

The XRCVC's Annual Report for 2019-20 (June to May)



**Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged
(XRCVC)**

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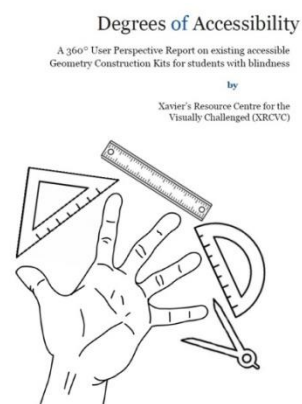
When the Academic Year 2019-20 began as usual on a sedate note in June 2019, nobody imagined the dramatic manner in which it would come to a close. By May 2020, the scourge of COVID-19 had brought the world to its knees, with most parts of the world including India locked down for weeks on end. It was a sudden announcement and nobody had the time or luxury to prepare for such an abrupt lockdown. Neither did we.

At the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC), however, a decision was taken early that we should take this challenge head on in the only way we knew — by hunkering down and renewing our efforts to foster inclusion, in good times and bad.

Anticipating a lockdown scenario, the XRCVC team changed its mode of functioning and adopted a work-from-home approach. Expecting an extended lockdown period, we were proactive and planned the shift from working from the work spot to working from home in great detail. Each team member had a planned quota of work assigned, and, looking back, we are happy to share that the lockdown period at the XRCVC was as productive as any of the months that preceded it. Yes, this shift meant that our face-to-face interaction with our stakeholders was replaced by a virtual interaction. However, the centre's training programmes, content-creation and other activities continued with renewed vigour.

Among the first initiatives the centre undertook during the lockdown was to compile a document titled 'Recreational Resources and Safety Guidelines for Persons with Blindness and Low Vision during the Lockdown'. This was circulated widely across the country and proved to be a key resource guide for visually impaired persons all over the country during this difficult time.

A couple of months before the lockdown began, the XRCVC published *Degrees of Accessibility*, a pioneering 360° User Perspective Report on Existing Accessible Geometry Construction Kits for students with blindness. The report is the culmination of two years of painstaking research. Though comprehensive, it does not claim to be a complete account of every tool that might exist in imparting geometry skills to persons with visual impairment. We hope, however, that the report will be useful to anyone interested in working with or designing universally accessible geometry construction kits for all students, including students with blindness and low vision. And we hope that this report may inspire someone to create the next generation of accessible geometry construction kits for the community at large.



An Image of the Cover page of the research report published by the XRCVC



At the XRCVC, we strongly believe that the quality of life of most disabled persons can be bettered simply by providing them equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures. Ironically, though, a person with disability often lives the life of a second-class citizen.

And this is where the XRCVC tries to make a difference.

The XRCVC was initially set up as a resource and advocacy centre for persons with visual impairment. However, as an enabling unit on campus at St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, it expanded its offering last year to include services to students with hearing / speech impairment, autism, learning disabilities, and those with orthopaedic disabilities as well.

The XRCVC endeavours to transform lives for persons with disability both at the micro and macro levels. Along with providing direct and indirect support at the micro level, it works closely with government agencies, corporates, researchers and educational institutions at the macro level on advocacy and sensitization initiatives — particularly in the areas of education access, financial access, print access, and independent living.

The XRCVC disseminates information about its work to members and other stakeholders on an almost real-time basis through its website (www.xrcvc.org) and on social media through its Facebook page (XRCVC—Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged) and Twitter handle (@XRCVC).

In the academic year 2019-20, St Xavier's College (Autonomous) had 117 students with disability on its rolls (Junior College, Senior College and Masters combined). The Enabling Committee of the college — a staff-cum-student representative committee that looks into all inclusion and accessibility needs on campus ensured that each of these students had an enriching curricular and extra-curricular experience. The Coordinator, Students with Disability, who coordinates the working of this committee, works out of XRCVC and is the main resource person to process all student requests and needs. In addition to meeting requirements of students on campus, the XRCVC is also actively involved in promoting inclusion and access across the country through its range of training, advocacy and awareness programmes.

Membership base

In 2019-20, the XRCVC's membership base expanded to 693 persons. But the centre does not restrict its offerings solely to its members. Its advocacy work allows it to touch — and hopefully transform — thousands of lives across the country. The XRCVC offers a range of direct support and training services to persons with disabilities, caregivers, educators, and institutions.



Direct support provided included scanning, demonstration of and training in the usage of assistive devices, career advice, basic computer training, software assistance, mobile phone usage training, smartcane usage training, Braille printing, follow-up with publishers for accessible copies of books, coordinating with educational institutions, banks and other financial bodies, etc.

Volunteer support

Despite all the technology and advancements, human assistance cannot be eliminated completely for persons with disability. The XRCVC provides volunteer services for:

- Reading
- Converting material into accessible formats for people with visual impairment – through typing, scanning, editing, recording
- Teaching — for any subject
- Examination taking — scribe facilities (this service is provided in collaboration with the Student Inclusion Cell of St Xavier's College)
- Any other requirement on a need basis

Depending on the member's needs and requirements, the XRCVC provides volunteers both for short- and long-term needs. Around 120 volunteers and 7 interns worked with the centre during the year, sourced mainly from the Social Involvement Programme (SIP) and ECC programme of St Xavier's College (Autonomous).

Assistive technologies

The XRCVC houses an exhaustive list of assistive technologies (AT) that can be explored by visually challenged persons — as also employers, government bodies, and any other group that would like to know more about AT. Anyone is welcome to drop in at the XRCVC, with prior appointment, to explore the full range of assistive technologies and their use.



An Image of Special wheelchair (SEEDee) with stair climb assist

The centre procured a wide range of new technologies in 2019-20. Some of these include a special wheelchair (SEEDee) with stair climb assist for people with orthopaedic challenges, Kibo XS devices and Kibo credit packs, Tactograph, Evo E10 Daisy Text Players and Tactile view Graphic software. XRCVC is happy to share that the E-waste generated every year is handed over to an organization that is committed to creating a greener future by recycling and disposing end-of- life electronic products in an environmentally sustainable manner.



An Image of Kibo XS is a Scanning and Reading solution for multiple indian languages



Focused work areas

During the year, the centre's activities were channelized through three main focus areas:

- a. Education & Learning (KG to PG)
- b. Accessibility Solutions and Inclusive Services
- c. Awareness

Given below is a summary of the centre's activities in 2019-20 under each head.

A. Education & Learning (KG to PG)

While Right to Education has become a fundamental right in India, this right is far from being actualised for persons with disabilities. During the year, the XRCVC continued its work towards inclusive education practices and services at school, college and higher education levels. A plethora of activities were conducted during the year in this connection, some of which are described below.



An Image of Accessible Geometry Construction Kits for students with blindness, was released in January 2020 by Mr. K M Sheth, the patriarch of Great Eastern Shipping.

●As mentioned earlier, *Degrees of Accessibility*, the XRCVC's pioneering 360° User Perspective Report on Existing Accessible Geometry Construction Kits for students with blindness, was released in January 2020 by Mr. K M Sheth, the patriarch of Great Eastern Shipping, which had funded the research project.

- The XRCVC provided all the resources and manpower to St Xavier's College that was required to ensure the smooth conduct of the Enabling Committee's activities during the year.



- Ongoing work continued with students who are part of the XRCVC's comprehensive educational offering. During the year, the centre also regularly conducted training and sensitisation sessions at Prime Academy (Andheri), Sacred Heart School (Kalyan) and other institutions.



An Image of Sensitisation workshop with the teachers from Sacred Heart School (Kalyan)

- Work pertaining to book content creation and accessible study material creation continued through the year. Both staff and volunteers are engaged in this work.
- The centre continued to collaborate with Inclusive Stem (I-Stem), comprising a group of young persons who are blind or visually impaired from India pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. The group organized its third hackathon in Bangalore in January 2020. The aim was to bust myths about blind programmers and start the process of making the tech industry in India accessible. The hackathon brought blind and visually impaired developers, industry professionals and sighted computer science students together to work on exciting and challenging projects for 24 hours. Not only did participants learn technical skills from the hackathon, but also developed a better understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses.



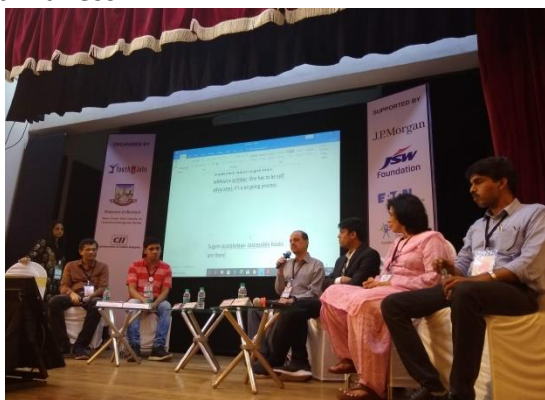
An image of Invitation to Hackathon



An Image of A hackathon team consisting of hearing impaired, visually impaired and those who can see and hear at Inclusive STEM Confluence 2020



- The XRCVC, through the year, continued its ongoing pioneering work in the area of mathematics and science education. Students were provided direct support services. The centre created accessible electronic textbooks, Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs), and provided conceptual training to these students. In addition, it continued to build on its Teaching-Learning-Aids (TLA) resource library for mathematics and science education, starting Std 1 onwards.
- Ongoing work continued on the production of Concept Teaching Manuals (CTMs), which have been designed for use by teachers working with blind or low vision students. Special educators or parents working on a one-on-one basis, as well as classroom teachers and tuition teachers in an inclusive classroom can incorporate the information and ideas from these manuals. These CTMs cover interactive ways to teach concepts to blind or low vision students including the use of Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs) in the form of activities, real objects, 3D educational toys and models, 2D tactile diagrams, etc.
- I for Inclusion training sessions were conducted by the XRCVC during the year for numerous stakeholders.
- The XRCVC continued to give critical inputs to the Bangalore-based company Tactopus, which creates tactile graphics, and also has an interactive audio companion through a smartphone app, that makes it possible for blind children to learn independently.
- XRCVC provided strategic support to the Andrew's Vision Centre, a resource centre for visually impaired students at Wilson College, during the year.
- Inputs were given to Point of View on a Sex Education course for students with blindness.



An Image of Dr. Sam Taraporevala during the session in progress

● In September 2019, Dr. Sam Taraporevala was invited as a panelist for the Inclusion Huddle 2019 on the subject, 'Path for Inclusive education' jointly hosted by Youth4Jobs, CII and Mumbai University.

- In February 2020, the XRCVC made a presentation on Facilitating the Inclusion of Students with SLD in Higher Education at the Maharashtra Dyslexic Association's National Conclave.
- The centre also coordinated with officials from Skill Shakti for possible collaborations for students with SLD and ASD.



- The XRCVC team had conversations with Curry College to understand their framework for inclusion
- The XRCVC coordinated with NAB and other organisations during the year to make SSC books accessible.
- In March 2020, the XRCVC conducted a session on Inclusion in Higher Education at a seminar organized by DISHA.
- The XRCVC played a catalytic role in the formation and launch of Inclusive University Alliance (IUA). This is a collective of institutes of higher education in India that have come together to promote inclusion within higher education. Beyond St. Xavier's College, Mumbai the collaborating institutes so far include the following:
Ashoka University, Sonapat, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras, IIM-Bangalore, IIIT-Bangalore, Inclusive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Foundation (I-Stem), Vision Empower, Bengaluru.
The Alliance so far has been working and sharing and building best practices between themselves.

Personal and Career Guidance

Guidance was also provided to members and their families across disabilities to identify needs, interests and aptitudes as also troubleshoot and cope with concerns.

Scholarships

New higher education avenues have been pursued by students with disability over the last decade. Along with new opportunities come new costs of higher education courses. Similarly, while assistive technologies and computers have provided immense aid to disabled students, what is often considered a luxury for those without disabilities is a necessity for the disabled. Recognizing the high costs for higher education and assistive technologies, the XRCVC provides scholarship and access technology lending schemes to deserving students. Laptops and talking calculators were handed over to four students under these schemes during the year. The Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for the year was awarded to Babita Saroj for being the most deserving visually impaired student graduating from St Xavier's College, Mumbai during the year.



An Image of The Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for this year was awarded to Babita Saroj for being the most deserving visually impaired student.



Training

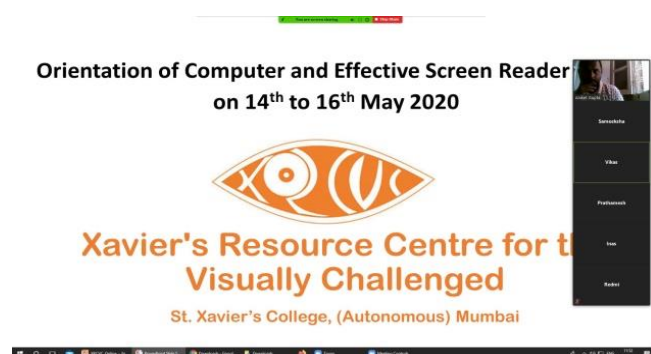
The XRCVC imparts training in Computers, the use of specific assistive devices, Braille, Orientation & Mobility, Maths & Science, English language, and Life skills through various training programmes. These are available for diverse learner groups — disabled persons, special educators, teacher trainers, and other stakeholders. Training sessions during 2019-20 included customized workshops by various members of the XRCVC team including Calveena D'Sylva, Poonam Deokar, Rebecca Carvalho, Vikas Dabholkar, Neha Trivedi, Sushil Pandit, Keshavan Nadar, Krishna Warriar, Nevila Vaz, Aniket Gupta, and Elisha Lopez. These training sessions were held at XRCVC and XRCVC-Viviana Extension as well as at other locations across the country. During the lockdown in early 2020, many of the training sessions were held online. Through the year, the XRCVC's training services reached out to 1289 persons (see Table 1).



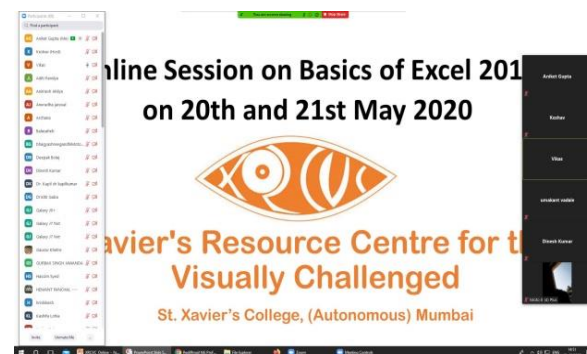
An Image of Basic Computer Training conducted by Vikas Dabholkar at the XRCVC – Viviana Extension, Thane



An Image of Basic Computer Training conducted by Sushil Pandit at the XRCVC, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai



An Image of Orientation of computer and effective screen reader training sessions were held online



An Image of Session on Basic of Excel 2010 training sessions were held online



Table 1: Training Services June 2019 – May 2020

Training Activity	No of Beneficiaries
Direct Training: Computer & Assistive Technology (AT)	497
Direct Training: Education Support (Including Mathematics & Maths for Competitive Exams, Science, Concept Enrichment, English, Braille, Orientation & Mobility, Activities of Daily Living, Life Skills, Remediation Support for Students With Learning Disabilities)	47
Direct Training: Guidance Support (including Phone Support and Maths Support)	176
Direct Training: Inclusion Cell	117
Indirect Stakeholder Training	452
Total	1289

B. Accessibility Solutions and Inclusion Services

Alongside Education Access, the XRCVC's advocacy initiatives work in three main areas to create accessible environments: Print Access, Financial Access, and Independent Living.

Print Access

The access to printed works for the visually challenged depends on its availability in accessible formats and the permissibility of the legal systems to convert material to accessible formats. The XRCVC has been working relentlessly to overcome these challenges.

During the academic year 2019-20, the XRCVC produced 50 accessible books (totaling 7110 pages) in addition to 1023 Word pages of class notes. All accessible titles are uploaded onto a national accessible online library (sugamyapustakalaya.in).

Some of the activities conducted under the Print Access initiative during the year are appended below.



An Image of XRCVC hosted a DFI board meeting in February 2020 at St Xavier's College.

- Accessible Book Production Standards training sessions were conducted regularly during the year by the XRCVC for numerous stakeholders.
- The XRCVC hosted the two-day DFI board meeting in February 2020 at St Xavier's College.
- During the year, Dr Taraporevala regularly participated in con-calls for various committees of the DFI, including the publisher committee, higher education committee, and periodicals committee.



- In February, Dr Sam Taraporevala was included as a domain expert for development of Indian Standard for Accessibility requirements for ICT (Information & Communication Technology) Products and Services by CDAC.

Reading Without Seeing

The XRCVC had launched an extremely effective national-level awareness programme in 2012 under the banner of ‘Reading Without Seeing’, which takes access technologies to blind and low-vision users across locations, and ignites in its audiences the curiosity and basic knowledge to begin their journey of accessing the printed word independently. The programme equips participants with the basic knowhow of a host of assistive technologies.

The programme gained added momentum this year with 3 workshops reaching out to 110 persons (see Table 2). These workshops were conducted by the XRCVC team comprising Sushil Pandit, Keshavan Nadar, Laxmisagar Samai, Tushar Valand and Vikas Dabholkar.

Table 2: Reading Without Seeing (RWS) Workshops (June 2019 – May 2020)

No.	Date	Organisation Name	Venue	Participants
1	01-06-19	NAB India, Mumbai	Mumbai	30
2	25-01-20	Brahma Ashram, Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	52
3	13-02-20	Rizvi College, Mumbai	Mumbai	28
Total				110



An Image of Reading without seeing workshop at Brahma Ashram, Ratnagiri



An Image of Reading without seeing workshop at Rizvi college, Mumbai



Testing and Research

During the year, XRCVC tested the following devices / software for accessibility: M Indicator at MI Mix 2, Redmi 6 Pro, Moto E 4g, Oakter, Google calendar, XIC website, E notice Board, Narrator with Windows 10, Realme 3, Google Maps with Talkback, CSMVS website, S3 frontier smartwatch, Sound amplifier for hearing impaired, Microsoft Edge, Kibo App, Mumbai Weather Live, Skymet Weather, M-Indicator, Mumbai police website, Libre 6.2, web NCERT, Balbharti, NROER, CBSE and App Epathshala, Diksha, FB reader android app, BEST Bus indicator App, Samsung A70, UTS App, VU TV, UPI App, Money Manager, MiTV, Redmi 8, Saktek website, Audacity, Ola App, Envision Smart Glass, EVO E10 Daisy Player, Google Assistant, Envision, XL Cinema, Onida Fire TV, Moto G, Samsung M10, Supersense App, BEST Prawas App, Kindle for PC

Financial Access

The ability to independently manage, operate and execute one's financial transactions is key to independent living. Lack of effective guidelines and lack of optimum use of technology in financial instruments has traditionally denied financial access to blind and low vision persons. The XRCVC has been striving to change this reality.

- Dr Sam Taraporevala provided strategic inputs to Mr Sisay Mammo and his team from Incudovate to discuss accessible ATMs for Ethiopia.
- During the year, the XRCVC worked with a number of App makers to make their Financial Apps accessible.
- During the year, XRCVC collaborated closely with the State Bank of India's Centre of Excellence (CoE), providing inputs for its various projects and programmes and attending the advisory board meeting of the CoE. The Centre of Excellence for PwDs is one of the SBI Foundation's flagship programmes. It was conceptualised with a goal to be a centralised support centre for persons with disabilities. It primarily works on empowering PwDs through skill enhancement to make significant and measurable improvement that enables individuals to enjoy a more productive and satisfying life by optimising their cognitive, physical, social and vocational functioning.

Independent Living

Each of us, as we pass through our day, interact with a range of products, environments and services from transport services, to kitchen appliances, and entertainment products. How accessible are these daily living services and products for the visually challenged? The XRCVC's Independent Living initiative questions and works towards rectifying shortcomings in these areas. Some of the activities covered under this initiative during the year are appended below:



- During the year, XRCVC signed an MoU with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya on how to make the museum experience accessible for visually impaired visitors.
- Ongoing work continue with Saksham, Enable India and Bookshare for the See A Million programme, a unique time-bound outcome-based mission focusing on digital empowerment of one million persons with vision impairment by 2025.
- The centre worked closely with the makers of the XL App to make movie-watching accessible for those with visual impairment.
- The XRCVC helped organize a cricket match for the blind at Viviana Mall in February 2020.
- The XRCVC team participated in an event organized at Café Arpan with Accenture on building accessibility.
- The centre XRCVC held discussions with Radio Udaan to broadcast the activities of the centre.
- In November 2019, XRCVC participated in the LEARN workshop in collaboration with HomeNet South Asia. The objective was to localise a 'policy brief on urban livelihoods' in Maharashtra, developed by the national platform INCLUDE (www.include.org.in)
- In January 2020, the XRCVC participated in a Consultation on VNR 2020 (Voluntary National Review) for the UN High-Level Political Forum organised by NCPEDP and Sightsavers India in Delhi.
- During the year, the XRCVC team provided inputs to a student from Dhirubhai Ambani International School who is developing an accessible board game.
- The centre also provided inputs to Cathay Pacific on braille printing.
- In January 2020, XRCVC showcased a short film on its work at the Great Eastern CSR partners meet.



An Image of Dr Sam Taraporevala was invited as the Chief Guest at the 13th Convocation Ceremony of Tanya Computer Centre in Andheri.

- In February, Dr. Sam was invited as the Chief Guest at the 13th Convocation Ceremony of Tanya Computer Centre in Andheri.



- During the year, XRCVC continued ongoing research and development work on visual / auditory / tactile teaching-learning aids and other independent living aids. Worked on integrating diverse technologies which could create a composite system to read through fingers, see through eyes, or hear through ears. The research also has immense potential for the teaching-learning process as it can promote paired reading and can assist a non-Braille literate person to function effectively.

C. Awareness

Creating awareness about the lives and capabilities of visually impaired persons and those with other disabilities is one of the key areas that will open doors for them in a world where the rules are made for and by persons without disabilities.



The XRCVC has been working on a number of such initiatives through its mega awareness and sensitisation event Antarchakshu® — The Eye Within. Last year, Antarchakshu® had taken on a new avatar — Antarchakshu® 2.0. This year, the same continued as Antarchakshu® 2.0 Season 2.

Antarchakshu® 2.0 combines the power of bespoke workshops in a marathon run reaching out to larger numbers at the location of participants. Under this initiative 53 need-based sensitization and awareness workshops were conducted between September 2019 and February 2020, reaching out to 1706 diverse stakeholders such as college students, corporates, professionals and the public at large.





An Image of Antarchakshu® 2.0, Season 2, conducted at various venues for diverse stakeholders such as college students, corporates, professionals and the public at large.

This approach ensured that the session reached the participant, reducing the need for participants to commute, thus making available flexible and customized workshops for target audiences, all leading to a basic premise of how every individual can contribute towards #CreatingAnAccessibleWorld.

During the year, a total of 90 awareness events (including Antarchakshu® workshops Awareness Exhibitions and the Diversity Discourse course) were conducted at a variety of places and for a variety of target groups, covering 3477 beneficiaries (see Table 3 at the end of this report). This included a special awareness workshop conducted for Special Education Teacher Trainees at PH University Ludwigsburg (Germany) as well — the first time that Antarchakshu® was being conducted outside India.



An Image of Mr. Krishna Warriar and Sandeep Singh conducted a special awareness workshop for Special Education Teacher Trainees at PH University Ludwigsburg (Germany), the first time that Antarchakshu® was being conducted outside India.

Some of the other awareness initiatives conducted by XRCVC during the year are appended below:

- In July 2019, the XRCVC team participated in a conference held at Hindustan Unilever on workplace solutions. An Access Technology exhibition was also put up at the conference.
- In August 2019, Dr Sam Taraporevala was invited by Reliance Industries as a speaker on a panel discussion titled 'Let's Talk D&I'.
- In August 2019, XRCVC was invited by IIT Gandhinagar (IITGn) to conduct a series of sensitisation workshops as part of the 'Foundation Program' for freshman students. Over 200 students benefitted from the same. This was the second year that the XRCVC had been invited to conduct these workshops.
- In September 2019 he was invited as a TedX speaker by St. John's Universal School to expose students to the idea that disability can never be a barrier if you have the wish to excel.
- A Braille Workshop was conducted in September 2019 for members of the Student Inclusion Cell of St Xavier's College.
- In October 2019, the XRCVC conducted an awareness exhibition of Access Technology for the Inner Wheel Club of Thane.



- In October 2019 the XRCVC in partnership with a group of organisation curated and conducted an experience zone at Empower 2019 Conference at IIT Delhi located in the Rajiv Gandhi Education City in Sonipat. The experience zone exhibited the collaborative work by partner organisation to create accessible STEM education and careers.



An Image of A team of Empower 2019

- In November 2019 a team from the XRCVC participated in 'Popularisation of Science' exhibition in St. Xavier's College.
- In November 2019, at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai the XRCVC organised Training of Trainers on Disability and Assistive Technology in collaboration with Skill council for persons with disability (SCPWD), National Skill development corporation (NSDC), Department of international development (UK, Government), Skill India, FICCI
- In November 2019, at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, the XRCVC organised a Mindful Employers workshop in collaboration with Skill council for persons with disability (SCPWD), National Skill development corporation (NSDC), Department of international development (UK, Government), Skill India, FICCI. Dr. Sam Taraporevala gave a guest lecture in this workshop.
- In December 2019 Dr Sam Taraporevala was invited as guest speaker for the Residential Leadership Training Camp at Lonavala by Forum of Free Enterprise.
- In December 2019, Hindustan Unilever Limited invited XRCVC to exhibit assistive technologies for the blind during their Diversity and Inclusion Fair event.



An Image of Dr. Sam Taraporevala in the session at Jai Hind college

- In December 2019, Dr. Sam Taraporevala was invited by Jai Hind college to be on the panel member "A panel discussion led by specially abled entrepreneurs. The audience were the student of Entrepreneurs cell of Jai hind College. Audience were around 120.



- In January 2020, the XRCVC conducted an Access Technology Awareness Exhibition at Dnyansadhana College, Thane.
- In February 2020, Dr Sam Taraporevala was invited by SNTD College Juhu for a national conference and addressed over 150 participants on the theme, 'Environmental Barriers and Universal Design'.
- In February 2020, Dr. Sam Taraporevala was invited by V-Connect Foundation (a parent support group for children with hearing loss) to be on the panel at the Launch of their Mainstream Guide at Y B Chavan Auditorium.
- During the year XRCVC continued to deliver a unique course called 'Diversity Discourse' which had been developed for the Xavier's Institute of Communication (XIC) in 2018-19. The objective was to sensitise participants to the many communities that society implicitly and explicitly ignores, and make a case for why it is necessary to bring these communities into mainstream public discourse. The content was imparted mainly through interactive workshops to over 250 students at XIC. This course was also offered to Honours students of St Xavier's College.



An Image of Dr. Sam Taraporevala in the session at Y. B Chavan

Conclusion

We would like to extend our gratitude to our funders, partners, and sponsors who have played a major role in making us what we are today.

We would like to specially thank Great Eastern CSR Foundation, Dhun Pestonji Parakh Discretionary Trust, State Bank of India and SBI Foundation, Godrej Industries Ltd, Techmahindra Foundation, Union Bank of India, SBI Mutual Fund, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Tata Sons Ltd, Bharat Petroleum, Sheth Developers & Realtors (India) Limited, Dow Chemical International Pvt Ltd, Tritan Tradex LLP, Lions Club of East Bombay, Inner Wheel Charity Trust Thane, Mr. Sharan Haresh Jagtiani, Ms Rashna Tehmuras Doongaji, Ms. Vabhiz Pestonjamas, Ms. Persis Pestonjamas, Mr. Mikhail Behl, Mr. Prashant Lindait, Dr. Kamlesh Desai, Ms. Kavitta Desai and Ms. Tanisha M Luthria.



A big thank you to our large pool of volunteers as well. Their commitment ensures that a small organization like the XRCVC is able to make a significant contribution and touch the lives of countless people all over the country. In conclusion, our deep appreciation goes out to St. Xavier's College — the management, staff members and students — for demonstrating to educational institutes all over the country how a centre of learning can be truly inclusive to persons with disabilities. Special thanks to our Rector, Fr. Dr. Keith D'Souza and Dr. Rajendra Shinde, the principal, whose ongoing support and guidance has helped the XRCVC continue as a centre of excellence of national repute.

A Special thanks also goes out to Dr. (Fr.) Conrad Pessa S.J. Treasurer, St. Xavier's college and his ever willing accounts team for making sure that all XRCVC accounting needs were met promptly.

Table 3: Awareness Workshops (June 2019 – May 2020)

No	Date	Participant profile	Location	Activity	Beneficiaries
1	4-Jun-19	Special Education Teacher Trainees at PH University Ludwigsburg (Germany)	PH University Ludwigsburg (Germany)	Awareness Workshop	28
2	24-Jun-19	Museum staff	CSMVS	Awareness Workshop	20
3	1-Jul-19	Film & Television diploma students	XIC	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	35
4	16-Jul-19	ITM Kharghar	XVE	Awareness Exhibition	30
5	16-Jul-19	ITM Kharghar	XVE	Awareness Exhibition	20
6	20-Jul-19	Mass media students	St Xavier's College	Awareness Workshop	55
7	24-Jul-19	Hindustan Unilever staff	HUL Office Andheri	Awareness Exhibition	30
8	1-Aug-19	College teachers	Bhayander	Awareness Workshop	25
9	7-Aug-19	Mass media students	Sophia College	Awareness Workshop	45
10	16-Aug-19	Foundation Program for First Year BTech students (Session 1)	IIT Gandhinagar	Awareness Workshop	53
11	16-Aug-19	Foundation Program for First Year BTech students (Session 2)	IIT Gandhinagar	Awareness Workshop	51
12	16-Aug-19	Foundation Program for First Year BTech students (Session 3)	IIT Gandhinagar	Awareness Workshop	52
13	16-Aug-19	Foundation Program for First Year BTech students (Session 4)	IIT Gandhinagar	Awareness Workshop	54
14	19-Aug-19	Security/Housekeeping/Parking Staff Viviana Mall	XVE	Awareness Exhibition	31
15	19-Aug-19	XRCVC Guests	XVE	Awareness Exhibition	3
16	24-Aug-19	Members of the Blue Ribbon Movement	CED, Colaba	Awareness Workshop	8



17	9-Sep-19	Diversity Discourse Course at XIC for Advertising and Marketing students	XIC	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	96
18	20-Sep-19	Nirmala Niketan Polytechnic Students (Session 1)	Nirmala Niketan	Awareness Workshop	40
19	20-Sep-19	Nirmala Niketan Polytechnic Students (Session 2)	Nirmala Niketan	Awareness Workshop	40
20	20-Sep-19	Youth4Jobs members	Mumbai University	Awareness Exhibition	30
21	28-Sep-19	SYBA Leisure Studies students	St Xavier's College	Awareness Workshop	30
22	28-Sep-19	Mass media students	St Andrew's College	Awareness Workshop	10
23	2-Oct-19	CHM College, Ulhasnagar students (Session 1)	Ulhasnagar	Awareness Workshop	35
24	2-Oct-19	CHM College, Ulhasnagar (Session 2)	Ulhasnagar	Awareness Workshop	35
25	13-Oct-19	Diversity Discourse Course at XIC for AICP students	XIC	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	15
26	14-Oct-19	Diversity Discourse Course at XIC for Journalism students	XIC	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	51
27	15-Oct-19	Empower Conference participants	IIT Delhi, Sonipat	Awareness Exhibition	20
28	15-Oct-19	Inner Wheel Club of Thane members	Thane	Awareness Exhibition	50
29	23-Oct-19	Lucknow University IDSC members	Lucknow	Awareness Workshop	63
30	7-Nov-19	Diversity Discourse Course at XIC for PR&CC students	XIC	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	57
31	15-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 1)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	33
32	15-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 2)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	29
33	16-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 3)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	23
34	16-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 4)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	26
35	22-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 5)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	54
36	22-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 6)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	26



37	23-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 7)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	33
38	23-Nov-19	TMF partners (Session 8)	TMF Smart Academy Bandra	Awareness workshop	24
39	29-Nov-19	St Xavier's college students (Science Exhibition Day 1)	XRCVC	Awareness Exhibition	229
40	30-Nov-19	St Xavier's college students (Science Exhibition Day 2)	XRCVC	Awareness Exhibition	148
41	2-Dec-19	BNY Mellon Pune employees (Session 1)	BNY Mellon Pune	Awareness workshop	11
42	2-Dec-19	BNY Mellon Pune employees (Session 2)	BNY Mellon Pune	Awareness workshop	30
43	3-Dec-19	Hindustan Unilever Limited Diversity and Inclusion Fair participants	HUL Office Andheri	Awareness Exhibition	89
44	3-Dec-19	BNY Mellon Chennai employees (Session 1)	BNY Mellon Chennai	Awareness workshop	31
45	3-Dec-19	BNY Mellon Chennai employees (Session 2)	BNY Mellon Chennai	Awareness workshop	44
46	4-Dec-19	BNY Mellon Chennai employees (Session 3)	BNY Mellon Chennai	Awareness workshop	32
47	6-Dec-19	Hindustan Unilever Ltd staff	HUL Mumbai	Awareness workshop	11
48	6-Dec-19	TMF employees, Chandivili	Tech Mahindra, Chandivili	Awareness workshop	32
49	7-Dec-19	TMF partner	TMF Smart Academy, Bandra	Awareness workshop	27
50	9-Dec-19	Jesuit Juniors	XIC	Awareness workshop	21
51	10-Dec-19	Staff at Shroff Eye Hospital, Bandra	Shroff Eye Hospital, Bandra	Awareness workshop	19
52	19-Dec-19	Staff at Shroff Eye Hospital, Marine Lines	Shroff Eye Hospital, Marine Lines	Awareness workshop	16
53	19-Dec-19	Forum of Free Enterprises invitees	Lonavala	Awareness Workshop	37
54	21-Dec-19	Leo Club members, Thane	Thane	Awareness workshop	28
55	26-Dec-19	Staff at Sahu Eye Hospital, Malad	Malad	Awareness Workshop	15
56	27-Dec-19	SXIE teachers doing a course on entrepreneurship	XRCVC	Awareness Workshop	20
57	6-Jan-20	SNDT college with office staff	SNDT College, Churchgate	Awareness workshop	36
58	6-Jan-20	NSS students of Ambedkar College, Wadala	Ambedkar College, Mumbai	Awareness Workshop	38



59	11-Jan-20	Msc IT Students of St. Xavier's College	St. Xavier's College	Awareness workshop	18
60	14-Jan-20	XIMR students at St. Xavier's College (Session 1)	St. Xavier's College	Awareness workshop	23
61	14-Jan-20	XIMR students at St. Xavier's College (Session 2)	St. Xavier's College	Awareness workshop	20
62	16-Jan-20	FYBSC IT students of St. Xavier's College (Session 1)	St. Xavier's College	Awareness workshop	29
63	16-Jan-20	FYBSC IT students of St. Xavier's College (Session 2)	St. Xavier's College	Awareness workshop	26
64	17-Jan-20	Istem Hackathon participants in Bangalore	IIIT Bangalore	Awareness Workshop	25
65	21-Jan-20	St Andrew's College FYBA students (Session 1)	St Andrew's College	Awareness Workshop	35
66	22-Jan-20	IITB-Monash Research Academy PhD scholars	IIT Bombay	Awareness Workshop	25
67	22-Jan-20	St Andrew's College FYBA students (Session 2)	St Andrew's College	Awareness Workshop	31
68	23-Jan-20	St Andrew's College FYBA students (Session 3)	St Andrew's College	Awareness Workshop	65
69	27-Jan-20	Residents of Both Village, Darwha	Both Village, Darwha	Awareness Workshop	16
70	27-Jan-20	Students of Savarkar Vidyalaya, Bhulai (Session 1)	School, Bhulai, Darwha	Awareness Workshop	51
71	27-Jan-20	Students of Savarkar Vidyalaya, Bhulai (Session 2)	School, Khopdi, Darwha	Awareness Workshop	53
72	27-Jan-20	Students of Khopdi Vidyalaya, Darwha	College, Bhulai, Darwha	Awareness Workshop	48
73	28-Jan-20	College of Social Work, Badnera, Amravati (Session 1)	College, Badnera, Amravati	Awareness Workshop	52
74	28-Jan-20	College of Social Work, Badnera, Amravati (Session 2)	College, Badnera, Amravati	Awareness Workshop	37
75	29-Jan-20	Dnyansadhana college Thane	Thane	Awareness Exhibition	269
76	30-Jan-20	Jai Hind College E-Cell Students	Jai Hind College, Churchgate	Awareness workshop	24
77	4-Feb-20	Sightsavers Call Centre staff	XIC	Awareness Workshop	13
78	6-Feb-20	St Andrew's College FYBA students	St Andrew's College	Awareness Workshop	26
79	10-Feb-20	Wilson College FYBMS students (Session 1)	Wilson College	Awareness Workshop	47
80	10-Feb-20	Wilson College FYBMS students (Session 2)	Wilson College	Awareness Workshop	26



81	20-Feb-20	Bhavan's College Andheri students and staff (Session 1)	Bhavan's College Andheri	Awareness Workshop	36
82	20-Feb-20	Bhavan's College Andheri students and staff (Session 2)	Bhavan's College Andheri	Awareness Workshop	35
83	20-Feb-20	Bhavan's College Andheri students and staff (Session 3)	Bhavan's College Andheri	Awareness Workshop	37
84	24-Feb-20	Wilson College FYBMS students (Session 3)	Wilson College	Awareness Workshop	20
85	24-Feb-20	Wilson College FYBMS students (Session 4)	Wilson College	Awareness Workshop	30
86	24-Feb-20	Wilson College FYBMS students (Session 5)	Wilson College	Awareness Workshop	42
87	25-Feb-20	Hotel Fortune staff members	Hotel Fortune	Awareness workshop	7
88	5-Mar-20	Emlyon members	XRCVC	Awareness Workshop	11
89	20-May-20	Diversity Discourse Honours Programme for St Xavier's College	Zoom Online	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	14
90	20-May-20	Diversity Discourse Honours Programme for St Xavier's College	Zoom Online	Diversity Discourse (including Awareness Workshop)	12
				TOTAL	3477