

Disability Towards Capability

Quarterly newsletter released by the

**Centre for Disability Studies
Poojappura**

A Unit under the LBS centre for Science and Technology
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 012, Kerala.

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Hon'ble Minister of Education Sri Abdu Rabb honouring Smt Shobha Swaminathan who overcame hearing challenges successfully.

National Seminar

'Multi-disciplinary Approach to Childhood Disability Management' 3rd-4th December 2013

The United Nations commemorated The International Day of Persons with Disability on 3rd December with the theme, 'Break barriers, open doors: for an inclusive society for all'.

Inaugural Function

Honouring the occasion of International Day of Disability – CeDS conducted a two day National Seminar entitled, 'Multi-disciplinary Approach to Childhood Disability Management' on 3rd and 4th December, 2013 at Kanakakunnu Palace Hall. The seminar was presided by Dr K.M. Abraham, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Higher Education and was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri Abdu Rabb. Enlightening and motivating address was delivered by the guest of honour Dr P. Rajendran, Vice Chancellor of Kerala Agricultural University. An inspirational talk was delivered by our special guest Smt. Shobha Swaminathan who was born hearing impaired and had the will power to overcome her challenges to become successful Chartered Accountant in Chennai. The special guest was honoured by the Hon'ble Education Minister in the traditional way by adorning with the Ponnada



Plenary sessions

The Plenary sessions began with an exemplary talk on Etiology of Disabilities, delivered by Dr Madhulika Kabra, Professor, Department of Paediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi who is a renowned researcher in the area of genetic engineering with respect to disabilities. The second session was on Developmental Delay, Early Detection and Intervention which was delivered by Dr. M.K.C Nair, Director and Professor of Paediatrics and Director, Child Development centre, Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. The second day started with the plenary session on Strategies of Inclusive Education delivered by Dr. Prathiba Karanth, Rtd. Professor, All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bangalore. The plenary session on Recent Trends in Assistive Technology was delivered by Dr. Samuel N Mathews, Executive Director of National Institute of Speech and Hearing. His talk indicated that there is room for more research in the area of assistive technology and devices for the differently abled people.



Dr. M. K. C. Nair



Dr. Madhulika Kabra



Dr. Prathiba Karanth



Dr. Samuel N Mathews

Technical Sessions

The first technical session on Childhood disabilities was chaired by Dr. Prathiba Karanth, Rtd. Professor All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bangalore. There were five presentations on various aspects of childhood disabilities. The second technical session on Early Detection and Intervention was chaired by Dr. Elizabeth.K.E, Professor of Paediatrics and Superintendent, SAT Hospital, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. Six exemplary papers were presented by research scholars, which focussed upon exploratory methods in detection and intervention in various disabilities. The technical session on inclusive education was chaired by Dr. Bhaskaran .C, Rtd Professor in Extension Education from Kerala Agricultural University. Five dynamic presentations from research scholars in the area of education were delivered which was very informative for the teaching community. The session on Psycho-social issues was chaired by Dr. Ahmed Pillai, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Kerala who is also a former professor and head of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. Three presentations on several aspects of psychological and sociological issues concerned with people with disability were discussed. Followed by that the technical session with the theme Assistive Technologies and devices began with the Chairperson Dr. Suresh Kumar, Former Principal, College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram. Six presentations under this session invoked interesting technologies for the differently abled people. The deliberations, presentations and discussions throughout the seminar encouraged the participants to research in the area of disability studies.



The best presentation award for each technical session added some competitive spirit among the presenters. The recipients of the award are:

1. Dr. Varsha Vidyadharan, Senior Resident Department Psychiatry, Trivandrum Medical College for Childhood Disabilities
2. Akhila Vinod & Bincy R Kalam, National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) Trivandrum for Developmental Delay, Early Detection and Intervention
3. Ajit Sacheendran, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Vigyan Valley Cochin for Inclusive Education
4. Thamilselvan, Junior Consultant and PhD Scholar for Psychosocial Issues
5. Thomas Joseph, Principal Engineer, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, (CDAC) for Assistive Technology and Devices

Dr. Varsha Vidyadharan presented about the prevalence of neuro developmental disorders among the children attending child and adolescent clinic of tertiary care centre.

Akhila Vinod & Bincy Kalam discussed the sensitivity of using the Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism (ISAA) for diagnosing and measuring the severity of autism among children in Kerala.

Ajit Sacheendran showed challenges for teachers meeting the needs of children with disabilities in a regular school setting.

Thamilselvan detailed the psycho-social issues of parents who had children with congenital birth defects such as cleft lip and palate.

Thomas Joseph demonstrated the details of a 'High-end hearing aid ecosystem' for children with hearing impairment.

Participation and Questions

There was an active involvement of participants in the seminar, many individuals asked thoughtful questions that ignited a fruitful discussion in each presentation. It created a platform for both presenters and audience to discuss issues related to disability openly and sincerely.



Exhibition

The exhibition illustrated various new assistive devices developed by scholars and proposed to aid functioning of persons with various disabilities. Creative crafts, paintings, sculptures, greeting card by various students were up on display.



'Differently Abled' Excels with their 'Capabilities'

The differently abled students from NISH, Saint Peters' School for Mentally Challenged, Pongummoodu and CIMR exhibited their skills. The event was also graced by the celebrity, Ms. Vaikkom Vijayalakshmi, State award winner of music. Three melodious songs were sung by the celebrity guest who took the audience and the differently abled to high spirits.



Central Institute of Mental Retardation (CIMR), Trivandrum,



Celebrity Singer: Vaikkom Vijayalakshmi



St. Peters' School of Mentally Challenged, Trivandrum



Central Institute of Mental Retardation (CIMR), Trivandrum



National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum

Workshop – Know Your Special Student September 28th 2013

One day Educational Workshop for the faculties of Government, Government Aided and Government undertaking institutes imparting training to the students with disability was conducted. Dr. Samuel Mathew, Director, National Institute of Speech and Hearing enlightened the audience about the Assistive technology in integrating students with disability into main society. Mr.Firoz IPS, Superintendent of Police, Vigilance and Anti-corruption Bureau discussed the Disability Rights at length. Dr.K.Girish, Senior Consultant Clinical Psychologist,



Mr.Firoz IPS addressing the faculties

Department of Health Service, Government of Kerala rendered the Role of Communication in Behaviour Management. Around 40 faculties from different streams dealing with students with disabilities attended the workshop.

Sri Lankan Delegates take lessons from CeDS 18th December 2013

A delegation of 15 senior officials led by Mayor of the Jaffna Municipal Corporation Y. Pathgunarajah and Mayor of Akkarippattu Municipal Council Athulla Ahmed Zackie from Sri Lanka associated with the North-East Local Services Improvement Project (NELSIP), supported by the World Bank visited CeDS on 18th December 2013. Dr. Beela G. K., Director in-charge of CeDS gave a presentation on how disability issues are being addressed within the context of the local Government. They had an interactive session with the staff of the Centre. The team was co-ordinated by Mr Anand Mathew, the program Manager of Institute of Social Sciences.



Appreciation and Award 25th December 2013

Kavungal Haridapeedam 'Mahilaratnam Award' was presented by Dr. Rajendran P, Vice Chancellor of Kerala Agricultural University to Dr. Beela G.K., the Director of CeDS at Thrissur. The award was for her outstanding performance and contributions for popularising the Horticultural Therapy among disabled persons of the Kerala State.



Sri Lankan delegates visited the Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri Abdu Rabb

Students with disability employed after completing the D Skill course

The Regional LBS centre at Kozhikode is actively supporting a good number of students in computer courses. The Centre has recently conducted a DEOA course as a special batch for 25 students with hearing impairment. It also initiated placement service for students with disabilities in association with Dr. Reddy's Lab. Under this, 17 students gained employed and they were placed in different parts of Malabar area (KFC Calicut, CCD Kozhikode Nadakavu, KFC Kannur, SBL Cochin, Dominos Mavoor Road Kozhikode, Calicut Tower, SBL Cochin, Atlas Inn Calicut) earning about 6000 rupees per month. This would be a great boost for their independent lives through employment.

