

Embrace: A Space Station of Inclusion and Diversity

In 2099, the first interstellar space station was constructed. It was given the name "Embrace" as a tribute to the principles it represents, which include diversity and inclusiveness. Unlike its predecessors, Embrace was designed to embrace diversity rather than remove it. It is a place where everyone is treated equally and independently, and unlike traditional attitudes of persons with disabilities, Embrace values their contributions to science and technology.

The construction of Embrace took 10 years, and the design working group was comprised of disabled and non-disabled individuals chosen for their different backgrounds and experiences. One of the most creative aspects of the space station is the use of Crip Technoscience to accommodate disabled individuals. The equipment on the International Space Station is designed to serve the demands of persons with disabilities, who are viewed as a source of creativity and invention rather than a problem to be solved. Similarly, possibilities for employment and life aboard the space station are equal and fair, and people with and without impairments desire the same rights and opportunities.

As soon as individuals enter the space station, they observe a noticeable difference. The technology aboard the space station is designed to accommodate the diverse needs of all crew members. For instance, sensors on the doors detect the crew's height and adjust appropriately, making it easier

for shorter or taller crew members to navigate the space station. In addition, the space station's equipment is multi-accessible, and all switches and buttons may be controlled in a variety of ways, including touch displays, voice recognition, etc. This is due to the disabled members of the design team, who played a significant role in the creation of the design and collaborated with able-bodied individuals to tailor it to the needs of specific users. The medical module of the space station is outfitted with cutting-edge medical technology to diagnose and treat a vast array of conditions. In addition, it features a fitness centre with adaptive exercise equipment so that everyone can exercise safely and comfortably. On the space station, there is even an intelligent prosthesis that reacts to the user's motions and provides additional support and stability.

Crew members are astounded by the station's design's level of inclusivity and accessibility. Yet what truly distinguishes Embrace is its operational processes. The space station has a well-developed and inclusive decision-making process, and its hiring process will prioritise recruiting a wide variety of individuals, including those with disabilities. This will ensure that diverse viewpoints and experiences are integrated into the station's design and management. Despite the crew's concern for the physical and psychological safety of persons with disabilities, it was surprising to learn that there is no concept of pushing people with disabilities to conform. The station's culture is fair and does not drive persons with disabilities to mend and heal their impairments; it is not

"compulsively able-bodied." On Embrace, non-disabled individuals must embrace disparities in social communication and the limitations of disabled individuals. To truly consider the perspective of people with impairments and consider how people might speak regularly without feeling awkward. Finding common ground, recognising differences, accepting them, and not judging those who are different from you based on outdated social norms.

Several organisations have been motivated by the success of Embrace to follow the concepts of cript technoscience and develop more inclusive and accessible technologies. This transition is the result of decades of technical advancement, and the Embrace space station is a tribute to the power of inclusion. It is a location where differences that were once considered obstacles are now viewed as assets. It is a beacon of hope for a world progressively awakening to the importance of diversity and inclusion.