

SOUND HEARING 2030 ACTIVITIES OF YEAR 2018

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEET ON “ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE HEARING CARE FOR ALL IN SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION” HELD ON 2ND& 3RD FEBRUARY 2018, MAMC, NEW DELHI

Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and technical support from Sound Hearing 2030 organized an international consultative meet on “**Accessible and Sustainable Hearing Care For All In South East Asia Region**”.

The objectives of the meet were to sensitize all the participants towards primary ear and hearing care and its operationalization in SEAR and Indian context, identify the barriers and challenges for prevention of hearing loss and deafness and development of a road map for strategic implementation.

Recommendations:

1. Development of human resources under the NPPCD programme.
2. Capacity building.
3. Sensitization of all health facilities about the services provided under NPPCD programme.
4. Systems approach to be followed in primary ear and hearing care service delivery.
5. Formation of linkages between the public sector, private sector, NGOs and other related professional bodies and the need to adopt an integrated approach in primary ear care in India.
6. Establishment of a National congenital deafness registry.
7. An audiology centre to be attached to all health facilities for providing comprehensive ear and hearing care.
8. Provision of grants by the government for conducting research in the field of ear care.

WORLD HEARING DAY (3RD MARCH 2018) MOHFW, NIRMAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

On the occasion of World Hearing Day 2018, an ear awareness and screening camp was organized by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine and Department of ENT, Maulana Azad Medical College; Department of ENT, Lady Harding Medical College; Department of ENT, Safdarjung Hospital and Society for Sound Hearing at Nirman Bhawan on 1st March 2018. Dr. Promila Gupta, DDG, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, facilitated the conduct of the screening programme. It was inaugurated by Dr. B.D. Athani, Director General of Health Services; Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary Health and Mr. Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

As part of the screening program, 353 beneficiaries were screened. 82.7% of the individuals screened were males while 17.3% were females. The age of the participants varied from 21 years to 69 years. The participants were first screened for any hearing problem using screening proforma which included details of individual's history. This was followed by ear examination by ENT specialists and those requiring audiometric assessment, were further evaluated in a separate room by audiometrists. The audiometric services were provided by ALPS International.





WHO AD HOC CONSULTATION ON PRIMARY EAR AND HEARING CARE TRAINING MANUAL REVISION HELD ON 2ND JULY 2018, WHO HEAD-QUARTER, GENEVA

World Health Organization (WHO) ad hoc consultation on primary ear and hearing care training manual revision meeting was held on 2nd July 2018. Recap and update on training resource revision was discussed by Dr. Shelly Chadha, Technical Officer, Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss, WHO, Geneva. Mahmood Bhutta, ENT Surgeon, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals, Brighton, UK discussed 'An evidence framework for delivering EHC in resource limited settings'. Priya Carling, Director and Consultant Audiologist, Kent Hearing Ltd, West Malling, UK stressed on the 'Basic level manual: purpose, structure and contents'. Following this there was Group work on basic level manual, presentation of group work followed by discussion. 'Intermediate level manual: purpose, structure and contents' were discussed by Mahmood Bhutta. 'The Update on audiology sections' was given by Linda Hood, Hearing Scientist, Vanderbilt University Tennessee, USA.

Dr. Suneela Garg, Director Professor & Head Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India who is a member of the Honorary Board of Director Sound Hearing 2030 International, an Honorary Advisor to CBM for Prevention & Control of Deafness in South East Asia and has been involved in developing strategy for Deafness Control for the Government of India stressed on the requirement of preparing ear and hearing care modules which focus on skill development. She also commented on the need of developing trainer's manual and facilitator's manual separately. Finally, 'Group work on intermediate level manual', presentation and discussion were carried out.

The outcome of the meeting was that there is still a requirement of modifying the ear and hearing care modules of Primary and Intermediate Level and bringing out new modules with changes incorporated.

MULTI-COUNTRY WHO WORKSHOP ON EAR AND HEARING CARE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION, NEW DELHI, INDIA HELD ON 3RD - 4TH OCTOBER, 2018, MAMC, NEW DELHI

Sound Hearing 2030 and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India organized Workshop in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi in collaboration with World Health Organization and Sound Hearing 2030 and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

The meeting on 3rd and 4th Oct 2018 involved the country representatives from Ministries of Health of SEAR, country experts of SEAR, representatives from Sound Hearing 2030, representatives from NGOs, experts from different parts of India.

The programme started with the traditional auspicious lamp lightening ceremony by Dr S. Venkatesh (DDG Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), Dr. Patanjali Dev Nayar (Regional Advisor, Disability, Injury prevention and Rehabilitation, WHO), Dr Shelly Chadha (Technical advisor, Prevention of Deafness and Hearing loss, WHO HQ), Dr. S. Ramji (Dean, MAMC), Dr A K Agarwal (Former Dean, MAMC) and Dr. Suneela Garg (Director Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, MAMC and Secretary General, Society of Sound Hearing).

Dr. Suneela Garg welcomed the international and national delegates to the WHO workshop on ear and hearing care in South East Asia Region and stressed on the objectives and importance of carrying out this workshop. The purpose of the workshop included importance of promoting EHC in SEAR, sensitizing participants about EHC in global and regional perspective and role of World Hearing Forum and SH 2030 in strengthening EHC. She also emphasized on role of strengthening health care systems to promote EHC.

Dr S. Venkatesh stressed on the importance of hearing in good language development and the overall personality development of an individual in life

course. In the absence of timely redressal, hearing impairment and deafness could profoundly both the affected person and his family. It hampers education, employment, emotional and overall development. The global burden of hearing loss is at 14th rank in terms of DALYs and 2nd rank among causes for YLDs globally and contributed an estimated \$750 billion loss in 2015. The DG also elaborated on the risk factors of hearing loss like noise, persistence of untreated ear infections, complications at birth, chronic ear infections and use of ototoxic drugs and reminded that most of which could be prevented.

- He further informed that globally 1 in 3 people aged more than 65 years experience disabling hearing loss which could be managed effectively by the correct use of hearing aids and other accessories. He also stressed that our public health strategies should inculcate prevention of hearing impairment and thrown light on the need of healthy public health policies.
- He visualized the workshop as an exciting platform for sharing the experiences across SEAR countries and to share learnings from sustainable initiatives and the identification of unmet needs. He informed that India had become 71st country in the world to launch a National Health Programme for Prevention of Hearing Loss. He further mentioned that hearing care services were included under the Ayushman Bharat program of the Government of India. Nearly 150,000 health and wellness centers are to be set up in India of which over 3,000 are already functional.

The PM's Jan Arogya Yojana (National Health Protection Program) would provide insurance cover to 500 million people who were most vulnerable to out of pocket expenses involved in in-patient and hospital care.