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Dr Suja K Kunnath
Executive Director



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

I'm happy to present the latest edition of our newsletter, which showcases the hard work and passion of the NISH community. Over the past few months, our teams have carried out several meaningful activities that support our students, staff, and the larger community.

One highlight is the Career Guidance and Higher Education Programme for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, led by our Degree HI Department. Our faculty visited schools across Kerala, helping students explore their future educational and career options.

We've also focused on student well-being. The Mind Matters session by our Psychology dept. helped students manage stress, while our Art Camp, held in collaboration with Kokuyo Camlin India, sparked creativity and expression. Workshops on psychosocial skills and menstrual hygiene added to this holistic support.

Another proud moment for all of us was the EIP Graduation Day, where 37 children from our preschool transitioned to mainstream schools. This milestone reflects the dedication and commitment of our Early Intervention Program team. My heartfelt congratulations to all EIP teachers, supporting faculty and the parents for making this early intervention journey a resounding success — a big applause to each one of you!

Another key effort was our collaboration with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority to create a MOOC on Disaster Management Terminology in Indian Sign Language, improving accessibility for emergency responders and the community.

As we navigate the early onset of the monsoon season, which has brought significant rainfall to Kerala, and remain vigilant amidst ongoing health concerns, I urge everyone to prioritize safety and well-being.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all faculty, staff, students, and wellwishers who continue to contribute to our mission. Together, we strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment at NISH.

Warm regards,

Dr. Suja K. Kunnath



INITIATIVES

The Department of Degree HI at NISH has launched a "Career Guidance and Higher Education Programme for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing." As part of this initiative, faculty members have been visiting deaf schools throughout Kerala, engaging directly with students. The program is designed to reach Deaf and Hard of Hearing higher secondary students across the state, offering valuable guidance for their future educational and career paths.

Paving the Way



NISH faculty members interact with students from CSI VHS and HSS for the Deaf, Valakom



MOOC for First Responders

In a significant collaborative effort, NISH and the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) have launched a groundbreaking initiative: a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Disaster Management Terminology in Indian Sign Language (ISL) for First Responders. An introductory session for the MOOC was successfully held at the NISH campus on December 17, 2024, marking a crucial step towards enhancing disaster preparedness and communication accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Parivarthan

The "Parivarthan: Parent-mediated Social Communication and Literacy Program," a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, was officially inaugurated in December 2024. Undertaken by the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) in collaboration with the Uzhavoor block panchayat, the project is funded by the Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC). This program aims to empower parents in fostering social communication and literacy skills.

Training for Impact



Building on its awareness initiatives, NIDAS is making training a key focus in 2025. A hybrid model, combining online and offline sessions, is aimed at empowering community representatives and leaders across Kerala. Crucially, training will also be provided to volunteer support groups, including Anganwadi and ASHA workers. As part of this effort, the training team is also undertaking mapping of disability-focused institutes throughout Kerala.



LEVEL UP



Elevate Your Research

ASLP staff and students gain valuable insights from Dr. Arpita Bose (University of Reading, UK) on "Ensuring Success with Peer-Reviewed Publications in Top-Tiered Journals." The session was organized by the Department of ASLP, NISH on January 20, 2025.

Code to Cloud

BSc Computer Science (HI) students attending the 'Code to Cloud' workshop, led by Mr. Amith G. Nair, Electronics Lecturer and Co-PI, NCAHT, NISH. The workshop was organized by the Degree (HI) Department on January 8, 2025.



Applied Learning Series

"Introduction to Assessment and Intervention using the NLA Framework of Gestalt Language Processing" - Applied Learning Series online session by Dr. Anima Mishra, certified Speech Language Pathologist, on January 24, 2025.

Science Behind Colours

Sri Jaikumar, Zonal Manager, Kokuyo Camlin India, lead a session on the "Science Behind Colours" as part of the IQAC Faculty Development Program. This insightful session was organized by the Department of Degree HI.





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Mind Matters: Stress Relief for Students

Students engaging in a stress relief session led by Ms. Anju V. J., Psychologist, NISH Department of Psychology, organized by the NISH Student Union on December 5, 2024.



Building Psychosocial Competence



First year Degree HI students and their parents attending a session on Psychosocial Competence by Dr Arun Mohan, Consultant Psychiatrist at PRS Hospital & Neyyar Medicity, Thiruvananthapuram. The session was organized by Degree HI Department on January 6, 2025.



Menstrual Hygiene & Self-Care

An informative and engaging Menstrual Hygiene & Self-Care Training Program took place on March 24, 2025. This vital session was a collaboration between NISH Interactive Disability Awareness Seminar (NIDAS) and the Students' Union NISH, with expert guidance from Hindustan Latex Limited Management Academy (HMA) and HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL).

Creative Sparks Fly!

An engaging Art Camp by Kokuyo Camlin India, in vibrant collaboration with the Department of Fine Arts, NISH unfolded on March 18 & 19, 2025 at the NISH campus.





Star Moment- Cine Actor Joby at NISH

A heartwarming interaction as Cine Actor Joby connects with students during the NISH Student Union's December 4, 2024, Monthly Assembly, celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Fostering Collaboration

Mr. Gary Behm, Professor at RIT, interacts with Degree HI students during his visit to NISH on January 13, 2025.



Drug-Free Future

Students attending an Awareness Programme against Drugs on January 31, 2025, organized by the NISH Student Union.



DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

World Cancer Day

The monthly assembly by the NISH Students Union on February 5, 2025, focused on World Cancer Day. Dr. Harsha from Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, shared valuable insights on cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection.



In solemn commemoration of World Cancer Day, Occupational Therapy Students & Staff hold a rally on February 4, 2025, at NISH campus.

Human Rights Day

Students and staff members take an oath during the Human Rights Day observance organized by the NISH Student Union on December 10, 2024.



World Hearing Day



World Hearing Day celebration on March 3, 2025, hosted by the Department of ASLP, NISH, in collaboration with the Association of Otolaryngologists of India, featured sessions by Dr. Aneesh P Azeez (Associate Professor(CAP) in ENT, Government MCH TVPM) and Ms. Saumya Sundaram (Assistant Professor, Department of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology, NISH).



IMA, in association with NISH, celebrated World Hearing Day on March 2, 2025, at the Museum compound, Thiruvananthapuram.



EMPOWER

Exploring the Power of Melody!

Parents learn about the **ROLE OF MUSIC IN LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT** in a Parent Enrichment Class by NISH Preschool Teachers Ms. Divya P and Ms Janani S Jayakumar, organized by STEPP on January 16, 2025.



Chit-chat Session with EIP Kids

On March 17, 2025, a warm and welcoming chitchat session was held with children who have completed the Early Intervention Programme. This was thoughtfully organized as an introduction for young children about to embark on their journey into a larger mainstream school.

Breaking Barriers

Ten young adults with intellectual disabilities (9) and autism (1) successfully completed National Skill Qualifications Framework Level 2.5 Finisher & Packer training and received National Skill Development Council certificates. The program was funded by District Skill Committee(DSC) and Kerala Academy for Skill Excellence (KASE) under Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion ("SANKALP") scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development, Government of India.



Assessment Camp

A comprehensive cleft lip and palate assessment camp was held at NISH on February 1, 2025. The camp was organized by the Unit of Resonance Disorders, Department of ASLP, NISH, in association with St. Thomas Hospital, Malakkara.



SPOTLIGHT



Golden Glory for NISH Alumnus !

Mr. Ridhvan Ahammed, a proud alumnus of the BSc Computer Science (2020–2024 batch), brought immense pride to NISH by participating in the 4x400m mixed relay at the 10th Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His contribution was instrumental in the Indian team's resounding gold medal victory.

A memorable moment from EIP Graduation Day



Graduates of the Early Intervention program with their teachers and Graduation Day's Chief Guest, Dr. K. N. Pavithran, former Executive Director of NISH.

EIP kids in Action!



Energetic participation in Sports Day held at the NISH campus on January 17, 2025.



Celebrating Kids' Day with a spectacular show!

Spreading the love!

NISH students joyfully celebrate Valentine's Day on February 13, 2025, at NISH campus.





SCHOLARLY SHOWCASE

Research & Publications Highlights

The book chapter **“Multimodal Generative AI for PwDs,”** co-authored by **Ms. Raji N. R.,** has been published in Multimodal Generative AI by Springer.



The article titled **“Development of word list in Malayalam for the evaluation of speech outcomes in children with cleft palate,”** authored by **Swathi Suresh, Manju S., and Preethy Susan Reni,** has been published in the Journal of Cleft Lip Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies, January–June 2025 issue.



The research article titled **“Speech Perception and Language Abilities Among Children Using Cochlear Implants: Findings From a Primary School Age Cohort in South India,”** by **Jeena Mary Joy,** has been published in Ear and Hearing, the official journal of the American Auditory Society.











The paper titled **“Effect of Oral Placement Therapy on Feeding Skills in Children with Down Syndrome,”** authored by **Aswathy, A. K.; Arya, S.S.; Nourin, V. M.; Aparna, T.; Thomas, Della; and Thuruthummel, Ben,** has been published in the Journal of Indian Speech, Language & Hearing Association.



The article titled **“Client Perspectives of Telerehabilitation in Stuttering during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Survey at a Tertiary Rehabilitation Centre in Kerala,”** authored by **Preethy Susan Reni, Vrinda R., Rejitha Kumari L., and Suja K. Kunnath,** has been published in The Journal of Rehabilitation Sciences and Research (JRSR).



Online Resources from NISH

- Prakasarekha**  A series designed to sensitize people with disabilities
- Sign of the Day**  Learn Indian Sign Language from the students of NISH
- ISL Dictionary**  Sign Language Dictionary for Technical Terms
- EIP**  Early Intervention Programme Class Sessions
- "I am that I am"**  Disability Awareness Film
- NIDAS**  NISH Online Interactive Disability Awareness Seminar
- NIMIS**  NISH Innovations Model Inspiring Stories
- STEPP**  Structured and Timely Empowerment Program for Parents of persons with disabilities

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