

**Session Title: Seminar on IT tools for physically challenged.**

**Session coordinator : Shri T. Samdup, Dy Dir,DIT, Govt of Sikkim**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Venue : Conference Hall, Chintan Bhavan**

**Schedule Time: 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Session Chaired by: Smt. Deepa Thapa, Gen Sec, Sikkim Biklang Society.**

**Presentation By: Webel Mediatronics, Kolkata  
Media Lab Asia, Delhi**

**Target Audience**

- NGOs working for the disabled.
- Officials from Social welfare Department
- Staffs of Special Schools.

***Proceedings of the session***

Seminar on IT tools for physically challenged was held at conference hall, Chintan Bhavan, Gangtok, Sikkim. The session was chaired by Smt. Deepa Thapa, Gen Secretary, Sikkim Biklang society. The objective of the seminar was to incorporate IT in developing tools for the physically challenged which was presented by Webel Mediatronics, Kolkata and Media Lab Asia, Delhi.

***Brief Summary of Discussion and Outcomes***

- Presentation by Media Lab Asia showing the use of various hardwares which can be used by the physically challenged people .
- Gadgets like visual impairment, speech, hearing, locomotor, cerebral palsy
- Media Lab Consists of 3000 NGOs, 14000 Block Resource Centers, 235 MSJE offices which is established as national network for educators and empowerment of the disabled.
- On-line courses are conducted for special schools , NGOs.
- Demonstration of a software called Punarjanni which is a web enabled software and a computer Braille Transcription System.
- Software called Shruti Drishti is available for visually impaired persons.
- SAFA(Screen Access for all) available in english, Hindi, sanskrit, marathi, tamil.
- Promotes competitive exams for physically challenged through digital library of e-text and audio contents.
- Certain Softwares and Hardwares are made available by Webel Mediatronics. e-library papers, tabulated device which can be attached to 4 different computers with Braille keyboard.
- Demonstration of e-classroom which consists of Braille embrosser, Braille Keyboard where Blind person can type in using a Braille Keyboard and can be displayed in a normal font.
- Direct Braille software-used by audio support
- Wimats- A mathematical software with all the mathematical operands included upto the syllabus of college level .
- Text Baraille –takes little time to convert a file of regular text to a Baraille format.
- Webel Mediatronics should take initiative to promote even a small project for the physically challenged in Sikkim.
- The schemes or the softwares should reach the children at village level.
- Chairperson unhappy with webel because no progress has been made for last 3 years.
- There should be a software which can translate e-books to a baraille format in relatively less amount of time because the staffs face a lot of problems when syllabus changes.