



VIBRATIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NISH

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EDITORIAL



Dr Suja K Kunnath
Executive Director

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present this issue of Vibrations, which captures the vibrant academic, clinical, cultural, and community engagements at NISH over the past quarter. Each page reflects the collective efforts of our students, faculty, and staff, working together with a shared commitment to care, inclusion, and excellence.

This quarter has been marked by meaningful learning experiences and capacity-building initiatives, from workshops, Continuing Rehabilitation Education programmes, and faculty development activities to student induction sessions that set a strong foundation for professional growth. Our campus continued to be a space where knowledge is actively exchanged, skills are sharpened, and curiosity is encouraged.

Beyond the classroom, our students have brought pride to the institution through achievements in sports, literature, and cultural platforms. They have also actively engaged in programmes that promote mental health, well-being, and social awareness. The observance of significant days reminded us of the values we uphold—dignity, participation, and collective responsibility.

I am particularly encouraged by the scholarly contributions and research accomplishments showcased in this issue, which reaffirm NISH's role in advancing evidence-based practice and knowledge creation in the field of disability and rehabilitation. Our outreach and community initiatives further highlight our ongoing efforts to extend support beyond campus and make a meaningful impact.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the activities featured in this newsletter and to the team that has brought this issue together. I hope Vibrations continues to serve as a window into our shared journey and inspires us to move forward with renewed purpose.

With warm regards

Dr. Suja K. Kunnath



CAMPUS BUZZ

AT Experience Zone

The Assistive Technology (AT) Experience Zone, now operational at NISH marks a significant milestone in rehabilitation technology. Developed by the National Centre for Assistive Health Technology (NCAHT) and funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Experience Zone serves as a dynamic, live demonstration space where students, researchers, clinicians, and the community can interact with a wide range of cutting-edge assistive devices and solutions.



Master Mahadev, a student receiving therapy in the NISH PNSS Unit, inaugurates the new AT Experience Zone.



NISH has been granted the services of a College Psychologist/Counsellor through the Jeevani Project - the mental-health & counselling initiative of the Department of Collegiate Education, Government of Kerala for students in government colleges. The Jeevani Project aims to promote well-being, raise awareness of mental health, support early identification of psychological issues among students, and provide accessible professional support.

Heartiest Congratulations to our Shining Stars
Kerala University Toppers

BSc Computer Science(HI) 2021-2025 Batch

1st Rank	2nd Rank	3rd Rank
		
ANN MARIYA CHRISTIN	NITESH KUMAR YADAV	PREETI RAJ

B.Com (HI) 2021-2025 Batch

1st Rank	2nd Rank	4th Rank
		
Priya Misra	Athinan M P	Grace Maria Vinod

Advancing Disability Rehabilitation



A three-day workshop focused on Content Development for NIDAS Training was successfully hosted at NISH from August 18 to 20, 2025. The event brought together skilled professionals from NISH, and the Community Disability Management and Rehabilitation Programme (CDMRP), University of Calicut. This collaborative effort aims to enhance training standards and resource quality within the NIDAS framework.

Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) sessions



An online CRE session titled ‘Understanding Science and Research in Rehabilitation’ was conducted by the Department of Psychology on October 29, 2025. Dr. Anne Varghese, HoD of the Department of Psychology, served as the resource person.



The Department of Neurodevelopmental Sciences (NDS) organized a successful Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) conference on “Evidence-Based Practices in Neurodevelopmental Disorders” on August 13 & 14, 2025. Held at NISH, the event featured a panel of distinguished resource persons, including experts from NISH and Dr. Soumya Sundaram from SC-TIMST, Thiruvananthapuram.

Training Session for Special Educators



A training session for special educators in the Trivandrum district was conducted by NIDAS on November 1, 2025. The sessions were facilitated by the Department of Psychology, NISH.

Parent Enrichment Sessions by STEPP



Parents of EIP kids attending STEPP Parent Enrichment Session on ‘Importance of Play in Language Development’ by Team Psychology on August 19, 2025.

Sessions on ‘Hearing Aid Care and Maintenance’ and ‘A Day Together with us for Your Children’ were also conducted on November 19, 2025 and December 15, 2025 respectively.

Curriculum Workshop



On December 5, 2025, Department of Degree (HI) hosted Phase I of the workshop on Upgrading Degree (HI) Syllabus to the FYUGP Framework. Faculty from NISH and Bishop Moore College for the Hearing Impaired, Adoor, participated in the collaborative session.



LEVEL UP

Induction Highlights



MSc Aud & SLP students participating in an online expert session with Dr. Prashanth Prabhu (AIISH) on 12 August 2025 during the Induction Program.



Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT) students attending an expert talk (November 7, 2025), as part of their Induction Programme.

Mastering the Medium



Fine Arts students participate in 'Colours and Beyond—A Camlin Experience,' an intensive watercolor workshop led by Mr. Jai Kumar, Zonal Manager of Kokuyo Camlin India. The session was organized by the Department of Fine Arts on September 17, 2025.

'Sound Beginnings'



Julie Kosaner, Clinical Specialist and Consultant at MED-EL, delivering an expert talk on "Sound Beginnings- Pathways to Family-Centered Early Intervention Practices." The session was organized by the Cochlear Implant Unit, Department of ASLP, on September 1, 2025.

Faculty Development Programs

'Role of Occupational Therapy in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit' organized by Outpatient Department - Pediatric unit, College of Occupational Therapy on August 22, 2025. Resource Persons: Mr Joseph Bose, Ms Raisa S Kumar and Ms Bhagya Lekshmi, Faculty Members, COT.

'Creative Arts' organized by Early Intervention Department on September 2, 2025. Resource Persons: Mr Rakesh P S, Me Shiju R V and Mr Saroop M V, Faculty Members, Dept. of Fine Arts.

'Brain Gym-Train your Brain' organized by Outpatient Department - Neurology Unit, College of Occupational Therapy on September 12, 2025. Resource Person: Ms Muthulekshmi P, Faculty Member, COT.

'Recognizing Motor Red Flags and Supporting Communication Through Movement' organized by Early Intervention Department on December 30, 2025. Resource Person: Ms Shyni M T, Sr. Physiotherapist, NISH.



EIP teachers attending 'Creative Arts' session.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Experience Session



Jaya Krishnan (Isha Foundation, Coimbatore) facilitating the 'Miracle of Mind' -Experience Session for Degree (HI) students on October 24, 2025.



B.Com(HI) students participating in a psychology awareness session titled 'Adolescence to Adulthood,' led by College Psychologist Ms. Sini M.S. on November 12, 2025.

Unfiltered' Mental Health Program



Degree (HI) students attended an impactful session by 'Let's Live' on November 18, 2025. Designed to foster a supportive environment, the program emphasized open conversations and peer-to-peer support to build resilience and challenge the stigma surrounding mental health.

National Success



Kerala Women's Senior Team secured the Runner-up position in the 27th National Deaf Senior Volleyball Championship 2025-26, held at Nadiad, Gujarat, from 29th August to 1st September 2025. It is a matter of great pride that 7 students from NISH were part of the team and contributed to this remarkable achievement. Heartfelt congratulations to our students on this commendable success.

Literary Achievement

Ms. Rifa Sayeed, a first-year MSc Speech-Language Pathology student, has secured Second Prize in Malayalam Short Story Writing at the KUHS South Zone Kalotsavam 2025.



Students competing in the Intramural Sports Meet organized by the Department of Physical Education and the Students' Union in October, 2025.



DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Patriotic Spirit



The Mental Health Unit at NISH OT-OPD observed Independence Day on August 13, 2025, through a series of therapeutic group activities. Focused on social skill development, the event allowed clients to celebrate national pride while strengthening interpersonal communication.



Students perform during the Independence Day Celebrations, organized by the Student Union on August 15, 2025.

Celebrating Deafhood



As part of the International Week of the Deaf celebrations, the NISH Students Union organized an insightful Deafhood Talk Session on September 25, 2025. The session was led by Mr. Deepak Sastry, a distinguished NISH alumnus and current Senior Executive at Hear A Million, Enable India, Bangalore.

Empowering Parents



To mark World Mental Health Day, the Occupational Therapy Outpatient Department (OTOPD) of the Mental Health Unit, COT organized an impactful Group Session on De-Stress Activities for parents.

Building a Safer Campus



In alignment with the UGC mandate, NISH observed Anti-Ragging Day on August 12, followed by a dedicated Anti-Ragging Week (August 12–18). To foster a secure and welcoming campus, the Student Union and the Anti-Ragging Committee collaborated to host a series of awareness initiatives. Students engaged through a popular selfie point in the Thejas lobby and showcased their talents in slogan writing, digital logo and poster design, and filmmaking.

Health Advocacy



The Occupational Therapy Outpatient Department, COT observed World Diabetes Day on November 14, 2025, focusing on the theme: 'The Role of OT in Diabetes Management Across Life Stages.' Chief Guest Dr. Padmaja M. (ENT Consultant) and Dr. Vinith Dani Jose J.P. (Vice Principal & HoD, COT) provided insights on dietary requirements and essential lifestyle modifications. To mark the occasion, students organized a rally and presented posters.

Occupational Therapy in Action



The College of Occupational Therapy celebrated World Occupational Therapy Day on 27th October 2025, centered on the theme 'Occupational Therapy in Action.' The Chief Guest, Dr. S. Krishnan, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Government Medical College, shared his valuable insights and distributed prizes to the winners of the pre-event competitions, which included face painting, reels, and poster presentations.

Prevention Observance



Occupational Therapy students delivering a poster presentation during the World Suicide Prevention Day observance on September 10, 2025.

SPOTLIGHT



A glimpse of our new Diploma students actively engaging in their orientation journey at NISH.(October 27–29, 2025).



A fun filled moment from the Freshers' Day of Degree (HI) conducted on October 10, 2025.



Early Intervention Program (EIP) little ones celebrating Children's Day with bright smiles and big hearts at NISH.



A vibrant moment from the Onam celebrations organized by the Student Union on August 27, 2025, bringing the spirit of festivity to the campus.



A snapshot of the Dandiya Night organized by the Students' Union on October 21, 2025.



Little champions of the Sports Day organized by the Early Intervention Department on December 12, 2025, pictured with Executive Director Dr. Suja K. Kunnath.



Santha sharing a joyful moment with the children during the Christmas celebration on December 19, 2025.



SCHOLARLY SHOWCASE

Achievements



Ms. Arya Chand (Senior Lecturer/Audiologist, Department of ASLP) got best oral paper award in Rehab Audiology and Vestibular Sciences in 17th KSB ISHACON (October 10 & 11, 2025) on the topic "The status of peripheral vestibular system in acquired sensory neural hearing loss a cross sectional study".



Dr. Jeena Mary Joy's (Associate Professor, Dept of ASLP, NISH), research article titled "Speech perception and language abilities among children using cochlear implants: Findings from a primary school age cohort in South India" received the Cochlear Implant Group of India (CIGI) award for the Best Publication.



Sreelekshmi S S (Clinical Supervisor, Department of ASLP) received the Best Oral Paper Award for her scientific paper titled "Comparative Study on Feeding and Swallowing Difficulties Among Children with Global Developmental Delay, Down Syndrome, and Typically Developing Children," authored by Sreelekshmi S. S. and Aswathy A. K., at the BMCAMSCON Annual Zonal Conference held in Calicut.



Ms. Sita Sreekumar (Senior Lecturer, Department of ASLP) was honored with the Best Oral Poster Award at the 22nd National Conference of The Cochlear Implant Group of India (CIGICON 2025) held in Calicut from August 29th to 31st.



Ms. Lekha S Nair (Lecturer/Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologist, Dept of ASLP) presented the co-authored paper, 'Evaluating Training Outcomes of Grassroot Workers in conducting Hearing, Speech, and Language Screening for Children Under Six Using the SRESHT' at the 15th Coalition for Global Hearing Health Conference, MGH Institute of Health Professions, USA. She received an International Travel Grant for attendance.



Maya G. S. (Faculty, EIP) received CODA interpreter certificate at the International Purple Festival – Goa 2025.

Knowledge Hub

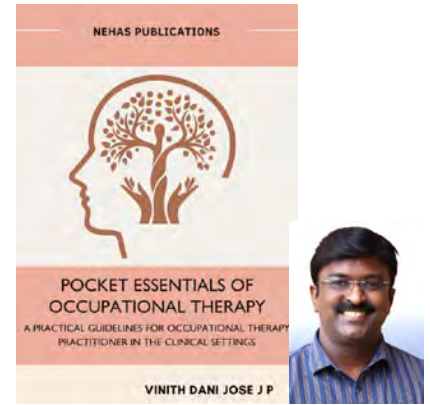
'Cross-cultural adaptation and validation of the communicative effectiveness index in Malayalam for persons with aphasia' co-authored by Dr Vineetha Sara Philip has been published in the journal Aphasiology. September 11, 2025.



'Development and Validation of a Questionnaire in Malayalam to Assess the Listening Difficulties in Mainstreamed Children with Hearing Impairment' co-authored by Saumya Sundaram and Suja.K. Kunnath has been published in Indian Journal of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery.



'Building capacity among community workers to screen for developmental and hearing disabilities with an m-health app (SRESHT screener) using a community-based participatory approach' authored by Lekha S Nair, Prof. Vidya Ramkumar, Dr. Suja K Kunnath and Dr. Aruna S is published in Journal of Communication disorders (Q1 journal), Volume 119, Jan - Feb 2026.



"Pocket Essentials of Occupational Therapy," authored by Dr. Vinith Dani Jose J.P., Vice Principal and Professor & Head of the College of Occupational Therapy (COT) at NISH has been published. This new resource serves as a practical guide for students and practitioners alike, distilling core clinical concepts into an accessible format.



Two research papers from the Departments of ASLP and NDS have been accepted for presentation at the APSSLH 2025 Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, held in partnership with ASHA from December 12–14. Ms. Vrinda R presented her work on a "Shared Book Reading Intervention Module for Children with Language Disorder" as a poster presentation, while Ms. Nidhi Lalu Jacob delivered an oral presentation on "Mapping Metacognitive Abilities in Midlife." Notably, Ms. Nidhi has also been awarded the prestigious International Travel Grant from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to support her participation in this international forum.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Inclusive Athletics



The Department of Psychology at NISH, in collaboration with the Department of General Education (Samagra Shiksha Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram), conducted an Inclusive Sports Camp on 13th October 2025 at St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Vettucaud. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Anne Varghese, HoD of the Department of Psychology, NISH.

Nurturing Well-being



Under the Community-Based Rehabilitation initiative, the Department of Psychology held mental health sessions at Government UP Schools in Cheruvaickal and Kumarapuram, and at St. Mary's HSS, Vettucaud, on October 15, 16, and 30, 2025, respectively

Online Resources from NISH

- Prakasarekha** A series designed to sensitize people with disabilities
- Sign of the Day** Learn Indian Sign Language from the students of NISH
- ISL Dictionary** Sign Language Dictionary for Technical Terms
- EIP** Early Intervention Programme Class Sessions
- "I am that I am"** Disability Awareness Film
- NIDAS** NISH Online Interactive Disability Awareness Seminar
- NIMIS** NISH Innovations Model Inspiring Stories
- STEPP** Structured and Timely Empowerment Program for Parents of persons with disabilities

Prepared by Centre for Communication & Media Development (CCMD), NISH
e-mail: ccmd@nish.ac.in Ph: ++91-471-2944 630

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(An autonomous organisation under the Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala)

NISH Road, Sreekaryam P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 017, Kerala, India Tel: +91 471 294 4666/601/622

Fax: +91 471 294 4699 E-mail: nishinfo@nish.ac.in Web: www.nish.ac.in

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