

Webinar report on Speech and Hearing

Organized by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in association with National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH)

Date: 11th September 2020

Time: 3.00 to 4.00 PM

Mode of meeting: Google meet

Presidential address: Dr. Sekhar L. Kuriakose, Member Secretary KSDMA

Inauguration: Smt. Sheeba George IAS, Director, Social Justice Department and Executive Director, NISH

Moderator: Mr. Pradeep G.S, Hazard & risk analyst, KSDMA

Speaker:

Mrs. Daisy Sebastian Coordinator, Academics and Intervention Programs, NISH

Mr. M Moideen General Secretary All Kerala Parents Association for hearing impaired

Mr. Joe George, State project officer, KSDMA

In this covid -19 pandemic situation, KSDMA organized a series of webinar on disaster preparedness. The intention of this webinar was to provide facilities to the persons with the speech and hearing impaired.

The 6th series of webinar – “**Covid 19 & disaster preparedness 2020 - addressing Speech and Hearing Impaired**” organized by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in association with National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) was held on 11 September 2020, at 3:00 PM with a presidential address by **Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose** , Member Secretary , KSDMA . He gave a brief description to this webinar series and suggested to include:

1. To mainstream the project of disability by KSDMA
2. Include disability as a part of DM act
3. NISH and sign language for helpline facility
4. Basic sign language online class.
5. Basic response by collaborating with NISH

6. Virtual cadre – including the members from the social justice department.

Inaugural speech was by **Smt. Sheeba George IAS**, Director, Social Justice Department and Executive Director, NISH. The suggestion put forward by Dr. Sekhar L. Kuriakose was taken into consideration by the director. She discussed to include the following suggestions put forward by Dr. Sekhar L. Kuriakose in annual plan. Also, mentioned on ensure support from NISH 24*7 online services / helpline, protection and safety based on RPWD 2016 act.

First speaker, **Mrs. Daisy Sebastian**, coordinator, academics and intervention programs NISH presented a Power Point presentation based on the issues faced by the deaf & hard of hearing in the covid 19 scenario. She spoke about the challenges faced in clinical services, strategies adopted to provide clinical services, challenges in online intervention program and challenges faced in providing educational services. Main challenges faced by people with deaf & hard of hearing is difficulty in access to information.

Second speaker, **Mr. M Moideen**, General Secretary All Kerala Parents Association for hearing impaired opened the webinar by providing a few recommendations for the helping the people with disability like providing online sign language classes during disaster. Recommended that disaster management authority should conduct panchayat, municipal cooperation-based survey, collect data of people with deaf & hard hearing etc. Information on awareness and training program in first aid should be shared via WhatsApp, YouTube channel through message or hearing aid to people living in disaster prone areas. Data of people with disability must be transferred when they move to a new panchayat.

Third speaker **Mr. Joe George**, State project officer, KSDMA presented on the following topics sustainable development goals (SDG), appropriate technology for audio messages in DAISY format, flood 2018 and disability, school safety f (for visually impaired), Corona Awareness video in sign language, 24*7 helpline for the deaf , essential Services for PWD , early warning in sign language and audio, conduct and participate in mock drills, Mock drills for PWD , Trans parents Masks.

Discussion based on the webinar

1. Challenges: - no standardized sign language, Barrier environment – to provide batteries for hearing aid at free of cost.
2. SDG goals
3. Suggested to change the concept of disability to” specially aided “
- 4.Training for teachers in ISL.

5. Universal I.D – unique disability card
6. ISL – online classes to all parents.