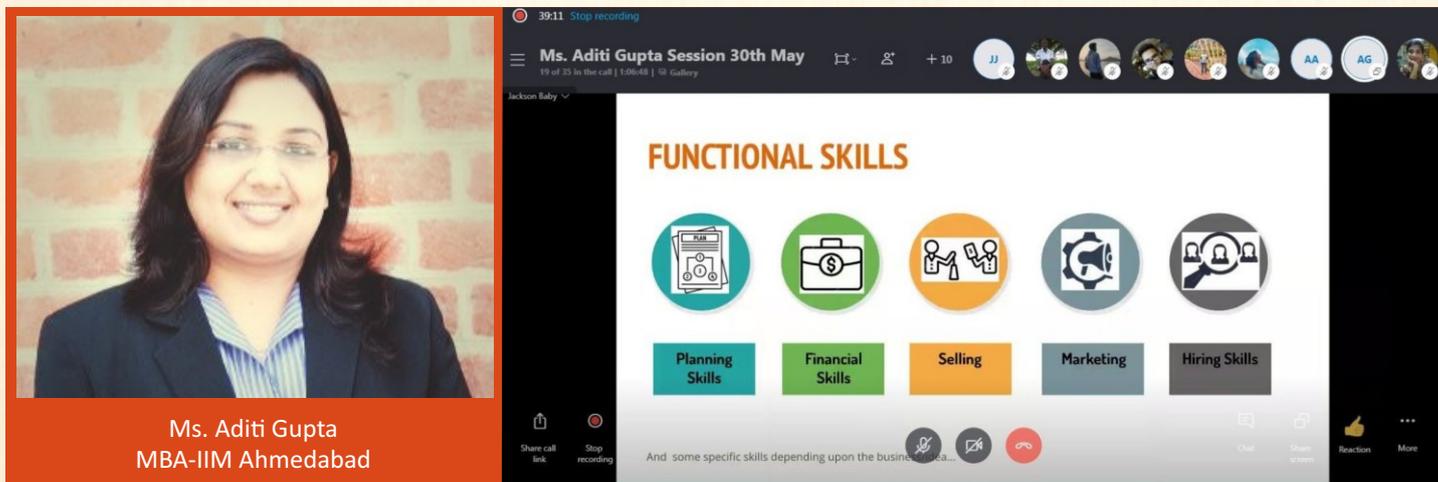
During this Covid-19 lockdown period, apart from the regular theory and practical online sessions, MI has organised online webinars by Invited speakers to develop the various professional skills and personality development.



Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander
Executive Director
Public Affairs Foundation

- Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, an experienced and passionate trainer conducted a series of webinars to our BPO interns on 5th, 6th and 8th May 2020. She helped students in broadening their knowledge on soft skills a requisite for graduating professionals. The topics include using Curriculum vitae (CV) as a Marketing Tool, Motivation skills and importance of teamwork Training skills.

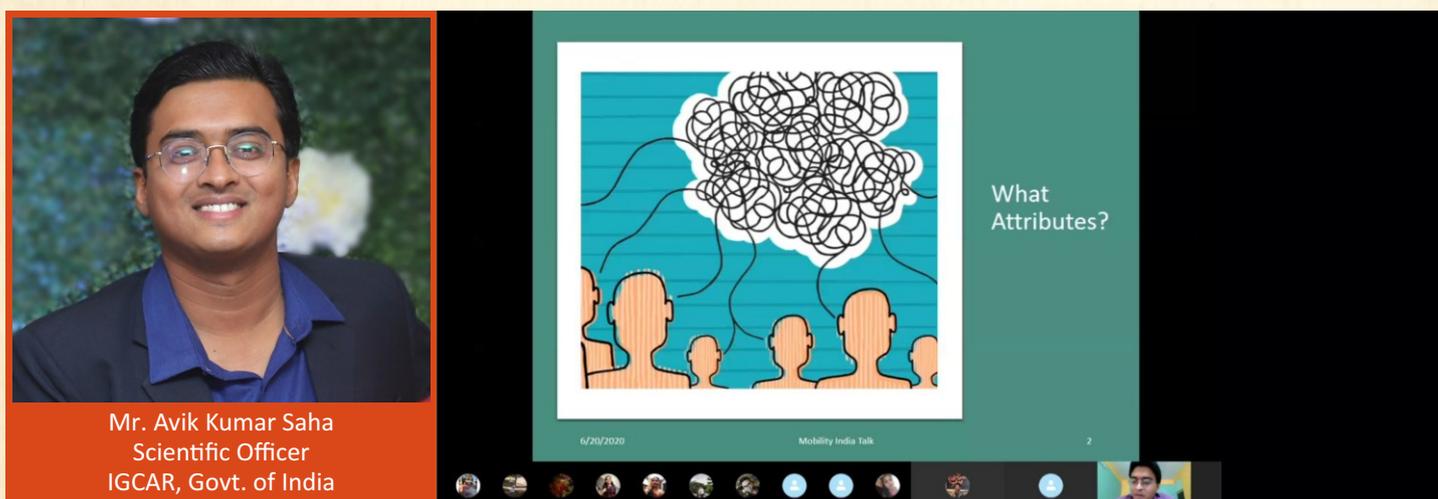
- Ms. Aditi Gupta, MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad, presently based in Singapore conducted online session on 'Entrepreneurship' to MI Prosthetics & Orthotics students on 30th May 2020 with her expertise in business developing and management. This talk gave an insight to the students about starting up own venture and widened their knowledge on the skills to be acquired to become successful entrepreneur.



- Ms. Meera Ravi, Counsellor and Therapist and Director of Prerana Academy conducted online counselling session on 20th May 2020 to Mobility India Prosthetics and Orthotics students on "Dealing with anxiety during Covid-19 pandemic" which is need of the hour. She motivated and enlightened the sense of awareness in the students and helped them in restoring the confidence in their abilities.



- Mr. Avik Kumar Saha, Scientific Officer at IGCAR, Government of India conducted an inspirational talk on Attributes for becoming a Successful Professional to MI students on 20th June 2020. He stressed upon the importance of developing major qualities like willpower, belief, vision, flexibility, integrity, leadership and innovation etc., before embarking a professional journey which plays a major role in accomplishing a successful career.



CONDUCTING WEBINARS IN COLLABORATION WITH INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS (IAP)

The Indian Association of Physiotherapists, Andhra Pradesh and Mobility India jointly organized a webinar on “Assessment and Prescription of Lower Limb Orthotics”- Good Practices” on 9th July 2020 which was attended by over 1000 delegates. Perhaps, for the first time, a team of multidisciplinary professionals, Mr. Soikat Ghosh Moulic - Prosthetist & Orthotist, Mr. Sama Raju - Physiotherapist along with assistive device user for 20 years, Ms. Saraswathi from MI shared the same platform. Ms. Saraswathi shared her perception with the audience on her life journey, roles and importance of a multi-disciplinary team and holistic approach to meet her needs. Team stressed that a professional perspective is as important as users’ perspective for prescribing the appropriate assistive devices to enhance the quality of life of the user.



Mr. Soikat Ghosh Moulic- P&O & Mr. Sama Raju - PT stressed that prescribing and providing appropriate devices is as important as intervention and training the user how to use the devices for better Quality of life (QOL)



Ms. Saraswathi. S - AT user sharing her experience on benefits of interventions received from a team of multidisciplinary professionals



Link for the video: <https://youtu.be/hY7iQQL9EEY>

ONLINE SHORT TERM TRAINING CONDUCTED:

Key to success of a Rehabilitation Professional is by enhancing the knowledge in multidisciplinary skills.



Online Short term course was conducted by MI Multi-Rehabilitation Professionals

A team of multidisciplinary rehabilitation experts of Mobility India successfully conducted the 30 hours course from 2nd to 22nd July 2020 to final year Physiotherapy students of Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Kolar. The team included physiotherapist, Occupational therapist Assistive Technology user and Prosthetist & Orthotist. Various methodologies like online interactive sessions, demonstrations, videos, discussions and quiz on different assistive devices were used and the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork was stressed upon.

MI appreciates and acknowledges the proactive initiation taken by staff and students of Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Kolar for successfully organising this course.

VIRTUAL SUPPORT TO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Covid-19: Virtual support for overcoming complex fitting process with able mentoring and virtual support throughout by our experienced faculty member - Mr. Soikat Ghosh Moulic, Associate Professor, Orthotist and Prosthetist at MI, has enabled MI's graduate from The Ability People (TAP), to fabricate a complex device of a hip disarticulation prostheses for a 5-year old girl Saba during this pandemic lockdown period. A first step in 5 years for the little girl is a joy unparalleled! MI thanks "The Hindu" for featuring this article in their edition. Link is given below:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/on-her-own-feet-for-the-first-time-after-birth/article32198981.ece?fbclid=IwAR3peZTyUD5PCHc7tDNufaypTw7uHovJfxZphcpl4OU8sG311POcLjqN0h8>

INAUGURATION OF ONLINE ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

Mobility India has been constantly trying to create a caring environment to enhance professional development of the graduates by integrating real life experiences of educational learning and practice.

Online Alumni Mentorship Programme was launched by Ms. Ritu Ghosh, Academics Director, MI on 31st July 2020 in presence of special invitee Mr. Niranjana Ojha, Lecturer in Prosthetics and Orthotics, SVNIRTAR, panellists and moderator of AMP a Senior faculty Mr. Kamaraj.

First online webinar was on "Sharing experiences and challenges in Ischial containment socket fitting". Around 55 graduates from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Somalia and Cameroon upgraded themselves with standard guidelines and few new techniques to solve problems related to ICS fitting procedures. It was indeed a worth attending the webinar!

MOBILITY INDIA
Respecting people's abilities

TOPIC:
SHARING EXPERIENCE & CHALLENGES IN ISCHIAL CONTAINMENT SOCKET FITTING

PANELISTS

- SHRI. NIRANJANA OJHA
LECTURER IN PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS
SVNIRTAR
- NITIN B BAGADE
MOBILITY INDIA ALUMNI 2004.
- JIGNESH ZALA
MOBILITY INDIA ALUMNI 2006.

LIVE WEBINAR

Date - 31st July 2020
Time - 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
IST (Indian Standard Time)

PARTICIPANTS
Limited To Mobility India Alumni & Students

Moderator
KAMARAJ.V,
MANAGER P&O TRAINING, MOBILITY INDIA

Organised by
MOBILITY INDIA, BANGALORE, INDIA

TESTIMONIAL VIDEOS OF MI ALUMNI

Mr. Naorem Dhanamani Singh

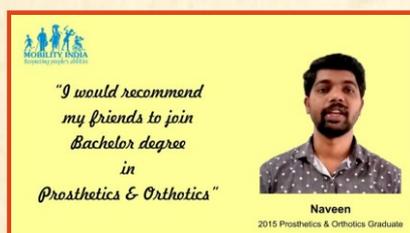
MI Alumni-Bachelor in Prosthetics and Orthotics
1st Batch 2008-2013



Link for Video: <https://youtu.be/N7RnoYU27tY>

Mr. Naveena. N

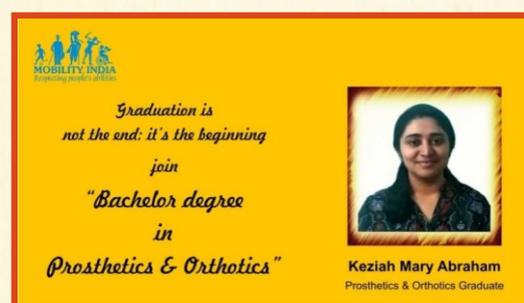
MI Alumni-Bachelor in Prosthetics and Orthotics
3rd Batch 2010-2015



Link for Video: <https://youtu.be/N7RnoYU27tY>

Ms. Keziah Mary Abraham

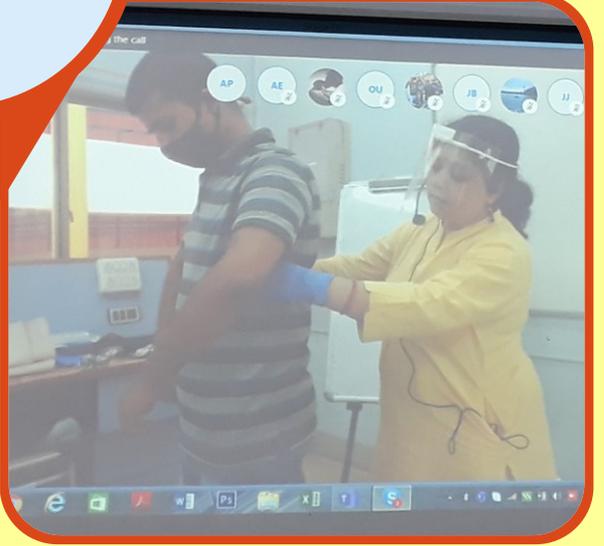
MI Alumni-Bachelor in Prosthetics and Orthotics
7th Batch 2014-2019



Link for Video: <https://youtu.be/MO3AVYcFRN0>



Glimpse



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