

'Affirmative Action'- the social outreach arm of TNI, on its way to accomplish its aim to increase the literacy level of the mass and heighten their socio-economic state, has taken up another bold step to reach the differently-abled members of our society -- the hearing impaired.

TNI joined hands with Noida Deaf Society (NDS) in 2006 and decided to create a program on Visual Design, Graphics and Desktop Publishing for the deaf so that their abilities can be better leveraged as well as gain a skill of higher value. This would lead them to be better employed and find the necessary recognition in the society.

NDS is a registered not-for-profit society and has been working for the upliftment of the deaf since 2005 by providing vocational training. More details on them can be found on their website - www.noidadeafsociety.net.

A one year program was launched in Oct 2006, with Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, Using flash, and Adobe Indesign as its contents. Eighteen students were enrolled in the 1st batch. The instructors are experts in their respective areas and are employed with NIIT. The Instructors participated voluntarily. For the first time in their lives, these instructors encountered the special type of students who they found equally competent as any other student, as far as intelligence was concerned, and were surprised by their visual ability and graphic design capability. Teaching and learning, both were equally satisfying. The 1st batch has successfully completed the course in Dec 2007.

However, TNI's journey with NDS and its students continues with the next batch starting in Jan 2008.