

Helping children with dyslexia



St. Joseph's Primary School, Baina recently hosted a workshop on 'Awareness of Specific Learning Disabilities', organised by St. Joseph's Institute(Primary) in association with Kabir Bhogilal and Goa Dyslexic Association. The talk was conducted at three venues, Vasco, Margao and Panjim from

17 to 19 March gathering a large audience of parents, teachers, special educators, psychologists and principals from different schools all over Goa.

The three eminent speakers were from the UK; Dr. Tilly Mortimore, Senior Lecturer in SpLD/Dyslexia at Bath Spa University; Professor

Steve Chinn PhD, FRSA; and Malcolm Litten Consultant in Dyslexia and Assistive Technology, part of the British Dyslexia Association. The team stressed on the fact that each student has a specific style of learning which requires to be encouraged.

Professor Chinn, who has been teaching mathematics for several years to special children discussed about effective classroom communication, mathematical learning difficulties and how dyslexic students look at mathematics differently. Dr. Mortimore, Senior lecturer and author of several books on dyslexia spoke about supporting dyslexic learners and early detection of literary problems.

Malcolm Litten guided the audience on Assistive Technology and informed about software available to change text to speech and vice-versa and guide

dyslexic students. The software can help students to read a text of any word length as frequently as required. The software is also able to convert speech to text by decoding the word closest to the spelling with the help of a spell checker.

The audience was open to ask questions at the end of every session and many parents were able to resolve their queries and misconceptions related to the issue.

