

**GNLU organized a Guest Lecture on
Accessibility and inclusivity
Followed by
A dialogue in the Dark: See the World of the Visually Impaired**

Gandhinagar, April 12, 2019: Gujarat National Law University organized **Dialogue in the Dark: ‘See’ the World of the Visually Impaired**’ on 08 April 2019.

The dialogue in the Dark was preceded by a lecture by Mr Amar Jain, **one of the first visually impaired persons to be working in the reputed law firm, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas**. He shared the story of his life with the audience, a tale of overcoming linguistic and accessibility barriers with unshakeable belief, tracing his journey with a determination to learn and achieve academic excellence and scholastic brilliance with hard work and a never-say-die attitude. He emphasized on how disability is merely a matter of perception, and advised everyone present, to concentrate on things that their disability doesn’t prevent from doing well, and not to regret the things it interferes with. He said **the only ‘can’t’ in his life was “he can’t see”**. His advice to the audience was **that it’s the repetition of affirmations that leads to belief. And once that belief becomes a deep conviction, things begin to happen**. So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable. He is truly enabled by the firm conviction and determination he holds. His way of dealing with his challenges has opened up unique opportunities to reach so many in need.

The second part of the session ‘Dialogue in the Dark’, was to immerse the audience in the world of the blindness and let them explore the dark without using the sense of sight. The major highlight of this activity was experiencing darkness all around in an entertaining way. Everyone ate in the dark, guessed everyday objects by touch and smell, and came out with a sensitizing takeaway, teaching all present that it is important to ‘emphasize’ rather than to ‘sympathize’.

The dialogue in the Dark is one of the world’s most exciting life-changing experiences where the audiences are guided by blind guides in absolute darkness. This event is being organized for the last 27 years in more than 41 countries throughout Europe, America, Africa and Asia. It helps the participants in overcoming their prejudices, myths, attitudinal barriers and stereotypes associated with the disabilities.

Professor Dr Bimal N. Patel, Director GNLU, also participated in the event. “A lot of people have physical or mental challenges in life, how one deals with them is important,” he said. He also emphasized how technology has played a vital role in empowering persons with disabilities. He also reiterated GNLU’s commitment to the betterment of persons with disabilities.



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

The programme was organized by the GNLU Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (GCPWD), in collaboration with GNLU Centre for Law and Society (GCLS) with financial support from Messrs S.M. Corporation based in Kalol.

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