**INSTITUTE PROFILE**

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore, is the foremost organization in the country, mandated to help and support people with communication disorders. Founded in 1965 as an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, AIISH has been successfully carrying out its activities for the last 46 years. In pursuit of its mission of ensuring effective communication by one and all, the institute (a) generates and prepares knowledgeable and skilled practitioners in Speech - Language Pathology and Audiology and allied fields, who can provide state-of-the art, client-centered service in multiple settings,(b) conducts both basic and applied research in areas related to communication disorders and disseminates the findings among the local, national and international audiences, (c) provides affordable, accessible and high-quality speech, language, and hearing clinical services to the needy ones, and (d) develops, implements and evaluates education and outreach programs to address the prevention, intervention and control of communication disorders.

Started as an institute to train the postgraduate students in Speech and Hearing, today AIISH has grown into the largest institute in the country offering various diploma, graduate, postgraduate, postgraduate diploma, doctoral and post doctoral programs in the field, in addition to rendering clinical services to thousands of persons with communication disorders from all over the country and conducting multi-faceted research to find solutions to the challenges of communication disorders. All these activities are spearheaded by the experts working in 11 departments of the I n s t i t u t e , n a m e l y A u d i o l o g y, C e n t r e f o r Rehabilitation and Education through Distance Mode, Clinical Psychology, Clinical Services, Electronics, Otorhinolaryngology, Prevention of Communication Disorders, Special Education, Speech-Language Pathology, Speech-Language Sciences, and Material Development.

The institute has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence in the area of deafness by World Health Organization, as a Centre of Advanced Research by University Grants Commission, as a Science & Technology Institute by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and as the nodal centre for implementation of prevention and control of deafness by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

**Major activities**

The major activities of the institute are outlined below.

**1. MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT**

One of the major objectives of the institute is to generate manpower in the field of speech and hearing in the country. This premier institute is responsible for generation of quality manpower. It is the very first institute in the field of speech and hearing to have offered specialization in Masters Program, Doctoral and Post doctoral programs in the field of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

The personnel involved in the mission of promoting the field of speech and hearing include highly qualified faculty in the core departments of Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Speech-Language Sciences, Centre for Rehabilitation and Education through Distance Mode (CREDM), Prevention of Communication Disorders (POCD) and Clinical Services. It also includes the able faculty from the departments of allied areas such as Departments of Clinical Psychology, Electronics, Otorhinolaryngology, Material development, and Special Education. The Academic Section coordinates the various academic activities related to students and faculty.

 **2. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing is the leading organization in the country in conducting both basic and applied research related to speech, language and hearing and related fields of knowledge. Research activities of the institute come under two broad categories: (a) Faculty Research and (b) Student Research.

There are two types of faculty research. i) Extramurally Funded Research ii) Intramurally Funded Research. Extramurally funded research projects are sponsored by national and international agencies like Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and World Health Organization. Intramurally funded research projects are sponsored by the institute through the AIISH Research Fund (ARF).

Student researches are being carried out at the institute under the supervision of experienced faculty members. These include: (a) Doctoral and Post-doctoral Research and (b) Postgraduate Research.

**3. CLINICAL SERVICES**

The institute offers a wide variety of clinical services to persons with communication disorders in the country. Clinical activities of the Institute can be broadly categorized as: (a) General Clinical Services (b) Specialized Clinical Services (c) Clinical Outreach Services (d) Clinical Electronic Services and (e) Clinical Support Services.

Highly skilled clinical practitioners of the departments of Audiology, Clinical Services, Speech - Language Pathology, Speech - Language Sciences along with allied p r o f e s s i o n a l s a t t h e d e p a r t m e n t s o f Otorhinolaryngology and Clinical Psychology have been delivering outpatient general clinical services.

In addition to the general clinical services, the institute also delivers a number of specialized clinical services through the credentialed professionals working in the Departments of Audiology, Speech - Language Pathology, Speech - Language Sciences, Special Education and ENT.

The institute facilitates the services of various allied medical s p e c i a l i t i e s t o t h e n e e d y p a t i e n t s w i t h communication disorders who register in the department of clinical services. The patients can avail the consulting services from Paediatrician, Neurologist, Plastic surgeon, Prosthodontist,

The institute conducts outreach services with the objective of providing diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients in remote areas, suffering from communication disorders and making the public aware of the measures to be taken to prevent communication disorders. These services supplement and support the care people receive within their local healthcare system.

**4. EXTENSION SERVICES**

Due to geographical, social and financial reasons many persons with communication disorders are unable to come directly to the institute. Also there is lack of awareness about communication disorders and preventive measures. To resolve these issues the institute undertook extension services as

1. Publicity and Informationactivities by which all the programs and events related to the institute are being communicated through the electronic and print media. Public education materials are also being prepared and distributed among the public to create awareness regarding hearing, speech, language and other communication disorders
2. Camps are being conducted at various places within Karnataka and other neighboring states. These camps are mainly sponsored by NGO’s, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).A few are sponsored by the state and district agencies.
3. Orientation lectures on prevention, identification and management of communication disorders/ impairment are given by the staff to various target groups.
4. A monthly public lecture series program is being conducted with the objective of creating awareness among the public on various communication disorders. In this program, experts in the field of communication disorders deliver one-hour lecture on various topics.