

# **Awareness program regarding ear and hearing care**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

## **Introduction:**

***“Blindness separates us from things but deafness separates us from people.”-  
Hellen Keller.***

Hearing loss is the most prevalent sensory disability globally. According to WHO, over 360 million persons in the world live with disabling hearing loss. This is approximately 5.3% of the world population. 32 million of these are children less than 15 years of age. In India, approximately 6% of the population suffers from hearing impairment.

***Public health measures can effectively reduce hearing loss.*** An awareness program was organized by Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in Daryaganj area, Near Delhi Gate Center, Delhi

## **Activities in the Community (Anganwadi Centre, Daryaganj, New Delhi, India):**

**Officers In-charge-** Dr. A.K. Agarwal & Dr Suneela Garg

**Facilitators-** Dr Tapas Nair, Ms. Deeksha Khurana, Ms. Janki Mehta, Ms. Indu Arora and residents from the Department of Community Medicine, MAMC Delhi

**Participants-** 70 community members

**Short play-** Three short plays were prepared and presented by the interns of Maulana Azad Medical college in Delhi Gate Health center to educate the community regarding common ear related problems and the best possible treatment options. The play was presented in simple language which made it easy to be comprehended by the community. The play brought forward the basic perception that people have regarding the ear problems such as Ear discharge, congenital and acquired deafness and injury related hearing loss. It also highlighted the common myths and misconceptions related to ear care which are prevalent in the community. With the help of the short play the doctors were able to make the people of the community aware about the significance of ear care and that ear problems should not be neglected. The medical treatment should only be taken from qualified ENT doctor.

Health talks- Doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College and Ms. Janki Mehta from Society for Sound Hearing gave health talks regarding possible causes of ear problems and precautions one can take to prevent ear related problems. They also emphasized on the Do's and Don'ts related to ear care. The talk highlighted the common ear problems seen in the community and the harmful effects of trying home remedies or getting unprofessional help such as getting ears cleaned by the local ear cleaners.

Quiz- A quiz was organized by Ms. Deeksha Khurana with the aim to understand whether the community members had comprehended the points that were put forward during the health talk and play. Questions were asked and a prize was given to the persons who gave the right answer. The community actively participated in the quiz. The community members participated in the quiz whole-heartedly and their responses were found to be satisfactory.

Questions- The last segment was open for people to ask any questions that they may have regarding the information they received.

Distribution of IEC material-At the end of the awareness program, pamphlets on "ear and hearing care" and "early identification of ear problems" which were developed by Society for Sound Hearing were distributed to all the attendees.

***Since the awareness program was organized just before festival of Diwali, the community members were also sensitized about the adverse effects of bursting loud crackers on ear.***



**Short play being organized by the interns of MAMC in the community**



**IEC material developed by Society for Sound Hearing displayed in the community**



**Prize distribution by Ms. Deeksha Khurana during the quiz**



**Health talk by Ms. Janki Mehta**