**News: 2021-22**

**ACADEMIC**

**AIISH Entrance Examination – 2021//13th September 2021**

**AIISH Entrance Examination:** The Institute conducted national-level online entrance examinations to admit students to the Bachelor of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (B.ASLP), M.Sc. (Audiology), and M.Sc. (Speech-Language Pathology) on 13th September 2021. A total of 4001 candidates had applied for the Entrance Examination and408 for M.Sc. (Audiology) examinations held in 15 centres in 13 states across India.

**Inspection for RCI Affiliation//17th September 2021**

**RCI Inspection and Recognition**: The Institute obtained the renewal of affiliation for conducting Diploma Programme in Hearing Aid and Earmould Technology, and approval for enhancement of the number of seats of the B.ASLP program from the existing 62 to 82 from the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), Govt. of India, New Delhi. A team of RCI experts comprising Dr. Sanjay Mujraland Dr.Suman carried out a physical inspection of the Institute facilities and services on 17th September 2021.

**Cleft Lip and Palate Awareness month**

The Institute observed July 2021 as Cleft Lip and Palate Awareness Monthto raise awareness about and prevent a congenital condition known as cleft lip and palate. A live-phone-in-program was organized for the persons and caregivers of Cleft-Lip and Palate on 16th July 2021. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH, and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Clinical Psychologist, AIISH, served as the resource persons. Dr. GopiShankar, Research Officer, moderated the program, which was broadcasted live on the official Facebook page and YouTube channel of the Institute.

**56th Annual Day of AIISH//09 Aug 2021**

The Institute celebrated its 56th Annual Day On 09th August 2021**.** Ms. VandanaGurnani, Additional Secretary (Health), Govt. of India, served as chief guest of the inaugural function held in virtual mode. Launching AIISH hearing screening app, andreleasing various test materials, public education pamphlets,posters, and newbornhearing screening reports were done as a part of the event. The Institute introduced a transportation service for the elderly and physically disabled persons with communication disorders using a battery-operated vehicle sponsored by the Bank of Baroda, AIISH branch on the occasion. The day was also marked with tree plantation by the Director, faculty, and staff of the Institute.

**Mobile App for Hearing Screening**

The Department of Audiology developed an android-based mobile app, *AIISH Hearing Screening (AHS) App,* for hearing screening.  Using this end-to-end app, people can screen themselves to test their hearing abilities and get it rectified by visiting their nearest speech and hearing centers. The AHS app is freely downloadable from the Google Playstore, and it takes less than five minutes to administer. It is useful testing the hearing of adults and children aged eight years and above.

**Graduation Day 2020//9th August 2021**

The Institute Graduation Day 2020, was held on 9thAugust 2021 in virtual mode. Prof. Lingaraja Gandhi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Bengaluru University, Bengaluru, Ms. Preeti Pant, Joint Secretary (Urban Health), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi and Former Professor Ramesh K Oza, Audiologist, Calipsonic, Mumbai, were the distinguished guests of the function. Awards, honors, and endowment cash prizes were presented to the University rank holder students of the Institute, sponsored by AIISH alumni and others.Prizes and medals were also given away to the students' Best Clinical Presentation and Journal Paper Presentation.

**Inclusive Therapy Park//9th October 2021**

The Institute opened an Inclusive Therapy,one of its kind for children with communication disorders. Shri. VikasSheel, I.A.S, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and Shri. PrathapSimha, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mysuru-Kodagu Loksabha Constituency, inaugurated the facility on 9th October 2021.The park, a joint venture of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and Mysore City Corporation, provides an inclusive environment for children with special needs and facilitates their independent play skills. The play equipment in the park includes wheel-chair-enabled swing and merry-go-round, mother- and child-friendly see-saw, tyre and rope climbers, tyre tunnels and crawlers, and mini- and multi-play stations. The park also includes an exercise area for adults and elderly persons with communication disorders such as aphasia, dysarthria, and apraxia with co-morbid motor disabilities.

**Commemoration of International Sign Language Day 2021//**23rd September

The Institute observed the International Day of Sign Languages on 23rd September 2021. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH, inaugurated the event and delivered a message. Shri. Rajkumar R. SpecialEducator, AIISH, delivered a half-day online orientation lecture as a part of the event. The topics covered in the lecture include, introduction to sign language, finger spellings & numbers, basic vocabulary, sentence framing and grammar in Indian Sign Language. Nearly 800 persons from across the country attended the orientation program**.** The commemoration activities were organized under the aegis of the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Unit, Department of Clinical Services, and Department of Special Education of the Institute.

**Vigilance Awareness Week 2021**

In line with the directions of the Central Vigilance Commission, the Institute observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 from 26th October to 1st November 2021. Several activities were organized to spread this year's theme, Independent India @ 75: Self Reliance with Integrity. The program began with administering the Integrity Pledge to all the staff by Dr. M.Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH, in the presence of Dr. P. Manjula, Vigilance Officer. Posters with slogans on vigilance and integrity were displayed at various locations of the Institute. Sri. Mahabir Singh Kasana, Joint Director, Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, DoPT., Govt. of India & Master Trainer, gave a guest lecture on Transparency and accountability to promote self-reliance in governance on 27th October 2021, in virtual mode.

**AIISH Audiology Convention**

The Institute organized the 1st AIISH Audiology Convention with the theme, *Bridging the gap between theory and clinical practice in audiology* under the aegis of the Department of Audiology, from 11th to 12th November 2021, in virtual mode. The conference's objective was to update the knowledge and skills of the students and professionals in the field of audiology. Dr. Sunil Kumar, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, inaugurated the event. Dr. Shelly Chadha, Technical Lead for ear and hearing care, Department of Non-communicable Diseases, W.H.O., served as the guest of honor and delivered a keynote address. There were eight invited talks, two-panel discussions, 42 scientific paper presentations, and four doctoral theses presentations. Two scientific papers in each conference category were considered for the best paper award. Nearly three hundred students and professionals across the world registered for the program. The convention instituted an oration award for the speech and hearing professional who served in the Department of Audiology, AIISH, for more than 15 years. Sri E.P. Balakrishnan, a retired employee of the Audiology Department, AIISH, Mysore, received the first AIISH Audiology Oration Award for his accomplishments and contribution to the field.

**Newborn Care Week**

On the occasion of the National Newborn Care Week being observed from 15th November to 21, the Institute took the initiative in raising awareness about newborn care, specifically focusing on the importance of early identification and intervention of babies at risk for communication disorders. A free newborn screening camp for communication disorders was organized from 16th November to 18 at the Institute.

**AAC Awareness Week**

The Institute observed the International AAC Awareness Week with the theme, *Get Out, Speak Up, and Breakthrough the screen in a Recovering World* from 25th to 30th October 2021. Mr. David Goldberg, renowned AAC & Assistive Technology Specialist, Princeton, New Jersey, USA, delivered an invited talk on *Case studies on application of AAC devices for clients with communication disorders* on 25th October in virtual mode. An orientation program was held about AAC Unit and myths & facts about AAC in Kannada and Malayalam on 26th October. An exhibition of AAC devices was also arranged. Competitions on minimal pair signing games, memory-based signing games, and signing for statements/ slogans were conducted for staff and students of the Institute. The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Unit of the Institute coordinated the event.

1st AIISH Audiology Convention – 11.11.2021 & 12.11.2021

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities//3rdDecember 2021**

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed at the Institute on 3rd December 2021. The event aims to promote awareness of disability issues, the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities, and their political, social, economic, and cultural fields. Mrs. Roopa M.J. I.P.S., Additional Commissioner, Mysuru City Corporation, virtually participated as the chief guest and M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH, Mysuru, presided.Ramadevi B., the mother of an autistic child treated at the Institute, was conferred the Best Mother of the year-2021 award on the occasion. Also, Mr. Karthik B.K., a person with cleft lip and palate, who completed the diploma in electronics and communication and currently working as technical lead in Happy Minds Company, Mysuru, Ms. Asna T.P, a person with hearing impairment, who completed her Bachelor's in Architecture currently working as an architect and designer, and Annushaka Bhattacharjee, a person with autism spectrum disorder, who completed her 10th standard through National Open Schooling, and working as an assistant teacher at a special school were felicitated.

**NAAC Assessment and Accreditation//**

**From 29thDecember 2021 to 30thDecember 2021,**

The Institute underwent the cycle-II assessment of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council  Accreditation, UGC from 29thDecember to 30thDecember 2021. A three-member NAAC delegation led by its Chairman Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice-Chancellor, Gurunanak Dev University, Amritsar. Punjab; Member coordinator, Prof (Dr.) Vijay Nath Mishra, Professor Department of Neurology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; and Member, Prof. (Dr.) Sujata Bhan, Professor & Head, Department of Special Education, SNDT Womens' University, Mumbai, reassessed the Institute.

Hearing Screening App (AIISH, Staf of Mysore)