

Report of 2016 Annual National Conference of National Convention of Educators of the Deaf

15-17 February, 2016
Scientific Session Brief Report

Brief Report on the three day conference held on 15-17 February 2016 at All India Institute of the Speech and Hearing, Mysuru

The technical session had eight themes, with each theme having a keynote speaker with a chair and co-chair chairing the sessions. The invited speakers highlighted upon the areas of evaluation of learners with hearing impairment, professional collaboration for inclusive education, multidisciplinary input in the education of children with hearing impairment and viability of cochlear implant in the Indian Educational Scenario.

The conference was attended by 170 special educators, master trainers and teacher trainees from all over the country. Thirty-six scientific papers were accepted by the technical committee, out of which thirty-one papers were presented. Each technical session was followed by discussion and question and answer session. The highlights of each technical session are as follows:

Day 1

Technical Session I:

Augmentative and Alternative Communicational Options for learners with Hearing Impairment



The keynote speaker Prof. R. Manjula, highlighted the importance of augmentative and alternative communicational options for learners with hearing impairment, giving examples of AAC. The speaker also highlighted the use of ACC and giving new perspective to the special educators. The queries raised during the discussion were about unified sign alphabets in all the Indian languages, however, it was clarified that it is not possible to have unified sign alphabet, even though it is essential to have alphabets in all the languages. Rather a common sign system

that is closer to the unified one could be evolved. This session was chaired by Mrs. Nisha Grover and Dr.N.Swapna.

Technical Session 2

Quality Appraisal of Inclusive Education Processes

The second scientific session was on Quality Appraisal of Inclusive Education Processes with Prof. Amitav Mishra as chairperson and Dr. I.P. Gowramma as Co-Chair. This session started with key note speech by Prof K.S.Prema and was followed by 9 scientific papers. The question answer session continued for duration of 10 minutes. The main questions revolved around the presentation titled Comprehensive success of including children with hearing impairment. Questions like the meaning of demographic barriers and the reasons for drop out of hearing impaired children in relevance to Mysore city were asked. The presenter attributed the drop outs to the constraint imposed by distance.



Technical Session 3

Indispensability of independent living skills and community living skills



The third scientific session was on indispensability of independent living skills and community living skills with Prof. Premlatha Sharma being the chair and Prof K. Rajalakshmi being the co-chair. This session highlighted on hearing impaired child being no is lesser than typical child. They are better in every way- got intelligence, cognition, and hand to perform. The focus was not on the children with hearing impairment, but on the society as we are not able to make them independent. Emphasis on making the child independent should not begin after eight years but

from the beginning. It is the family, society and the education system has the lack of knowledge in handling and helping them. The chair also thanked Dr. Malar for giving details on programs available for HI independent living and also highlighting language poverty as the reason for lack of independency.

Day 2

Technical Session 4

Evaluation of Learners with Hearing Impairment



This session was chaired by Dr.N.Rathna and Mrs. Lata Nayak. This session started with a key note speech by Prof. Rangasayee and an invited talk by Dr. Varsha Gathoo. The key note speaker was asked about the appropriate SNR to be maintained in a class room and the speaker asked to maintain a SNR of + 12 db. It had 8 scientific papers presented. Questions were asked for a scientific paper on The Suitability Of Educational Materials And Tools Used For English Language Acquisition For The Deaf: An Analysis And Evaluation by Mrs Raji Gopal. The questions were regarding the medium of instruction and the language used for the development of resource material. A question was asked for a presentation titled Teacher's perception about assessment procedures for learners with hearing impairment in the mainstream Class rooms about the aptness of criterion based assessment in regular schools. The speaker admitted that it would be difficult to implement in the current educational scenario keeping in mind the heterogeneous nature of the group.

Technical Session 5

Professional Collaboration for Inclusive Education



The technical session 5 on day two was chaired by Dr. Varsha Gathoo and co-chair by Dr.N.Sredevi. The keynote speaker spoke about the importance of professional collaboration for inclusive education, and the role of different professional for making inclusion successful. The special educators raised a query regarding the age appropriate admission or language/reading in an inclusive set-up. The chair differed in opinion as language appropriate admission is not viable due to the curriculum and the kid would not benefit from it. So a balance is required. Best is to adapt a range. As the theme was professional collaboration, two lawyer students presented a paper on 'Law and the Hearing Impaired Children' which highlighted a disability from law point of view. Co-chair summed up the papers: one of the papers highlighted the role of parents and their attitude, and she wound up the session by encouraging professions from other fields to attend and contribute to the special education field.

Day 3

Technical Session 6

Multidisciplinary Input in the Education of Children with Hearing Impairment



This session was chaired by Dr. Himangshu Das and co-chair by Dr. G.Malar. This session had a key note speech by Dr N Ratna and invited speech by Dr. Amita Burde. This session had 5 sessions. Questions revolved around a presentation around Impact of Early intervention by a Multidisciplinary team on development of a child with hearing impairment: A case study by Dr. Vijetha. Few audiences felt that she would have considered the social model to explain while the speaker considered the medical model and the relevance of medical model was questioned about. The speaker justified the usage of medical model with respect to the environment considered for the data collection.

Technical Session 7

Technology for Language Development in Children with HI

Prof. K. C. Shyamala and Dr. Meera Suresh chaired and co-chaired this session respectively. This session had a total of two papers. Dr. Ajish Abraham was the key note speaker. Ms.

P.V.Ramanakumari who presented a paper on Effectiveness of TECHTENSES was queried whether this model is useful to teach only one subject. For which the presenter responded that, this is just experimentation and we could design strategy to teach almost any type of grammar. More importance should be laid on exposure and instructions. The chair summed the session by thanking the Key note speaker and all the presenters.

Technical Session 8

Viability of Cochlear Implants in the Indian Educational



Session 8 was chaired by Dr. P Manjula and co-chaired by Dr. Alok Kumar Upadhaya. Dr. Asha Yathiraj delivered the key note speech and Mrs. Latha Nayak as invited speaker. It had only one presentation on Effectiveness of cochlear implant in Indian Educational scenario by Ms Priyanka. The key note speaker asked about the number of children taken under each grade. The speaker told it to be 25. However she could not tell the specific number taken in each class. The keynote speaker indeed highlighted the viability of cochlear implant in the current educational scenario and clarified myths and doubts about the usage of cochlear implant.

The technical sessions were concluded by valedictory function, wherein the guests appreciated the effort of AIISH in hosting NCED. NCED-India announced the awards for young researcher in the field of special education, and awards in different categories. Four out of the six awards were bagged by faculty and special educator of Department of Special Education.

Few glimpses of paper presenters and award winners





Details of Technical Sessions & Number of Paper Presented

Date	Technical Session	Chair Person	Co-Chair Person	Number of Papers Presented
15.02.2016	Augmentative and Alternative Communicational Options for learners with Hearing Impairment.	Prof. Dr.Nisha Grover	Dr. N. Swapna	4
15.02.2016	Quality Appraisal of Inclusive Education Processes.	Prof. Amitav Mishra	Dr. I.P.Gowramma	9
15.02.2016	Indispensability of independent living skills and community living skills .	Prof. Premalatha Sharma	Prof. K. Rajalakshmi	1
16.02.2016	Evaluation of Learners with Hearing Impairment.	Dr. N. Rathna	Mrs. Lata Nayak	8
16.02.2016	Professional Collaboration for Inclusive Education.	Dr. Varsha Gathoo	Dr. N. Sredevi	2
17.02.2016	Multidisciplinary Input in the Education of Children with Hearing Impairment.	Dr. Himangshu Das	Dr. G. Malar	4
17.02.2016	Technology for Language Development in Children with HI.	Prof. K. C. Shyamala	Dr. Meera Suresh	2
17.02.2016	Viability of Cochlear Implants in the Indian Educational Scene.	Dr. P Manjula	Dr. Alok Kumar Upadhaya	1

