**News 2020-21**

**AllSH AISIRI**

The Institute initiated a public awareness program on communication disorders titled AIISH AISIRI in collaboration with the All-India Radio, Mysure (AIR Mysore / Akashvani Mysure) at 100.6 MHz. As a part of the programme,the Akashvani Mysure started broadcasting the talks of speech and hearing experts of the Institute for a duration of 20 minutes every week about various speech, language and hearing disorder, their prevalence and incidence, assessment procedures and the treatment.

18th June 2020

**RCI Inspection and Recognition**

The Institute obtained continuation of recognitionfor conducting B.ASLP, DHLS and M.Sc. (SLP) programmesfrom theRehabilitation Council of India (RCI), New Delhi for the next five years. A team of RCI experts comprising of Dr N.P. Nataraja, Director, JSS institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysure and Dr Madhuri Gore, Professor, Dr SRC Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bengaluru visited the institute on 18th June 2020 and expressed their satisfaction with the academic and clinical infrastructure of the Institute and its achievements in the field of communication disorders.

23rd September 2020

**Observance of International Day of Sign Languages**

The Institute under the aegis of the Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) unit observed International Day of Sign Languages on 23rd September 2020 in virtual mode with the theme ‘Sign Languages for Everyone’. The program started with an overview of the Sign Language Day by Dr. Sangeetha M, HOD Clinical Services and Mr. Reuben T. Varghese, Member Secretary, AAC unit. An orientation program on Indian Sign language and finger spellings, basic vocabulary and grammar in Indian Sign Language was conducted by Shri. Rajkumar. R., Special Educator, Department of Special Education and Smt. Rubby, Sign Language Teacher, AAC Unit, Dept. of Clinical Services, AIISH, Mysore. A total of 23 persons participated in the online orientation program.

**New Outreach Service Centres**

The Outreach Service Centres (OSCs) of the Institute cater to screening, diagnostic and rehabilitative services to the people with speech, language and hearing disorders. Shri. V Somanna, Hon. Housing Minister, & District in-charge Minister for Kodagu, Govt. of Karnataka and Shri. Pratap Simha, Hon. Member of Parliament, Kodagu and Mysuru Constituency inaugurated a new OSC at the Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri on 3rd October 2020. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH presided over the function.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India virtually inaugurated six new OSCs across the country on the occasion of World Hearing Day in the presence of Shri. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH and other dignitaries in the Ministry and the parent organizations of the respective outreach service centres. The new centres are:

1. Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science, Patna, Bihar

2. Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bidar, Karnataka

3. Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi, Karnataka

4. Karnataka Institute of Medical Science, Hubbali, Karnataka

5. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

6. Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Kolar, Karnataka

15th October 2020

**Campaign for COVID-Appropriate Behaviour**

Supporting the ‘Campaign for COVID-Appropriate Behaviour’ launched by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, the Institute staff and students took pledge on 15th October 2020 to wear a mask, follow social distancing, and maintain hand hygiene. Also, took initiative to disseminate information about COVID-appropriate behaviour by displaying posters, banners, billboards etc. at prominent locations in the campus, official website and other social media platforms.

**Observance of AAC Awareness Week**

The Institute under the aegis of the Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) unit, observed the AAC awareness week from 19th to 21th October, 2020 as a part of the International AAC awareness month. Prof. Usha A Dalvi, Treasurer, International Society for AAC (ISAAC), India Chapter, served as the chief guest of the Inaugural function held on 19th October 2020 in virtual mode, and delivered the key note address on the topic ‘Challenges in teaching and learning AAC’. The inaugural function was followed by orientation lectures on ‘AIISH AAC Unit’ by Mr. Reuben T.V., Scientist, B., AIISH, ‘Technological advancements in AAC’ by Mr. Karthik Venkat S., Speech Technologist, AIISH and ‘Finger spellings, basic vocabulary and grammar in Indian Sign language’ by Ms. Rubby, Sign Language Teacher, AIISH. Various competitions such as quiz on AAC & ISL, creating story & joke videos in Indian Sign Language and e-poster design were organized as a part of the event.

26th November 2020

**Constitution Day**

The Institute celebrated the Constitution Day on 26th November 2020 to mark the 71st anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the country and raise awareness about the Constitution. The programme was held in virtual mode during which the staff and students of the Institute joined the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi in reading of the Preamble at 11 AM on the day from their respective departments and sections in the Institute.

4th December 2020

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

The International Day for persons with disabilities (IDPWD) was commemorated at the Institute from 1st December to 4th December 2020. Various programmes were organized as a part of the event and an awareness week was observed till 4th December. The programmes include an orientation about IDPWD, a disability-related quiz conducted for clients and care givers seeking clinical services at the Institute, a webinar on 'Communication Disorders and Government Welfare Measures' for the caregivers and a webinar on Speech and Hearing Disorders, services and facilities available in the institute for the rotary club members. The success stories of persons with disabilities were displayed at the Department of Clinical Services as a part of the event.

14th December 2020

**Standing Finance Committee Meeting**

The 51st Standing Finance Committee meeting of the Institute was held under the chairmanship of Mrs. Vandana Gurnani, Additional Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India on 14th December 2020 in virtual mode. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH presided over the function.

21st to 23 January 2021

**Three-day Covid Vaccination Drive**

[The first phase of COVID vaccination programme for staff and students of the Institute was held from 21st to 23 January 2021. During the 3-day programme, nearly 700 staff and students were vaccinated. 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 ……to .

**World Hearing Day**

All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) being a premier institute in the country for communication disorders, took the lead role to celebrate World Hearing Day 2021 in India. The theme of the event for the year 2021 was ‘Hearing care for all: Screen-rehabilitate-communicate’. Various service oriented and public education activities were conducted over a span of 30 days till 5th March, 2021 that motivated audiologists and speech language pathologists throughout the country, resulting in Pan-India celebrations of World Hearing Day 2021. The objectives of the celebration were to increase awareness about hearing health care, the need for early identification of hearing loss and its impact on communication abilities, and early identification and rehabilitation of hearing loss. Dr. Sandeep M., Associate Professor of Audiology coordinated the programmes with the support of the Dept. of Prevention of Communication Disorders, Dept. of Audiology, and Dept. of ENT and a highly motivated group of audiologists and speech-language pathologists of the Institute. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH carried out the overall coordination and supervision of the World Hearing Day 2021 celebrations.

The activities conducted aimed at either screening, rehabilitation or public education, in sync with the theme of World Hearing Day 2021. They include community-based hearing screening camps, hearing aid distribution camps, orientation programs, radio talks on hearing health care, live phone-in programmes, walkathon, advertisements through photo booths, standees and gift hampers, udio-video bites by celebrities, publication of newspaper and magazine articles, short movies on hearing health care etc. Apart from activities at AIISH, camps and public educations programmes were also held in the newborn and outreach centers across the country.

The target group included the general public of all age groups, in the rural as well as urban sector, medical professionals, educators, students, yoga practitioners, social workers, expectant mothers, and celebrities. Overall, the World Hearing Day 2021 activities conducted by AIISH successfully reached approximately 70 million people across the country.

The highlights of the World Hearing Day 2021 celebrations are given below.

**Free hearing screening camp for new-borns**: The Institute organized a free hearing screening camp for new-born babies at Cheluvamba Hospital, Govt. Medical College, Mysuru on 3rd March 2021. The leading Kannada actress Amulya Jagadish inaugurated the camp. Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj, Dean and Director, Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH and others were present during the launch. The audiologists of the Institute conducted otoacoustic emission (OAE) test, a fast, reliable and inexpensive test to detect hearing loss, among the neonates.

**Hearing screening camp for railway employees:** The Institute in association with the Railway Medical Department, Mysuru conducted a hearing screening camp for Railway employees at Mysuru Divisional Office of South Western Railway. A total of 160 staff participated in the camp, and among them 26 were referred to AllSH for further detailed evaluation. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. D.C. Pradeep, Assistant Chief Medical Superintendent, Railway Hospital, Mysuru along with an Institute team led by Shri. Shreyank P. Swamy, Assistant Professor in Audiology, AllSH. Dr. G.S. Ramachandra, Chief Medical Superintendent, Railway Hospital, Mysuru was present on the occasion.

**Live phone-in programme:** A live phone-in programme was organized giving people across the state of Karnataka, an opportunity to clear their doubts and concerns about hearing and auditory disorders from the experts of the Institute. There was an overwhelming response from public to this new initiative.

**Radio talk at Community Radio Stations in Karnataka:** An interview with Dr. Sharath Kumar K.S. and Ms. Srividya, the audiologists working with the Institute was recorded and broadcasted over ten community radio stations in Karnataka. The topics covered include ‘Ear and hearing care’, ‘Assessment of hearing’, and ‘Diagnosis of hearing disorders and rehabilitation’.

**Ear and hearing care awareness through competition:** Several competitions were conducted in virtual and physical mode to create awareness about ear and hearing health care. The target groups include journalists, central government employees, high-school, undergraduate and postgraduate students, parents of special children from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan and the staff and students of SVYM, Sarguru, Karnataka.

**Distribution of masks:** Custom-printed khadi face masks with World Hearing Day**,** 2021 message were distributed among the staffs and students of the institute and among the participants of the hearing screening camps, orientation programs, street plays and walkathon organized by the Institute.

**Distribution of gift hampers with World Hearing Day card:** Gift hampers consisting wooden spoon, wooden fork, paper straw, sugar, milk powder, salt, tissue paper along with a World Hearing Day card having QR code and facts on hearing were distributed in 130 star hotels of Bengaluru. The QR code directed to the hearing screening and World Hearing Day web page of the Institute.

**Display of Standees:** To raise awareness on hearing loss, standees carrying Information on hearing loss and promotion of World Hearing Day were displayed in 100 localities in Mysuru city including the airport, railway station, University of Mysore campus, central public work department, Mysore city corporation, hospitals, primary health centres, restaurants, hotels, and shopping malls. All the displays had QR code directed to the hearing screening and World Hearing Day web page of the Institute.

**Video bytes of cine celebrities:** Several tele-vision and cine celebrities gave video messages on the importance of ear and hearing health care including need for early identification and rehabilitation of hearing disorders. The messages were widely circulated over the Institute social media platforms and the personal social media pages of the celebrities.

**Short video production:** Four short videos stressing the benefits of early identification and effective rehabilitation of hearing loss were produced in Hindi and disseminated on social media platforms.

**Publishing newspaper articles:** Several newspaper articles were published in different languages on facts about ear and hearing health, clinical services and facilities on hearing care, benefits of early identification and effective rehabilitation. The news on hearing screening camps conducted during the World Hearing Day by the Institute were also published.

**Cyclothon and street play**: The Outreach Service Center of AIISH at Sarguru, Karnataka conducted cyclathon and street play on the occasion of the World Hearing Day 2021.

**Photo booths:** Photo booths displaying the World Hearing Day 2021 theme, ‘Hearing Care for All: Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate’ were set up within and outside the AIISH campus. The general public and the beneficiaries of screening camps were encouraged to click photos in the photo booths and use them as display picture on social media accounts to spread the World Hearing Day messages.

**Screening camps and hearing aid distribution**: The Outreach Service Centers of the Institute located in different districts of Karnataka conducted hearing evaluation and screening camps. The individuals identified with hearing loss were tested with hearing aids and the suitable hearing aids were provided free of cost.

**Free Hearing Aid Distribution**

To mark the World Hearing Day, the Institute distributed hearing aids to the needy people, free of cost on 5th March 2021. On the occasion, Sri. Pratap Sinha, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Mysuru-Kodagu Constituency gave away the aids to 70 beneficiaries from Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH was present.

**Smart class for specially-abled children**

The Institute launched Digital Teaching System (smart class) in 20 class rooms of the Pre-school, Department of Special Education on 3rd March 2021. The leading Kannada actress Amulya Jagadish inaugurated the facility. Dr. M. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH and others were present during the event.

**Executive Council and Standing Finance Committee Meeting**

The 57th Executive Council (EC) meetings of the Institute was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India on 22nd July 2020 in virtual mode. The EC was met after a gap of four years.

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

In line with the nation-wide lockdown to curb the community spread of COVID 19, the Institute suspended all its face-to-face engagement activities, and instead harnessed the online platforms to offer services and it was able to continue regular classes, therapies, rehabilitation, and preschool education online.

**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 Guest House to provide emergency support for corona positive cases among the staff and students. The Centre has 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 Guest House.

**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. The Tele-Centre for Persons with Communication Disorders also provided distance services. Through video conference, experts managed to provide services, including therapy, to more than 150 people in 700 sessions.

**Online Classes:** All the classes were shifted to online mode and faculty members engaged classes from home.

**Counselling for the students**: The students held-up in the Institute hostels 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 Trouble shooting of hearing aids**: The Department of Electronics carried out trouble shooting of the hearing aids through video call by narrating how to fix the issues and how to handle home repair. Videos on preventive maintenance of different types of hearing aids were prepared by the experts of the Institute 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. six multi-tasking staff were deputed exclusively for sanitization. All the services such as Audiology, ENT/Psychology were made available in one roof to avoid movements of clients across the departments within AIISH.

Education and training:

Guidance for re-opening schools and preventive measures was provided to schools. Measures included individual- and environment-level preventive measures such as allowing a maximum of 15 students per class in primary schools, consistent groups of students and teachers not mixing with others (‘bubbles’), distancing, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning and isolation of symptomatic individuals.

Dec. 12- All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AlISH),

Mysuru, caters to.the needs of persons with speech, language,

hearing and swallowing disorders. Both ·assessment and therapeutic

se~ices are now available on Saturdays also

will resume its outpatient

services from Monday. (May

18).

The services had been

suspended since March 25 in

view of the lockdown.

* Submitted a request to the Director for six MTS staff for sanitization and COVID screening purposes on 27.11.2020.
* Coordinated the arrangements for safety measures (gown, mask, gloves) required for the students during offline clinical postings from 23.11.2020.

**XVI. Activities and supporting services/special programmes and arrangements initiated during the lockdown and post lockdown:**

1. Faculty and clinical staff of the department developed public education videos on specific topic during lockdown. Details of the same are given below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl. No.** | **Name of the staff** | **Topic** |
|  | Dr. Sangeetha M. | Stuttering a Brief Overview in English and Kannada |
|  | Dr. Hema N | Overview on Aphasia |
|  | Ms. Geetha M.P. | Speech-Language Stimulation Techniques in Kannada |
|  | Ms. Rubby | Indian Sign Language in Hindi |
|  | Ms. Prathima S. | Videos on Feeding Guidelines in Kannada. |
|  | Ms. Deepa Anand | Videos on AAC |
|  | Ms. Reny Ranju | Naming activities for persons with Aphasia |
|  | Ms. Navya K | Activities to Improve Pragmatic Skills For Children with Pragmatic Issues in Malayalam |
|  | Ms. Pooja C | Cues to Improve Language after Stroke |
|  | Ms. Anusmitha Mathew | Activities to Teach Speech Sound Disorders in Malayalam. |
|  | Mr. Sohan Singh | Brief Presentation on Stroke and Home Program for Stroke Patients in Hindi. |
|  | Mr. Santhosh J.R. | Home Therapy for Spastic Cerebral Palsy |
|  | Ms. Praisy E. | Videos on ADHD |

1. During lock down two what’s app group were created namely “AIISH we help you” and “Tele Therapy”.
2. Computerization modules were developed namely Tele proforma for SLP/Audiology /ENT/Psycology, Tele-payment module
3. All the services such as Audiology, ENT/Psychology were made available in one roof to avoid movements of clients across the departments within AIISH.
4. The faculty and clinical staff served as resource person in SLD what’s app group on scheduled days.
5. What’s app group were created for providing therapy assistance for the parents of children with communication disorders.
6. Faculty members of the department served as moderators.
7. Online home training materials were shared
8. During lock down one-to-one interaction was maintained with parents and SLPs for guidance through online mode.
9. Student volunteers were guided by faculty and clinical staff in handling online sessions on regular basis.
10. 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.

**Director’s Message**

We are prioritizing the safety of students, faculty, and staff in our actions, as we continue our educational and research endeavors. To do so, the university has promptly shared information about prevention of the spread of infection with all the members of the campus community and has updated them with the latest information about COVID-19 as well as the school’s efforts and requests to everyone through the school website and portal site.

I, Mr. Avijit Nair, the Director of the school take immense pleasure and pride to present to you a report of our activities and achievements for the pastone  year 2019-20.

We have significant accomplishments

The total number of students who appeared was 26 of which 03 passed with 90% and above, 06 above 80% and 11 above 60%. The school gained cent percent results.

We congratulate these students for their excellent performance and extend warm wishes for their bright future.

hearing

screening camp for Railway employees

I am proud of the work that is highlighted in this report and thank the Bureau staff who have been instrumental in leading these efforts. We will continue to build on our efforts going forward to prevent consumer harm and ensure that consumers are protected.

Sincerely,