



One-Day National Conference on
“Discourse on Disability”
Organized By
Cell for Persons with Disabilities, MGCU, Bihar

In collaboration with

Department of English
Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar

February 27, 2025 (Thursday)

Concept Note

With the dynamic shifts in contemporary society, it is essential to critically engage with disabled identities and disability recognition through the intersecting lenses of socio-political, cultural, and economic phenomena. Neil Marcus asserts that Disability is not a ‘brave struggle’ or ‘courage in the face of adversity.’ Disability is an art. It’s an ingenious way to live. Disability theorist Tom Shakespeare states that disability may be considered a minority issue. After all, only about 15 percent of the population – one in seven – is disabled. But there are at least a billion people with disability on the planet, plus all their relatives and friends. So, most lives are touched by disability in some way, and it’s about time we understood it better. We all, everyone male and female are disabled at some life; sometimes it is naturally by birth, sometimes by old age, other times by accident and sometimes by choice. These four types of disability are divided into two parts, that is permanent disability and temporary disability. Whether it is permanent or temporal disability, the disabled suffer a lot and have a lot to convey to society so that the mindset of society may change towards the challenged people. It is not for pity but it is a suggestion to the others who are abled and understand disabled as a vegetable. In recent years when the voice for the disabled is raising its hands in India, disabled discourse is taking place in the mainstream. It invites the disabled as well as able to write about disability.

The enactment of the RPWD Act 2016 has spurred expectations among Persons with Disabilities (PWD) nationwide, heralding the prospect of enhanced benefits and bespoke interventions addressing the 21 disability categories. Yet, within the present disability sector and scope, professionals and practitioners often operate within specialized spheres, potentially impeding their familiarity with diverse practices across disability classifications. After a decade of persistent advocacy by PWDs, experts, and policymakers, the enactment of the RPWD Act 2016 signifies a pivotal advancement, kindling hopes for improved provisions and support across India. More importantly, this conference, through brainstorming discourse and active participation of the participants, will try to enhance awareness regarding the inclusion and empowerment of disability in mainstream society and academia.

Themes and Subthemes

- Rethinking disability beyond stereotypes of struggle or adversity
- How gender, caste, class, age, religion, and other identities intersect with disability
- Redefining narratives around disability through art, literature, and media
- Gendered dimensions of disability
- Disability and literature
- Disable as biographers, auto-biographers
- Representation of disabled in mainstream writings
- Disable characters in Indian and Foreign Cinema
- Caste-based discrimination compounded by disability
- Elderly care and geriatric disability
- Psychological and emotional impacts of disability
- Systemic inequalities faced by marginalized disabled communities
- Analyzing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act 2016
- Promoting accessibility in education, employment, healthcare, and public spaces

Registration Fee

Registration fee for all **faculties is Rs. 2,000/- INR**; for Independent researchers and **research scholars Rs. 1000/- INR** (for **scholars of MGCU 750/-** and **Masters of MGCU Rs. 500/- INR**).

Name	Mahatma Gandhi Central University
Bank Account	3604439101
IFSC Code	CBIN0280030
Branch	Luthala, Purvi Champaran, Bihar

Last Date to Send Abstract is February 24, 2025

Note: Selected papers will be published in book form by a reputed publisher

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Confirmed Speakers (Offline):

1. **Prof Ujjwal Jana**, Department of English, University of Delhi, New Delhi
2. **Prof. Smriti Singh**, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Patna, Bihar
3. **Prof Nibha Singh**, Department of English, Magadh University, Bihar
4. **Prof Kalpana Purohit**, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
5. **Dr. Mukta Mani**, Department of Education, Patna University, Patna, Bihar

Confirmed Speakers (Online):

1. **Prof Jaya Kapoor**, Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
2. **Dr Subhash Misra**, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
3. **Dr Santosh Patel**, Assistant Registrar, Delhi Skill & Entrepreneurship University, Delhi
4. **Dr. Boopathi**, Department of English, Central University of Tamilnadu, Tamilnadu

About the University

The Mahatma Gandhi Central University, named after the Father of the Nation, was established in the historical land of Champaran under the Central Universities (Amendment) Act 2014 [No. 35 of 2014] enacted by the Parliament. The university is funded and regulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The University is presently functioning from five temporary campuses, namely Chankya Parishar, Buddha Parishar, DDU Parishar, Gandhi Bhavan, and an administrative block. The university has seven different schools with over 20 departments and more than 65 ongoing programs. The faculty of sciences is presently functioning from a temporary campus at Zila School called “Chankya Parishar,” which is situated at the heart of the city.

About Champaran

The University is located in Motihari, which is a city in the Champaran district of Bihar, India. This city holds great historical significance as it is the Karam-Bhoomi of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. It was in this very place that he first practised his idea of Satyagraha against the Neel plantation that was being carried out in the area. The establishment of MGCU is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha, which took place a century ago. The city is situated close to Nepal- only 55 km away from its border town of Birgunj. The beautiful Motijheel lake divides the town into two halves giving it a panoramic view. The weather of the city in the month of February is usually pleasant. Bodh Gaya, the place where Buddha attained enlightenment, is approximately 250 km away from Motihari. The largest Buddhist stupa in India is located in Kesaria, approximately 50 km away from Motihari.

About the Connectivity

The nearest airport to the city is in Patna which is approximately 170 kilometres away from Motihari. Motihari is also connected to all the major cities by train. The nearest railway station is Bapudham Motihari (BMKI) which is approximately 2 kilometres from the Temporary Campus at Zila School, Motihari. One can also reach Motihari by train via Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and

Raxaul, which are located within a radius of 100 kilometres. Motihari is also well connected to all major cities and towns of Bihar and adjoining states by road through a network of four-lane National Highway.

Chief Patron:

Prof. Sanjay Srivastava, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, MGCU



Patron:

Prof. Prasoon Dutta Singh (Dean, School of Humanities & Languages)



Committee Members:

Program Director: Dr. Rajesh Prasad, (Chairman, Cell for PWD, MGCU)



Program Co-Director: Dr Bimlesh Kumar Singh (Head, DoE, MGCU)



Convenor: Dr. Deepak, (Member Secretary, Cell for PWD)

Co-Convenor: Dr. Pathloth Omkar, (Member, Cell for PWD)

Organizing Committee:

Dr Umesh Patra, (Assistant Professor, Department of English, MGCU)

Dr Kalyani Hazri, (Assistant Professor, Department of English, MGCU)

Mr Balande Chandoba Narsingh, (Assistant Professor, Department of English, MGCU)

Advisory Committee:

Prof. Devdutt Chaturvedi (Dean, School of Physical Sciences)

Prof. Pranveer Singh (Dean, School of Life Sciences)

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