

All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore, established in 1965 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, is a premier organization providing training, research, patient care, and public education in communication disorders. A brief description of the Institute's main activities from 1st January to 31st October 2020 is given below, and a summary of key figures are listed in table 1.

Learning and Teaching: The Institute offered long-term academic programs ranging from diploma to postdoctoral degrees. National level entrance examinations were conducted online for B. Sc. (Sp & Hg), M.Sc. (Audiology), and M.Sc. (SLP) programs in nine centers across the country. One thousand twenty students attended the B. Sc. (Sp & Hg) entrance examination, and 540 attended the M.Sc. entrance examination. Besides long-term academic programs, short-term training, and workshops/seminars on various aspects of communication disorders were conducted during the period. Activities such as guest lectures by eminent personalities, departmental peer evaluation, journal club, and clinical conference presentations were organized.

Research: The Institute promotes research related to communication and its disorders with special emphasis on clinically relevant applied research on causes, control, and prevention of communication disorders, assessment and treatment issues, and the testing and refinement of new technologies for the speech and hearing impairment. Postgraduate, doctoral, and postdoctoral level research was carried out, in addition to the funded research sponsored by the Institute and Govt. of India funding agencies like the Dept. of Science and Technology and Indian Council of Medical Research.

Clinical Care: The Institute offered a wide variety of clinical services on communication disorders. Clinical assessment and intervention through tele mode were initiated to avoid person-to-person contact and safeguard the clients during the ongoing pandemic. The offline mode of clinical evaluation and rehabilitation were also continued by practicing social distancing and other pandemic norms issued by the Ministry from time to time. The clinical services offered include assessment and rehabilitation on speech, language, and hearing disorders. Otorhinolaryngological treatment and psychological evaluation were carried out for needy cases. Also, specialized clinical services on a variety of communication disorders were rendered.

Hearing aid and Earmold Services: Clients diagnosed with hearing impairment were evaluated for hearing aids. They were provided hearing aids under the scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

Educational Rehabilitation of Special Children: Children with hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation underwent pre-school training, and parent empowerment programs were organized for the children's caregivers. The activities were carried out online after the outbreak of covid 19 pandemic.

Outreach and Public Education Services: Various public education and outreach activities carried out for the early identification and prevention of disabilities related to speech and hearing during the reporting period. The major ones are given below:

- The routine outreach and public education services such as screening for communication disorders for the newborns, industrial screening, school /Anganwadi screening, communication disorder screening camps, clinical service at the outreach centres, tele-intervention, and public orientation lectures were continued.
- 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.
- AIISH AISIRI Program, a public awareness program on communication disorders, was initiated in collaboration with the All India Radio and started broadcasting programs on early identification and prevention of different communication disorders.
- Social media-based public education was strengthened and a committee formed with the senior faculty member as the chairperson. There were overwhelming responses from the general public to the initiative.
- The Institute took the lead role in celebrating The World Hearing Day 2020 in the country and carried out various activities and programs on hearing loss and ear and hearing care, successfully reaching out to millions of people. The World Health Organization, Geneva, and the International Association of Communication

Sciences and Disorders, Malta recognized the Institute's efforts with certificates of appreciation.

Other Activities and Events: The other significant activities and events during the period include the following.

- A five-day free hearing aid repair camp was organized from 27th to 31st January 2020 in which internationally reputed hearing aid companies provided free service to the hearing aid users.
- Construction of Speech and Hearing Museum, Patients Accommodation Block, and setting up of AIISH off-campus centre at Surar Village, Kanpur District, U.P. were progressing.
- Institute was actively involved in promoting Swachhta related activities during the period and took several measures to make the institute campus and surroundings clean and green.

Table 1: Summary of Key Figures

(1st January to 31st October 2020 & Projected figures up to 31st March 2021)

Activity	1 st January to 31 st October 2020*	Projected figures up to 31 st March 2021
Learning and teaching		
Academic programmes offered	18	18
Students admitted	51**	300
Orientation / short-term training	227	340
Workshops / Seminars	9	14
Invited talk by faculty & staff	106	150
Research accomplishments		
Completed funded projects	20	30
Ongoing funded projects	95	140
Conference presentations	55	75
Journal publications	53	73
Books/ book chapters	2	4
Clinical Care		
Patient Registration -New	9002	13,500
Speech & language assessment	2247	3000
Speech & language therapy	1646	2400
Hearing evaluation	4981	7500
Hearing aid trial	2583	3800
Psychological assessment	438	650
ENT assessment	23140	34700
ENT surgery (major & minor)	554	800
Specialized clinical services	14	14
Educational rehabilitation of special children	187	187
Hearing aids distribution	759	1100
Public Education & Outreach Activities		
Newborn screening	19439	30000
Industrial screening	135	200
School / Anganavadi screening	1151	1200
Communication disorder screening camps	4	5
Clinical cases at OSCs	2277	3000
Tele-Intervention	395	600
TV & Radio-based public education programs	33	50
Public education videos on Social media	126	180
Public Orientation at AIISH campus/NBS centres & Outreach centres (include webinars)	185	250

*The figures up to 31st December 2020 will be updated later **The student admission is in progress

Table 2: Employment of Persons with Disability

Gr	Total PWD vacancy			Total filled vacancies			Posts advertised but yet to be filled in		
	1			2			3		
	VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH
A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	-	01	-	-	01	-	-	-	-
C	-	02	01	01	01	-	-	01*	-
D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Post advertised for HH/OH