

Report on Workshop on "Understanding Learning Disabilities".

Date & Time: 26th, 27th, 28th of February, 2024, 9 to 4 p.m.

Venue: Board Room of Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

Resource Persons:

1. Dr. Jayashree Ashok, Ph.D, LSPD (USA), Educational Therapist & Trainer, Centre for Holistic Integrated learning and Development, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
2. Ms. Renu Nayar, M.A (English), LPAD, FIE, Educational Therapist & Trainer, Centre for Holistic Integrated learning and Development, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Faculty Coordinators:

Dr Maya Ratnasabapathy, Associate Professor in Psychology, School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology - Chennai.)

Dr S Kumaran, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Coordinator for Clinical Research and Operations of Centre for Digital Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

Permission obtained from Ministry of Education, Nallur & Provincial Director of Health Services, Northern Province, and Zonal Education Office, Nallur.

Mr. M. Patrick Diranjan (Secretary, Ministry of Education, Nallur), Mr. T. John Quintus (Provincial Director of Education, Northern Province), and Mr. P. Ravichandran (Zonal Director of Education, Nallur) granted the permission to release the Teachers for this three- days workshop. The support of them led the teachers to participate without failure with duty leave.

Presence:

Prof R Surenthirakumaran (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna)

Dr P.A.D.Coonghe (Head, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna)

Dr A Nithlavarnan (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna)

Mr P Surendran (Assistant Director of Education)

Ms S Sasrubi Sathees (Research Assistant, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna).

Agenda:

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
	26.02.2024	27.02.2024	28.02.2024
9.00- 9.30 a.m.	Registration	Remedial Intervention _ Reading and Comprehension.	Writing , Activities to Stimulate Thinking and Learning
9.30 - 9.45 a.m.	Welcome and introduction by Prof R Surenthirakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Medicine		
9.45- 10.00 a.m.	Workshop objective by Dr.P.A.D.Coonghe, Head, Department of Community & Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine		
10.00- 12.15 p.m.	Introduction to Learning Disabilities		
12.15- 1.00 pm	LUNCH BREAK		
1.00-3.00 p.m.	Identification	Remedial Intervention _ Reading and Comprehension.	Writing , Activities to Stimulate Thinking and Learning
3.00- 4.00 p.m.	Brain Gym Exercises	Closing Activity	Certificate Awarding

Report:

Workshop was arranged by Centre for Digital Epidemiology (CoDE), Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna. Dr S Kumaran, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Coordinator for Clinical Research and Operations of Centre for Digital Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna and Dr Maya Ratnasabapathy, Associate Professor in Psychology, School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology - Chennai) directed the workshop. Ms Sasrubi Sathees coordinated the workshop, while Dr B Thayalini (Staff from Centre for Digital Epidemiology) gave logistic support.

Workshop started with Registration of the participants. Teachers working in Special Education Units (20), Primary Teachers (15), Shadow teachers (5), Community Health workers (7) participated the Workshop.

First day of Workshop:

The participants introduced themselves in presence of resource persons and respective investigators of the project. After the introduction session, the resource person opened the workshop on "Understanding Learning Disability". The subtopics were "What is Learning Disabilities, Types of Learning Disabilities, how do we understand Learning Disabilities of students, Role of Teachers to Learning Disabilities, Learning to read and Reading to Learn". Group discussion and Role play were also carried out.



Second day of Workshop:

Workshop of second day was started with BrainGym Exercises such as Owl sound, Tapping same hand same leg, Cross crawl, Elephant eight, Arm activation, Brain Buttons , Earth, Space and Energy yawn. All the participants were engaged with such exercises and they have been allowed to return demonstrate themselves. As continuation of the workshop Remedial Intervention for Reading and Comprehension was carried out. In addition to that, exercises were applied to identify the symbols for recording oral reading errors and to evaluate criteria for determining reading levels.



Third Day of Workshop:

Workshop of third day mainly focused on "Disability in Writing skills". Activities to Stimulate Thinking and Learning, Sight words, phrases, and paraphrase. At the end of interactive sessions, holistic intervention to identify the learning disability has been discussed. The case studies were also discussed in between the workshop. The Resource person concluded the workshop with revision of all three days workshop.



Awarding the Certificates

Certificates were awarded to the participants behalf of "Centre for Holistic Integrated Learning & Development (CHILD)" holding the signatures of both resources, Dr Jayashree Ashok (Director of CHILD), and Ms. Renu Nayar (Founder Director of CHILD). Following certificate offering, group photo was taken.



Feedback from participants

Feedback from participants were obtained.

Summary:

Usefulness of Workshop was reported as "Excellent" by 85% of the participants and 90% of the participants provided feed back that proper guidance was given by the resource person for group discussion.

In what ways this workshop was useful	What learnt regarding the area of Teaching	Expectations of participants regard workshop in future
Individual knowledge acquired	BrainGym Exercises	The duration of workshop needed to be increased in future
Acquired Knowledge to apply in Family	Teaching techniques to teach children with Learning Disability	Parents of children with Learning Disability also need to be included in future
Experience obtained to apply in schools	Increase IQ of children with Learning Disability	It's better to Workshop in other provinces as well
Understood Teaching Methods	Problem solving	Knowledge of children with ADHD, Autism also need to be taught.