

School Awareness program regarding ear and hearing care

Date: 20th December 2013

Introduction:

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 20th December 2013 in Lady Noyce School for the Deaf, Delhi Gate, Delhi

Activities at the school level:

Officers In-charge- Dr. A.K. Agarwal (President- SH2030) & Dr Suneela Garg (Treasurer- SH2030)

Facilitators- Ms. Deeksha Khurana (Programme Officer-SH2030), Ms. Janki Mehta (Administrative Officer- SH2030), Mr. Ravi Kumar (Office Assistant- SH2030) and interns/ PG students from the Department of Community Medicine, MAMC Delhi

Other Members Present-

- **MAMC Delhi:**

1. Dr. G.S Meena- Dir. Prof. Dept. of Community Medicine, MAMC, Delhi
2. Ms. Nirmata Kureel- Health Education Lecturer, Dept. of Community Medicine, MAMC, Delhi
3. Ms. Monika- Research Officer, Dept. of Community Medicine, MAMC, Delhi
4. Ms. Kriti Gulati- Research Fellow, Dept. of ENT, MAMC, Delhi
5. Ms. Indu Arora- Training Officer, Dept. of Community Medicine, MAMC, Delhi

- **Social Welfare Board, Delhi Govt.**

1. Ms. Kiran Gandhi- Deputy Director Disability, Social Welfare Board, Delhi Govt.
2. Staff members (3)

- **CBM**

1. Mr. Umesh Baurai- Advocacy lead, CBM
2. Mr. Dinesh Rana- CBM

- **School**

1. Ms. Laxmi- Principal
2. Ms. Sangeeta Khanna- Teacher & Coordinator
3. Ms. Kiran Sikri- Teacher & interpreter
4. Teachers and other staff of the school (40)

Participants- 400 students

Welcome note- A welcome note was delivered by Ms. Sangeeta Khanna (teacher) during which she welcomed the team from Maulana Azad Medical College and Social Welfare Board, Delhi Govt.

Introduction speech- An encouraging introductory speech was given by Dr. Suneela Garg during which she explained the objectives of the school awareness programme. She also said that the students should not let their hearing impairment come in the way of their ambitions in life.

Short play- Three short plays were prepared and presented by the interns and PG students of Maulana Azad Medical College. The play was presented in simple language and was presented in sign language by interpreter which made it easy to be comprehended by the students. The play 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 children 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. 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.

Health talk- Dr. Anuradha from Maulana Azad Medical College gave health talk 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. She also explained the various milestones by which parents can recognize the signs of hearing impairment in their children.

Quiz- A quiz was organized by Ms. Deeksha Khurana, Ms. Janki Mehta, Ms. Kriti Gulati & Ms. Indu Arora with the aim to understand whether the students had comprehended the points that were put forward during the health talk and play. Questions were asked and a prize was given to the students who gave the right answer. The students participated in the quiz whole-heartedly and their responses were found to be satisfactory. The prizes were distributed by Dr. A.K. Agarwal, Dr. Garg, Ms. Kiran Gandhi & Ms. Laxmi.

Address by Ms. Kiran Gandhi (Deputy Director Disability, Delhi Govt.)- Ms. Kiran Gandhi appreciated the awareness programme organized by Sound Hearing 2030 and said that such programmes should be organized in the future as well.

Address by Dr. A.K Agarwal (President)- Dr. Agarwal promised his full medical support to all the students and staff of the school. He said that Maulana Azad Medical college and the society would be happy to help the students in any possible way.

Address by Mr. Umesh Baurai- Mr. Umesh expressed that the liaisoning between society for sound hearing and social welfare board is a positive step and such collaborative activities should be taken up in the future as well.

Vote of Thanks by Ms. Laxmi (Principal)- Ms. Laxmi delivered the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and participants.

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" and posters which were developed by Society for Sound Hearing were distributed to all the attendees.

Distribution of refreshments to students- At the end of the awareness programme, refreshments were distributed to all the students, teachers and staff members.



Short play being organized by the interns of MAMC in the School



IEC material developed by Society for Sound Hearing displayed in the School



Prize distribution by Ms. Kiran Gandhi during the quiz



Health talk by Dr. Anuradha



Dr. Agarwal addressing the student



Students participating in the quiz



Mr. Umesh from CBM addressing the student



Distribution of refreshment among students