DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

**Profile**

The department is involved in clinical services by carrying out individualized, detailed diagnostic and intervention based psycho-educational assessments of children at risk, and those with various types of communication disorders and developmental disabilities including mental retardation, autism, speech delays, learning disabilities, and multiple handicaps. Individual and group counseling services, vocational guidance and coaching guidelines for adult living are given regularly for needy individuals with communication disorders or their family members. Certification for securing various benefit or concessions or for testifying in medico legal cases made available by the Central/State governments for persons with disabilities is routinely dispensed for eligible cases. Parent and teacher training programs are regularly conducted for target caregivers of children with special needs.

**Academic Activities**

**Short-term Training Programs**

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| **1** | **Name/Topic of the Program** | 5th contact Program for parents under Certificate Course for Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities (C4D2) |
|  | **Targeted Audience** | Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities |
|  | **Number of Participants** | 15 |
|  | **Date** | 19-23.04.2010 |

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| Sl. No. | Date | Title of the program | Target Group | Date |
| 1. | 19-23.04.2010 | 5th contact Program for parents under Certificate Course for Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities (C4D2) | 15 parents | 19-23.04.2010 |
| **Name of the faculty: Dr.S.Venkatesan, Dr.G.Jayarama &Mr.Freddy Antony** | | | | |
| 1. | 31.05.2010- 11.06.2010 | 12th contact program on ‘Sensitization on Academic problems in school Children for Teachers in Karnataka’ | 34 IERTs | AIISH, Mysore |
| 2. | 12-23.07.2010 | 13th contact program on ‘Sensitization on Academic problems in school Children for Teachers in Karnataka’ | 29 IERTs | AIISH, Mysore |
| 3. | 16-27.08.2010 | 14th contact program on ‘Sensitization on Academic problems in school Children for Teachers in Karnataka’ | 32 IERTs | AIISH, Mysore |
| 4. | 8-19.11.2010 | 15th contact program on ‘Sensitization on Academic problems in school Children for Teachers in Karnataka’ | 38 IERTs | AIISH, Mysore |

1. **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**
2. **Research Projects**
3. Project with Extramural Funding

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| Title of the Project | Sensitizing Teachers on Academic Problems in School children in Karnataka |
| Principal Investigator | Dr. S. Venkatesan |
| Project Staff | P.M.Krupakshari(Project Assistant) Sowmya (Steno) |
| Funding Agency | SSA |
| Fund | Rs.14 Lakhs |
| Status | First Phase Completed |
| **Summary:** AIISH Mysore and SSA Karnataka, joined hands to address academic problem in primary school children, by organising “Sensitivity training” to about 1000 IERTs. A dedicated team of resource persons covered various topics related to academic problem, their assessment and remediation through lectures, case history taking, group discussion, individual case presentation etc. Each 12 day program covered 40 participants, every month through 15 batches completed during 2010-11. The program included a course manual in English/Kannada along with in built schemes to evaluate them, the resource persons, participants and program implementation. It is expected that a 2nd phase of this program will be initiated shortly. | |

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| Title of the Project | “Impact Evaluation of Training Courses in Rehabilitation and Special Education under Rehabilitation Council of India”. |
| Principal Investigator | Dr. Vijayalakshmi Basavaraj and Dr. S. Venkatesan |
| Project Staff | Vasudha K.G. |
| Funding Agency | RCI, Ministry of Social justice & Empowerment, Government of India. |
| Fund | Rs. 2.22 Lakhs |
| Status | Ongoing |
| **Summary:** This study followed a cross sectional group comparison design where by important parameters were evaluated such as:   1. Teacher-Pupil Evaluation 2. Process and Outcome Evaluation 3. Temporal or Time Based Evaluation like Baseline, Mid-term and Terminal Evaluation 4. Content Evaluation and 5. Utility Evaluation   Field visits and data collection is completed and data analysis is ongoing. | |

1. **Project with ARF Funds**

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| Title of the Project | “Development and Standardization of Autism Behavior Check list for Disability Estimation” (A2E) |
| Principal Investigator | Dr. S. Venkatesan |
| Project Staff | Shilpa. P.Augustine |
| Fund | Rs.4.85Lakhs |
| Status | Ongoing |
| **Summary:** It is the aim of this project, to identify a specific set of behavioral features that characterize most of the children diagnosed as autism or related conditions; to develop a comprehensive checklist to enable their diagnosis and certification. Data collection for pilot study, pilot data collected from 26 cases of children with communication disorders by method of observation, interviewing parents, use of checklist is in progress. A departmental presentation and review about project was done. | |

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| Title of the Project | Process evaluation of DHLS Program conducted through Actual vis-à-vis Virtual Modes | |
| Principal Investigators | Dr. Vijayalakshmi Basavaraj and Dr. S. Venkatesan |
| Project staff | Mr.Mohammad Rafi |
| Fund | Rs.8.52 lakhs |
| Status | Ongoing |
| **Summary:** this project is in its 3rd phase of extension during this reporting year. As before, the project continues to attempt a process evaluation of the ongoing DHLS program being conducted through actual vis-à-vis virtual mode of instruction at 11 centers and another 10 regular centers across the country. A new dimension added to this project during this reporting year was gathering feedback on demand analysis, details of infrastructure, job attrition and job evaluation etc. Data collection for the ongoing year is completed and analysis is going on. | |

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| --- | --- |
| Title of the Project | Enabling and empowering siblings of children with communication disorders |
| Principal Investigator | Dr. S. Venkatesan |
| Project Staff | Ms. Nimisha Raveendran |
| Fund | Rs.3.19 Lakhs |
| Status | Ongoing |
| **Summary:** This project aims to study the psychosocial correlates of siblings of children with disabilities by using standardized assessment measures and to carryout community initiatives that can help enlighten, enable, encourage and empower siblings as much as their parents or the actual children with handicaps. In the initial stages of project, data has been collected from the normal siblings of disabled children by using semi-structured interview, open ended questions to find out their knowledge, opinion, attitude etc., towards the affected child. It also helps to explore the physical, emotional, social and financial impact on healthy siblings. Another aim of this project is to organize short term sensitivity training program for identified group of healthy siblings from families caring for a person with disability. | |

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| --- | --- |
| Title of the Project | “Impact evaluation of government benefits and concession provided to persons with mental retardation belonging to Mysore district” |
| Principal Investigator | Dr. G. Jayaram |
| Co-Investigator | Dr. Kalyan Kumar, Mr. Raju Mr. Purushotham, and Mr. Prathap Kumar |
| Fund | 3.20 lakhs |
| Status | Ongoing |
| **Summary:** This project aims to undertake an impact evaluation of Monthly Pension Scheme introduced by Govt. of Karnataka for the individuals with mental retardation belonging to Mysore District and to develop appropriate model to enable such evaluations from time to time for such programs in other districts and across the country where scheme is being implemented. The project also aims to study the attitudes of public and functionaries about the implementation of this program in the society. The following tools are finalized for the project:   * Socio-demographic data sheet * Attitude scale towards the benefits and concessions scheme provided to individuals with mental retardation (ASBCS) * Impact evaluation scheme/ format- almost finalised   With regard to carrying out the project, a letter to DC-Mysore District seeking the permission to carry out the program has been finalized and address of all the beneficiaries are short listed (being used during the survey). | |

**Publications**

1. **CLINICAL SERVICES**
2. **General Clinical Services and Statistics of Various Department**

Diagnostic Services: Almost all cases registered at the institute undergo routine psychometric for differential diagnosis. Pre-vocational assessment is carried out for adolescent/adults with communication disorders. Neuro-psychological evaluations are conducted for individuals with neuro-linguistic/communication problems. Psycho-educational achievement testing and grade level assessment are done for children with scholastic backwardness and academic under achievement. Behavior assessment is done for children with problem behaviors/skill deficits. Family assessment is done on specific cases requiring family intervention programs.

Table 1: Overview of cases seen in Psycho-diagnostic clinic

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Particulars | Total No. Cases |
| 1. | New cases | 4402 |
| 2. | Old cases | 1175 |
| 3. | Total no. Hindi cases | 239 |

Table 2: Diagnosis-wise distribution of cases

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Categories of cases | Number of cases |
| 1. | Mental Retardation | 1862 |
| 2. | Expressive language disorder | 941 |
| 3. | Hearing Loss | 448 |
| 4. | Learning Disability | 457 |
| 5. | Stuttering | 398 |
| 6. | Misarticulation | 75 |
| 7. | Cerebral palsy | 37 |
| 8. | Aphasia | 59 |
| 9. | Autism | 24 |
| 10. | Functional Voice Disorder | 07 |
| 11. | Voice Problem | 16 |
| 12. | Others | 920 |

**Therapeutic Services:** These services are routinely provided for cases with various types of communication disorders. Home based and clinic based remedial training programs are provided for children with scholastic backwardness. Appropriate individual and family guidance and counseling are carried out for cases when necessary. Preadolescent and adolescent individuals with disabilities are given pre-vocational guidance after appropriate aptitude testing. Neuropsychological retraining programs include attention retraining, memory tainting or allied cognitive training programs for individuals with neuro-linguistic/communication problems. Individualized behavior counseling, therapy and modification is carried out in clinics as well as home setting for cases reporting behavior problems. Skill training on activities of daily living, functional academics, and functional living skills, social or communicative skills is given for cases showing skills deficits behaviors.

Table 3: Details on Nature and type of therapy provided to cases

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Particulars | Total No. of Cases | Total No. of Sessions |
| 1. | Behavior therapy | 617 | 979 |
| 3. | Home based training program for MR/SLD | 405 | 1293 |
| 4. | Remedial training for SLD cases | 51 | 394 |
| 5. | Parent counseling program | 3075 | 3075 |
| 6. | Neuropsychological Assessment | 38 | 79 |
| 7. | Neuropsychological rehabilitation | 44 | 315 |
| 8. | Home based rehabilitation program | 6 | 17 |

1. **Specialized Clinical Services of Department**

**Parental Group Counseling**

This program was started in the department wherein parents of children with various developmental communication disorders participate. This has become as an ongoing activity. The counseling will be done in three languages (Kannada, Hindi and English) batch wise with 10 members in a batch. This year the departmental staff successfully carried out 3 programs. The program is being coordinated by Mrs.U.Pratibha along with assistance from Ms. Madhuri J Holla and Ms.Nimisha Raveendran.

Dr.S.Venkatesan participated as expert to counsel parents of children with special needs for 1 session.

Dr.G.Jayarama, Reader in Clinical psychology, participated as expert to counsel parents of children with special needs for 2 sessions

**Benefits and concessions**: All eligible and deserving cases were issued appropriate certificates stating the nature and extent of their disability. The various concessions and social/economic benefits including certificates for financial assistance, travel concessions, income tax rebates, special school admissions, exemptions from second language study in school, L.I.C/U.T.I schemes etc. Psychological reports were issued on request from professional peers for academic and administrative purposes. Reports were provided for medico-legal cases and expert opinion was provided during court proceedings.

Table 4: Benefits and concessions provided to cases from Psycho-diagnostics

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Particulars of case | Total. No. |
| 1. | MR Certificates issued for individuals with Mental Retardation | 1287 |
| 2. | Railway concession certificates | 94 |
| 3. | Certificate issued for the individuals with Learning disabilities. | 156 |
| 4. | Psychological Report for special school admissions | 117 |
| 5. | Income Tax Exemption Certificate for parents of M.R | 30 |
| 6. | Medico-legal cases | 3 |
| 7. | Court appearance for rendering expert opinion | 3 |

**Additional Professional Engagements of Staff**

**Dr. S. Venkatesan**

1. Served as External Examiner for Evaluation of M. Phil. Medical & Social Psychology for 11 students at the Department of Clinical Psychology, Sweekaar Rehabilitation Institute for Handicapped, Secunderabad: AP, affiliated to Osmania University, Hyderabad, between 2-4th July, 2010

2. Served as External Examiner for Evaluation of Ph.D. Thesis submitted by Sri V Surendran vide the topic titled ‘A study of Cognitive functioning in children with acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia pre and post medical oncological treatment’ submitted at the Department of Psychology, University of Madras, Chennai, in 3rd September, 2010.

3. Served as External Examiner for Evaluation of M.Sc. Clinical Psychology for 15 students at the Department of Clinical Psychology, Kuvempu University, Shimoga, in January, 2011.

1. **Visits abroad**

Not applicable

1. **Details of Guest Faculty Visited the Institute and Lecture Delivered**

The Department organized a **guest lecture** on “**Professional Identity of Clinical Psychologist in India: where are we- An Introspection”** by **Dr. Sivaratnamma L Vaya,** Director, Institute of Behavior Sciences and Directorate of Forensic Sciences, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.

1. **Details of guest lectures delivered by Faculty and Staff outside the Institute**

## Dr. S. Venkatesan

1. Participated as Expert Member in First Regional Parents Meet hosted by Mysore District Patents Association for Empowering Developmentally Disabled and sponsored by NIMH, Secunderabad for 150 parents on 3rd to 4th July 2010 at JSS Polytechnic for the Differently Abled Persons, Mysore.
2. Interactive Meet for Discussion on FAQs while parenting toddlers and preschool aged children, 100 parents on 20.11.2010 at Mitra Jyothi Montessori School, Kagadaspura, Bangalore.
3. Invited Lecture on ‘Learning Disability: The Continuing Challenge’ National Seminar on Learning Disability; Approaches, Challenger and Provisions on 29-30.11.2010 at Department of Social Sciences, Lady Doak College, Madurai
4. Invited as Key Note Speaker at Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Kovai forNational Seminar on Mental Retardation: Inclusive Education for Children with Mental Retardation- An Introspection on 25-27.2.2011
5. Orientation Program on ‘Substance Abuse’ for 120 High School Students of DMS RIE, Mysore on 16.02.2011.
6. Basics of Child Development, Child Psychology & Assessment; learning Disability for 120 students of I & II Year PG Diploma in Mental Health & Counseling at Manasa Education Foundation under Kuvempu University, Shimoga held at Shimoga.
7. Served as Chief Guest and Key Note Speaker in the Seminar on “Positive Psychology-A Road to Well-Being’ organized by Department of Psychology, SBRRR Mahajana First Grade College, Mysore, on 21st March, 2011.
8. **Additional Academic Responsibilities of the Faculty and Staff**

**Dr. S. Venkatesan**

* Advisor for GOI Project under MSJE, Member in project Advisory Committee. Expert Review of ‘Simple tool for Intellectual Assessment’ being developed and standardized by NIMH, Secunderabad on February 2911.
* Nominated as Coordinator to monitor implementation of provisions of UN Convention for Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD) w.e.f. June, 2010
* Coordinator for AIISH-SSA project.
* Coordinator, Certificate Course for caregivers of children with Developmental Disabilities (C4D2).
* Member Secretary –AIISH Ethics Committee
* Nominated as Expert Member, Board of Editors, Journal of Disability Management and Special Education, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University from January 2011.

**Dr. G. Jayarama**

* DHLS Ajmer Centre Coordinator
  + Coordinator - Monthly public lecture series program.

## Mr. Freddy Antony

* Coordinator, DHLS, RIMS Imphal Centre.

Mrs. U. Pratibha

* In-charge of Practicum for DTYDHH.

**Mr. Sanjeev K Gupta**

* In-charge of Practicum for DTYDHH.