

CURRICULUM

DIPLOMA COURSES IN INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

2002

REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)

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Diploma Courses in Indian Sign Language Interpreting

A. For Institutions and Course Coordinators

Courses can be conducted by all the regional centers of AYJNIHH, deaf schools, Vocational training institutes for the deaf and *N.G.O.*'s.

- a) For each period of instruction (such as the school year, or the duration of the course), institutions have to complete a form provided with the materials with information about the use of the materials. This information will be kept confidential and will be used by researchers at AYJNIHH for statistical evaluation.
- b) For each package of educational materials, institutions have to write two yearly reports about their experiences while using educational materials. The format of the report along with a list of questions to answer is attached to the materials. The reports will be kept confidential and will be used by researchers at AYJNIHH for improving existing materials and developing new materials.
- c) Institutions have to allow access to the classes where the educational materials are used for authorized AVJNIHH staff. This procedure is intended to facilitate assessment of the implementation of the materials, to ensure quality of instruction, and to provide data for research.
- d) Institutions would have to employ suitable deaf sign language teachers as under B

B. For Sign Language Teachers

- a) Institutions have to employ suitable deaf teachers for conducting classes.
- b) The Indian Sign Language Cell at the Institute would train the teachers in their sign language teacher training course, for which a curriculum and syllabus has been developed.
- c) Institutions and schools would have to teach the course using the course materials provided by the Indian Sign Language Cell.

C. Examination and Certification

- a) Exams will be conducted by the trained sign language teachers for Levels A, B and C, together with a representative from the conducting institution who is fluent in sign language.
- b) Candidates who have passed level A, B and C may apply to the R.C.I. for certification. The examination for final certification is carried out by a board of examiners with the necessary background in sign language and sign language teaching such as senior trained teachers, master trainers from the Indian Sign Language Cell.

DIPLOMA COURSE IN INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

The Diploma Course in Indian Sign Language Interpreting is for a duration of one year full time (regular classes) or two years part time (evening classes). The course is broken up into three levels, namely, Level A,B and C, with the following course titles:

- A LEVEL (non-professional interpreter)
- B LEVEL (semi-professional interpreter)
- C LEVEL (professional interpreter)

I. **Course Options:** Full time
Part time

2. **Duration:** Three levels of three months duration each for regular classes.
Three levels of six months duration each for evening classes.

Note: All the levels can be taken together one after another in a sequential fashion or can be taken separately one at a time with gap as per convenience of the students. The course is flexible to break up *between* the different levels only.

3. Class Schedule

Each level will consists of a minimum of 60 working days for full time classes, providing for a minimum of 360 hours of course work, or an equivalent amount of hours of instruction for evening classes.

a) *Regular Classes:* Classroom instruction 36 hours a week
Additional independent practice sessions up to one hour per day

b) *Evening Classes:* Classroom instruction 12 hours a week.
Additional independent practice sessions up to two hours per week
Home study time two hours per week

4. **Entrance qualification:** A candidate shall be eligible for admission to the Diploma Course in Indian Sign Language Interpreting provided s/he has passed xii standard. Graduates in any field is preferable. Those who know how to sign will get preference.
Applicants should have completed I 8 years as on the application date.

5. **Certification:** **A LEVEL** (non-professional interpreter)
B LEVEL (semi-professional interpreter)
C LEVEL (professional interpreter)
6. **Examination** There will be 3 theory and 3 practical exams, with each level consisting one theory and one practical exam. A candidate shall be declared to have passed the exam if he/she secures **5000** of the marks in theory and 7000 in the practical exam. A candidate who has failed in any exam may present himself/herself for a total of 3 attempts.
7. **Course materials:**
- a) **Video materials:** © Zeshan, Ulrike (2001): Basic Course in Indian Sign Language (Level A)
© Zeshan, Ulrike (2002): Advanced Course in Indian Sign Language (Level B)
© Zeshan, Ulrike (forthcoming): Professional Course in Indian Sign Language (Level C)
- b) **Printed materials:** © Zeshan, Ulrike (2001): Workbook for the Basic Course in Indian Sign Language (Level A)
© Zeshan, Ulrike (2002): Workbook for the Advanced Course in Indian Sign Language (Level B)
© Zeshan, Ulrike (forthcoming): Workbook for the Professional Course in Indian Sign Language (Level C)
Zeshan, Ulrike (2000): Sign Language in Indo-Pakistan: A Description of a Signed Language. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya (2001): Indian Sign Language Dictionary. Coimbatore: Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Printing Press.
Vasishta, Madan, James Woodward & Susan deSantis (1950): *An Introduction to Indian Sign Language (Focus on Delhi)*. New Delhi: All India Federation of the Deaf
8. **Staff:**
- a) *Sign Language Instructor (deaf)*
- The teacher-student ratio should 1:15
 - qualification: minimum 10th standard passed but 12th standard passed preferred
 - practical training as sign language teacher for the appropriate level i.e. A, B or C
 - experience in sign language
- b) *Sign Language Teacher (deaf)*
- one for all course
 - qualification: graduate: experience in sign language teaching, research and development
- c) *Coordinator/Principal*
- one for all courses

COURSE SCHEDULE

‘A’. LEVEL

360 Hours

GOALS:

1. Understanding of the nature of sign language
2. Basic communicative competence in sign language
3. Basic sign language vocabulary of about 400+ words
4. Ability to interpret at a basic level

THEORY: Introduction to Deafness and Sign Language

Unit 1: The Nature of sign language

37 hours

- 1.1 Sign language is NOT the same all over the world.
- 1.2 Sign language does NOT lack grammar.
- 1.3 Sign language is NOT dependent on spoken language.
- 1.4 Sign language is NOT a “language of the hands” only.
- 1.5 Sign language has not been invented by hearing people to help deaf people.
- 1.6 No sign language are better than any other sign language.
- 1.7 Sign codes for spoken languages (Signed English, Signed Hindi etc.) are NOT better than Indian Sign Language.

Unit 2: Perspectives on sign language usage

35 hours

- 2.1 Effective communication with deaf people: Becoming a good signer
- 2.2 Deafness and society: Using sign language for inclusion in society
- 2.3 Understanding deaf culture: Aspects of deaf people, culture and communication
- 2.4 History of deafness and sign language in India
- 2.5 Characteristics of good interpreters

PRACTICAL: Basic sign language skills

216 hours

Unit 1:

21 hours

Grammar

Special statements

Topics

Greetings

Describing people and objects (Adjectival predicates)

Pronouns

21 hours

Unit 2:

Grammar

Simple with question words

Topics

Family and relations

Common objects (clothing, household, etc)

Plants

22 hours

Unit 3 :

Grammar

Questions with question words

Topics

Interrogatives

Places

People and professions

Actions

22 hours

Unit 4:

Grammar

Revision

Communicative expressions

Topics

talking about the time

21 hours

Unit 5:

Grammar

Negative sentences

Finger spelling (alphabet)

Topics

Food (vegetables, fruits, beverages, etc.)

Opposites

22 hours

Unit 6:

Grammar

Negative commands

Negative responses to offers/suggestions

Finger spelling (use)

Topics

Calendar (week/month/year)

Colours

Place names

22 hours

Unit 7:

Grammar

Numbers

Topics

Measures

Talking about money

Animals

22 hours

Unit 8:

Grammar

Revision

Use of space, perspective and role play

Topics

Body & Health

Deafness and Disability

Abstract concepts

Grading/Certification:

Title : Certified Sign Language Interpreter

Passing marks: not less than 50% in theory, not less than 70% in practical

Grading	50-60%	grade C
	61-70%	grade B
	71-80%	grade B+
	81-90%	grade A
	91-100%	grade A+

'B'. LEVEL

GOALS:

1. Understanding of the interpreting process
2. Understanding of special issues associated with sign language interpreting
3. Advanced communicative competence in sign language
4. Advanced sign language vocabulary of about 1000 words
5. Ability to interpret at an intermediate level
6. Basic understanding of the deaf community, deaf culture and biculturalism

THEORY: Oralism, Total Communication, Bilingualism – Cultural perspectives and interpreting issues

Unit 1: Definition and causes of deafness 18 hours

- 2.1 Definition of auditory and cultural deafness
- 2.2 How does it occur
- 2.3 Genealogical causes
- 2.4 Non-genealogical causes
- 2.5 Environmental causes

Unit 2: Classification and prevention of deafness 18 hours

- 3.1 Based on the age of onset
- 3.2 Based on the type of hearing loss
- 3.3 Degrees of hearing loss
- 3.4 Consequences of hearing loss
- 3.5 Prevention aspects

Unit 3: Oralism, total communication and bilingualism 18 hours

- 3.1 Oralistic approach (speech therapy, lip reading)
- 3.2 Evaluation of oralism
- 3.3 Manual communication systems (Pidgin sign, Signed English/Hindi, Indian Sign Language)

- 3.4 Evaluation of manual communication systems
- 3.5 Basic concepts of bilingualism
- 3.6 Evaluation of bilingualism

Unit 4: Basic concepts of interpreting **18 hours**

- 4.1 Categories/techniques of interpreting
- 4.2 Interpreter-client relationships
- 4.3 Professional attitudes and ethics
- 4.4 Particulars of sign language interpreting

PRACTICAL: Advance sign language skills **216 hours**

Unit 1: **31 hours**

Grammar

Revision: questions, verbs
Completed action

Topics

Diversity in the sign language
community
Deaf childhood experiences

Unit 2:

Grammar

Revision: fingerspelling, negation,
Possession
Place names and pointing signs
Imperative

Topics

Activities within the deaf community
Cooperation of deaf and hearing people
Continents and countries
Indian States and Union Territories
Cities, towns and languages

30 hours

Unit 3:

Grammar

Revision: Perspective and role play
Size and shape
Handling objects

Topics

Picture stories

31 hours

Unit 4:

Grammar

If- clauses
Enumeration

Topics

Communication issues
Government set-up

31 hours

Unit 5:

Grammar

Plural objects
Plural actions

Topics

Deaf culture
Games, sports, arts and entertainment
Religions/religious places/festivals

31 hours

Unit 6:		31 hours
Grammar	Topics	
Repeated action	Deaf education seen through ‘deaf eyes’	
Gradual processes	Educational terms	
Alternating action	School terms and subjects	
Unrealized action		

Unit 7:		31 hours
Grammar	Topics	
Auxiliary construction	Interpreting	
Expressing movement		
Adverbial facial expressions		

PRACTICAL :Interpreting

Category : *36 hours*

- *one-one-one and small group interpreting*
- *consecutive interpreting*
- *semi-formal and formal settings*

Sample settings to be practiced: *36 hours*

- medical examination
- pre-operation consultation
- employment interview/contact
- school board meetings
- semi-formal functions (e.g. deaf associations, deaf schools)

ASSESSMENT

1. *Theory* *50 marks* *time 2 hrs.*
- 2-hour written paper about the contents of the THEORY section (units 1-4)

2. *Practical* *250 marks* *time 2 hrs*
 - **comprehension :** Watching a signed text of about 3 minutes duration, writing **Providing** a summary of its content in English, Hindi or any regional
 - **Translation:**
 - Translation of sentences from sign into English, Hindi or any regional language
 - Translation of sentences from English, Hindi or any regional language into sign
 - **Interpretation:** Interpret a semi-formal 30 minute encounter between a hearing and a deaf person

Grading / Certification:

Title : Certified Sign Language Interpreter,
Level B (semi professional)

Passing marks: not less than 50% in theory, not less than 70% in practical

Grading:	50-60%	grade C
	61-70%	grade B
	71-80%	grade B+
	81-90%	grade A
	91-100%	grade A+

‘C’. LEVEL

GOALS:

1. Professional communicative competence in sign language
2. Specialized sign language vocabulary including special terminologies
3. Ability to interpret at a professional level
4. Advanced understanding of the deaf community, deaf culture and biculturalism

THEORY: Environment aids and interpreting concepts

72 hours

Unit 1:Environmental Aids

13 hours

- 1.1 Telecommunication aids (e-mail, SMS, etc.)
- 1.2 Television-Radio Listening Aids
- 1.3 Induction Loop System
- 1.4 Alarm Systems
- 1.5 Vibro –tactile aids

Unit 2: Concessions and Support Services

15 hours

- 5.1 Concessions for the deaf
- 5.2 Advocacy for deaf rights
- 5.3 Education for the deaf
- 5.4 Access to information
- 5.5 Counseling for families with deaf members

Unit 3: Interpreting Concepts

15 hours

- 2.1 Definition
- 2.2 Types of interpreting (one-on-one, small groups, large groups)
- 2.3 Settings where interpreters work (informal, semi-formal, formal)
- 2.4 Interpreting techniques (consecutive, simultaneous)
- 2.5 History of interpreting

Unit 4: Rules of Interpreting **14 hours**

- 3.1 Attitudes towards interpreters
- 3.2 Environmental concern
- 3.3 Dress code
- 3.4 Do's for interpreting
- 3.5 Don'ts for interpreting

Unit 5: Role and Ethics of Sign Language Interpreter **15 hours**

- 4.1 Role of an interpreter: concept of biculturalism
- 4.2 Discreet and confidential
- 4.3 Accuracy and proficiency
- 4.4 Importance of impartial attitude
- 4.5 Code of ethics

PRACTICAL : specialized sign language skills **144 hours**

Unit 1: Advanced sign language grammar **72 hours**

- 1.1 Subordinate clauses
- 1.2 Relativization
- 1.3 Discourse markers
- 1.4 Text organization
- 1.5 Use of the sign space
- 1.6 Creative uses of sign language

Unit 2: Advanced sign language vocabulary **72 hours**

- 2.1 signs with complex semantics
- 2.2 Existing specialized vocabulary/terminologies
- 2.3 Issues of vocabulary development
- 2.4 Dealing with regional variation in the sign language lexicon
- 2.5 Formal versus informal registers in sign language
- 2.6 Different text types in sign language

PRACTICAL : interpreting **144 hours**

Category: *72 hours*

- One-on-one, small group and large group interpreting
- Consecutive interpreting
- Simultaneous interpreting
- Formal settings

Sample settings to be practical *72 hours*

- medical interpreting
- contracts (private, business)
- court proceedings
- conference address, conference presentation

ASSESSMENT :

1. 30-minutes exam in sign language about issues of interpretation, sign language, and biculturalism
2. 30 –minute consecutive interpreting in formal setting
3. 15- minute simultaneous interpreting in formal setting

Grading/Certification:

Title: Certified Sign Language Interpreter
Level C (professional)

Passing Marks: not less than 50% in theory, not less than 70% in practical

Grading:	50-60%	grade C
	61-70%	grade B
	71-80%	grade B+
	81-90%	grade A
	91-100%	grade A+

