

NISH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH & HEARING

(An autonomous organisation under the Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala)

Accredited as Excellent Institution by RCI | ISO 9001:2015 Certified | Accredited by NAAC with B++ Grade

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

NISH, one of the pioneering institutions in Kerala as well as in India, provides higher education to both DHH students and hearing students on the same campus, prioritizing **inclusiveness** as its core value - the central pursuit being the betterment of the Divyangjan and their integration into society, empowering them to reach their full potential to be successful. Ever since its inception in 1997, NISH is dedicated to the education and rehabilitation of the DHH by expanding its research in the field of communication disorders as well.

NISH as an HEI started off with diploma programmes for DHH and UG programmes in ASLP for hearing students. Later, NISH was successful enough to develop UG programmes with better prospects for DHH students like B.Sc. Computer Science (HI), B.Com. (HI), and BFA (HI) which are approved by and affiliated to the University of Kerala where the medium of instruction is Indian Sign Language (ISL) and English in view of inclusion.

Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in ASLP offered (now affiliated with KUHS) are aimed at raising trained professionals in the care of hearing and speech-impaired individuals. In due course, NISH started to extend its services in the care of more types of disabilities like autism, cerebral palsy, and other conditions which involve communication disabilities, and of late, commenced an undergraduate programme in Occupational Therapy (OT) under KUHS as a positive initiative in this regard. All these categories of academic programmes have been carefully styled towards fulfilling their respective objectives.

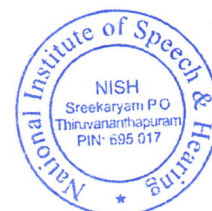
Even so, two RCI-approved programmes, viz., Diploma in Early Childhood Special Education (DECSE) (HI) and Diploma in Indian Sign Language and Interpretation (DISLI) are also offered – the former to raise and equip teachers to successfully manage and impart education to HI children in their early childhood and the latter to raise professional sign language interpreters in the benefit of DHH individuals.

Nonetheless, students enrolled in these programmes hail from all over India and even from abroad; all under the same roof of NISH. The campus is thus a diverse one with inclusiveness as its prime objective; providing a rich and diverse academic environment, much varied in gender, race, ethnicity, culture, language, religion, socioeconomic status, and whatnot.

Inclusiveness is ensured on campus on a multifaceted level. Different days of international, national, or local importance, various celebrations, etc., are held solely with the involvement of students from all the programmes offered, ensuring inclusion and immersion, assimilating the



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student population into one cohesive whole. Nonetheless, the institution extends its absolute support to organize integrated programmes that involve both groups together. However, to ensure maximum inclusiveness in any programme organized, various measures are also taken.

Facilities to maximize inclusion during various programmes organized:

1. Sign language interpretation
2. Reverse interpretation, as needed
3. Real-Time Transcription Service
4. Subtitling of videos, if used
5. Auditoriums/halls equipped with TV screens in support of the Deaf.
6. Ramps, tactile floor tiles, signage, etc.

Other facilities/activities ensuring maximum inclusion are:

7. Assistive Technology lending library for PwDs to borrow and try out devices to improve their functional capabilities.
8. An online Certificate Course in Assistive Technology Solutions offered, first of its kind, fully accessible to PwDs with a screen-reader-friendly course platform and subtitled videos.
9. Universal designs are adopted for the buildings to facilitate a disabled-friendly campus along with maximum DeafSpace.
10. A battery-powered automatic wheelchair facility is provided on campus to be utilized by anyone, as needed.
11. ISL classes are provided to those interested including security personnel and cleaning staff to smoothen and maximize communication amongst the deaf and hearing population.
12. All activities featuring the use of sign language are promoted.
13. Sign language classes are offered for ASLP students as part of their course which in turn enables smooth communication among the hearing and deaf student community.
14. ISL interpretation services are offered to Deaf students as well as staff in case of visits to hospitals, government offices or in any other case, as needed.
15. Online and offline counselling services are provided to everyone irrespective of gender, age, type of disability, etc.
16. Various cultural programmes conducted ensured to be integrated by involving both hearing and DHH students.
17. Interaction of DHH students with NISH visitors of importance promoted and facilitated, as and when required.
18. Orientation to staff in ISL soon after joining NISH as a gesture to include hearing and DHH
19. Activities of the Gravity club promote inclusion.



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20. No-speech day is observed.
21. Pedestrian-controlled traffic signal
22. Supports Kerala State initiatives for the ISL training of Govt. employees to make their premises inclusive.
23. The economically weaker section included (Govt. reservation)
24. Sponsorship for students who are economically weak. (Eg. Rahul by PVK, Asthik by SJ)
25. Ambulance service for economically weaker clients

Exclusive Facilities & Support Offered to PwDs:

26. All classrooms are smart ones with projectors and interactive whiteboards to enable visual learning effectively for the benefit of DHH students.
27. Classroom seating of DHH in a horseshoe shape to ensure maximum visibility of teacher and board.
28. Digital tablets bought from the institution's fund are being lent to the DHH students who cannot afford them, as it is compulsory to have a smart device for curriculum transactions.
29. 24x7 Helpline Service for DHH at the outbreak of the pandemic to alleviate stress and psychological issues resulting from the same and to clarify doubts in this regard through WhatsApp as video calls or text messages queries answered live by experts through Indian Sign Language interpreters.
30. Counselling and mentoring are provided to students on WhatsApp by DHI staff.
31. FB page for posting queries and uploading awareness and informative videos in ISL regarding mental health and wellbeing.
32. Maximum support is extended to DHH students for participating in intercollegiate, national, and international events; our students bagged prestigious prizes also.
33. Working in collaboration with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) to update the monsoon alert and to provide support whenever and wherever necessary to alert DHH in ISL in case of extreme weather conditions along with the pandemic situation.
34. Support rendered to various news channels for interpretation of news in ISL.
35. Paperless campus

Thus, NISH takes inclusiveness forward in its every step.



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