**Covid-19: Lockdown activities and preventive measures**

In line with the nation-wide lockdown to curb the community spread of COVID 19 from 25th March to 31st May 2020, the Institute suspended all its face-to-face engagements, and instead harnessed the online platforms to perform its activities and offer services. This way, the organization was able to continue the academic activities including regular classes, research, clinical evaluation, therapy, rehabilitation services, and preschool education without much hindrance. Moreover, the lockdown period was gainfully used for developing a number of multimedia information resources useful for professional and public education on communication disorders.

**Standard Operating Procedure**

With the objective of containing and preventing the Covid-19, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed and implemented at the Institute in line with the guidelines of the state and central governments. A committee was constituted in this regard under Dr. Sunder Raju, Dean and Professor in ENT. The Institute activities including clinical care were monitored according to the standard operating procedure. Meeting of the SOP committee was conducted regularly to take stock of the situation and to device necessary precaution to prevent the pandemic.

**COVID-19 Day Care Centre**

A Covid-19Day Care Centre was set up at the main campus guesthouse to provide emergency support for corona positive cases among the staff and students. The Centre had all the clinical support facilities including oxygen cylinders.

**Isolation Centre**

Rent-free accommodation and free food  were provided for corona positive cases and primary contacts among the staff and students at the Institute guesthouse.

**Tele-assessment and rehabilitation**

The Institute launched more than 10 WhatsApp groups for various speech and hearing disorder therapies and the therapists had been in continuous touch with those in need of assistance. Through video conference, experts managed to provide services, including therapy, to more than 150 people in 700 sessions. In addition, the Tele-Centre for Persons with Communication Disorders of the Institute continued its routine tele-assessment and intervention.

**Online classes**

Theregular classes of all the academic programmes run by the Institutewere shifted to online mode and faculty members engaged classes from home throughout the lockdown period.

**Counselling for the students**

The students held-up in the Institute hostels during the lockdown period were provided with psychological support and counselling.

**Development of public education videos**

The lockdown period was gainfully used for developing public education videos and pamphlets on the prevention and management of communication disorders with the support of faculty and clinical staff. Those materials were disseminated through the Institute's social media platforms.

**Hearing aid maintenance and repair**

The in-house repair and servicing of the hearing aids were continued during the lockdown period. The defective hearing aids were received and sent back after repairing and servicing by post. Also, the spares and associated parts like cells of the hearing aids were sent by post to the needy persons.

**Online troubleshooting of hearing aids**

The Department of Electronics carried out troubleshooting of the hearing aids through video call by narrating how to fix the issues and how to handle home repair. Also, the experts of the Institute prepared videos on preventive maintenance of different types of hearing aids and uploaded on social media platforms.

**Preventive measures taken after lockdown**

**Clinical Services**

Theoutpatient services were resumed on 18th May 2020 strictly following the Covid-19 protocols. Safety of the staff and students posted for clinical care was ensured by supplying enough quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, masks, gloves and sanitizer. Also, six multi-tasking staff were deputed exclusively for sanitization of the Institute premises. All the clinical services including audiology, ENT and Psychology were made available under one roof to avoid movements of clients across the departments. Also, the Institute extended its assessment and therapeutic services to Saturdays from December 2020 to February 2021.

**Education and training**

The regular classes were resumed by following the Govt. of India and the University of Mysore guidance on Covid19 preventive measures. The measures took include social distancing in classrooms, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning and isolation of symptomatic students.

1. The faculty and clinical staff served as resource person in SLD what’s app group on scheduled days.
2. What’s app group were created for providing therapy assistance for the parents of children with communication disorders.
3. Faculty members of the department served as moderators.
4. Online home training materials were shared
5. During lock down one-to-one interaction was maintained with parents and SLPs for guidance through online mode.
6. Student volunteers were guided by faculty and clinical staff in handling online sessions on regular basis.
7. Tele-therapy/Tele-assistance were initiated during lockdown for providing effective online sessions to the children with communication disorders.

Dr. Sangeetha M, HOD-Clinical services along with Mr. Raju H.H, Clinical Assistant served as resource person for Vijaya Karnataka Samvadha program on managing children with disabilities during the pandemic crisis during lock down on 12.04.2021

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In May 2020 after the corona pandemic lockdown, the clinical services resume from 18.05.2020 the clinical services were resumed for patients at the ENT department, and all the other departments provided their services at the ENT Department for a month. As a part of SOP guide lines.

* + - 1. Department of ENT setup of Emergency Day Care Centre in AIISH Guest House for staffs and students.
			2. Prepared database registry for Covid 19 vaccination for institute beneficiaries as per orders from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,. Govt. of India. Delhi.
			3. Dr. G. Rajeshwari, Nodal Officer - Covishield drive vaccination centre (AEFI) (1st dose)for three days from 27.01.2021 to 29.01.2021.
			4. Three teams of five members each were constituted, and members received hands on training and orientation about the Covid Vaccination Drive at the District Health Officer, Mysuru and the First vaccination Drive was held on 27th January 2020 to 29th January 2020.
			5. The second dose of vaccination Drive was held on 24th to 26th February 2020. About 600 beneficiaries were vaccinated.

**Three-day Covid Vaccination Drive**

The COVID vaccination programme for staff and students of Institute was held from 21st to 23 January 2021. Mrs. N. Parimala, Assistant Registrar and the senior most employee of the Institute was the first to get the vaccination followed by Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director of the Institute. A team headed by Dr. Sundara Raju, Dr. Rajeshwari and Dr. Prakash carried out the vaccination drive. The second doses were given after 28 days from 24th to 26th February 2020. Nearly 700 staff and students of the Institute were vaccinated as a part of the drive.