

**Self Learning Material  
For  
Diploma in Hearing Language and Speech  
DHLS**

**Course I  
Introduction to Audiology**



**All India Institute of Speech and Hearing  
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Course I – Introduction to Audiology

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## Editorial

Communication is the essence of human life. It is also the most effective tool to cope up with day-to-day living. Verbal communication is unique to human beings and it is said to be the most efficient mode of communication. Communication disorders affect the quality of life of people. The spectrum of communication disorders include problems in speaking and hearing such as delayed and/or arrested speech and language development due to hearing impairment, mental retardation and other problems; voice disorders, phonological disorders (misarticulations), fluency disorders (stuttering & cluttering), and language disorders.

As per the National Sample Survey Organization 2012 report, there are over 85 lakh persons with hearing and speech disabilities in the country, showing a drastic raise of over 20 lakhs in the past 10 years. This includes, for every one-lakh persons, 507 persons with hearing impairment, 150 persons with mental retardation and 200 persons with other speech impairments. As per WHO statistics, there are 278 million persons with hearing impairment alone in the world and the prevalence rate has increased to over 10%. Most of the communication disorders are not amenable for medical or surgical treatment. They have to be intervened with special therapeutic methods. Invariably the intervention process for most of the communication disorders is a long drawn process and hence the manpower requirement to cater to these problems is rather high.

There is an acute shortage of manpower in the country to cater to the needs of persons with communication disorders. Currently, there are about 60 training centers in India, which are working towards manpower development in this area. These centers are not evenly distributed in the country. Most of them are located in urban areas in South India. Adding to the problem of slow rate of manpower development at graduation and post graduation levels, the country is finding it difficult to retain the ones who are trained due to a great demand of manpower all over the world.

Realizing the acute shortage of manpower to serve persons with communication disorders in suburban and rural areas, diploma programs to train personnel have been initiated in the country. Diploma in Hearing, Language and Speech is one such program which would train speech and hearing assistants /technicians. This skill based course recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India aims at training candidates in identifying, and undertaking basic evaluation and also in rehabilitation of persons with communication disorders. The program comprises of basic theory papers and a great amount of clinical training.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has launched the National Program of Prevention and Control of Deafness in the country. The program was launched in the year 2006 and is being implemented throughout India in stages to cover the whole country. The implementation of the program can only be successful if adequate manpower is available across the country at district, taluk and village levels. Since the scenario of manpower in the country is

rather bleak, as a small step towards meeting this need of the country, the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore launched the Diploma in Hearing Language and Speech Program through distance mode. This endeavor aims towards faster rate of manpower development at the assistant/technician level. In the first stage of the program, the Institute started the Programme at Mysore, JIPMER Puducherry, RIMS, Imphal, AIIPMR, Mumbai and RMLH, New Delhi. Subsequently the program was initiated in JLNMC, Ajmer, KJMC, Lucknow, SCBMC, Cuttack, IGMC, Shimla, RIMS. Ranchi, NSCBMC, Jabalpur and JLNMC, Bhagalpur in a phased manner. The program is unique as the theory classes are conducted from Mysore through Video Conferencing and students (25 in each study center) across the country will receive the same at the same time with a provision of one to one real time audio-video interactions. The clinical training is done in the conventional way at the respective centers on day-to-day basis under the supervision of qualified professionals.

The DHLS Program was upgraded to Bachelors' program (BASLP) in three centers, JIPMER Puducherry, NSCBMC, Jabalpur and RIMS, Imphal from 2014-15.

The self-learning material (SLM) for each course of the program has been developed to facilitate learning by the students. This self-learning material comprises of each topic, which is covered in the RCI syllabus, and the topics are explained in a very simple language to facilitate effective comprehension by the students. It is a supplement to the classroom lectures conducted through Video Conferencing. Senior professors and faculty members at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore have prepared and compiled these SLMs in a very effective way. The SLMs are expected to facilitate the understanding of the basic concepts in the areas of speech-language pathology, and audiology.

I would like to convey my heartiest congratulations to the eminent faculty of the Institute who have contributed in bringing out the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of this very useful SLMs with the revised syllabus for the DHLS Program implemented by the Rehabilitation Council of India with effect from 2016-17. It is also envisaged that the same is adapted to different regional languages.

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing sincerely acknowledges Dr. R. K. Srivastava, Former Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for assigning the program to AIISH and for all the guidance and support.

I would like to congratulate the candidates who have enrolled in this program, as they will be working towards the noble task of improving the quality of life of persons with communication disorders. I also wish them happy reading of this study material.

Dr. S. R. Savithri  
Director & Editor

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