About the Institute

Communication disorders are difficulties involving speech, language and or hearing, which have been accepted as a major public health issue as they compromise early childhood development, restrict vocational attainment and attenuate the economic well-being of the society.

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 Institute namely Audiology, Centre for Rehabilitation 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 WHO, as a Centre of Advanced Research by UGC, as a Science & Technology Institute by Department of Science and Technology (DST), and as the nodal centre for implementation of prevention and control of deafness by Ministry of Health & family welfare, Govt. of India.

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Message from the Director

I am proud to present the 46th annual report of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore. This report briefly outlines the activities performed by the institute in 2010-11.

At the outset, I report the untimely demise of Dr. Vijayalakshmi Basavaraj on 19th March 2011, while she was serving the Institute as its Director. I wish to place on record my heartfelt sorrow and grief over her death and appreciate the fact that most of the activities of the institute during the year under report, were taken place during her tenure. She played a pivotal role in leading the institute towards attaining the status of centre of excellence and added a dynamic dimension to the functioning of the institute.

Past year, the institute continued to be committed to the training, research, patient care, and public education activities pertaining to the field of speech, language and hearing and allied fields and it was another successful year during which AIISH moved forward both by expanding its existing activities and initiating new ones.

The institute strengthened its academic activities by inducting more number of faculty members and incorporating state-of-the art instructional technologies. Further, it enriched the academic offerings by introducing a new program entitled ‘Post-Graduate Diploma in Neuro-audioolgy’ and launching a practical laboratory for providing hands-on experience to the students in the use of various audiological assessment equipments and hearing device fitting.

During the year under review, the institute witnessed active research works by the faculty and students on an impressive range of topics related to communication disorders. More than 70 research projects, both extramural and intramural, undertaken by the faculty were progressing smoothly in various departments and clinics. The faculty members had published more than 50 research papers in national and international journals and presented 45 papers in national and international conferences/ seminars. In addition to these, they had contributed to the field, by way of members of various scientific committees, and peer reviewing journal articles for reputed journals and writing books.

It is very gratifying to report that last year we served at the institute, more than 50,000 patients with communication disorders from all over the country, which is considerably higher than that of 2009-10. Further, we augmented our specialized clinical services by launching two more clinics namely vertigo clinic and fluency clinic. Under the outreach clinical service program, we served more than 13,000 patients and their families through our clinical centres located in different rural areas. In addition to it, we delivered tele-diagnosis and web-based clinical services to hundreds of persons all over the country.

The institute organized 12 camps at various locations in Karnataka and neighboring states in which we educated the public regarding prevention, control and treatment of communication disorders. More than 2000 persons received direct and many others received indirect benefits out of the camps.

Another highlight of the year was the recruitment of 43 regular and 163 contract staff to various services of the institute, the highest figures in the history of the Institute. This act contributed to speed up the overall activities of the institute.

Many other positive developments took place in the institute during the year. The noteworthy among them include successful organization of 12 monthly public lectures on various topics, purchase of many sophisticated scientific equipments, procurement of E-books and bibliographic databases and construction of new buildings and renovation and retrofit of old ones.

All the activities performed and all the achievements made during the year under review were due to the dedication and commitment of our staff at all levels, who contributed to the success of this prestigious institution in so many ways. While there are challenges ahead, I am confident that together we will meet those challenges and continue to improve the institute and services we provide to the people with communication disorders.

Dr.S.R.Savithri

(Director)