

Minutes of the meeting of the Apex Advisory Committee to considers higher education programmes in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology held under the chairmanship of Prof. M Jayaram, Chairperson of the RCI Expert Committee on 17/10/2016 at Goa.

Other members present were

1. Dr. Vinod Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD & Chaiperson RCI
2. Shri S.K.Srivastava, Member Secretary, RCI
3. Dr. A.K. Sinha, Director, AYJNIHH, Mumbai
4. Dr. C. S. Vanaja, Professor, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune
5. Dr. S. P. Goswami, Professor, AIISH, Mysore
6. Dr. B. Mallikarjun, Audiologist, Ahmedabad
7. Shri R Ranjith, MERFISH, Chennai
8. Shri Suman Kumar, Deputy Director (Prog), RCI

Shri S K Srivastava, Member Secretary extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Apex committee. After a brief introduction by the members, Member Secretary, briefed the members on the purpose of the meeting. He shared his experience on his recent visit to Salus University, USA and University of Lancashire, UK. He requested the members to suggest the utility of such programmes, their eligibility criteria, method of transaction, and content and presented the agenda items and requested the Chairperson, Expert Committee to Chair the meeting.

Prof. M Jayaram, Chairperson, Expert Committee shared his thoughts and ideas about the proposed programmes keeping global developments in the field and the global scenario. He further spoke about the development of the field in the last five decades. He requested all members to share their views on the proposed agenda.

Dr. Vinod Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD and Chairperson, RCI addressed the meeting and shared his experiences in the field of disability. He suggested to the members to consider cost while designing the course content, duration etc as per capita income is less in our country. He further suggested that terms and conditions may be decided mutually by the participating Universities. Option of exchange programme may also be given a thought.

The issues raised by the members were discussed at length and the members recommended the followings:

1. The need for higher level programmes in Audiology was discussed at length and the members agreed that the country needs a clinical programme like Doctor in Audiology (AuD). In addition, the members were unanimous in their recommendation that there should be a parallel programme of Doctor in Speech- Language Pathology (SLPD).
2. It was agreed that the duration of the programme shall be four years after graduation in audiology and speech-language pathology. The issue of an integrated course leading to Doctorate of Audiology and PhD can be considered at a later stage.

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17/10/16  
R. Ranjith  
MERFISH  
Chennai

17.10.2016  
SK Srivastava  
MS - RCI

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Dr. A.K. SINHA  
Director  
AYJNIHH(CD)

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Dr. S.P. GOSWAMI  
AIISH  
MYSORE

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b. Mallikarjun  
(Dr. B. MALLIKARJUN  
AHMEDABAD

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3. The members agreed that bifurcated post graduate degrees {M.Sc. (Audiology) and M.Sc. (Speech –Language Pathology)} should be continued.
4. The AuD/ SLPD shall not be on par with PhD Degree in the discipline.
5. The entry point of service for doctor in audiology was discussed and recommended that such doctors should be employed at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent at Govt. / Private Organizations. Further service progression may depend on the policies and regulation of respective institutions.
6. Rehabilitation Council of India may recognize the course/programmes after rules and regulations of the programme are finalized and may also write to all the Universities to implement this programme in their University.
7. Only those institutions offering master's programme in this area and fulfilling infrastructure and other criteria as approved by RCI shall be considered eligible to offer AuD / SLPD programme.
8. The issue of MoU with Universities in USA and other Countries was considered for running this programme in India and the consensus was that there can be mutual collaboration on equal basis between institutions in India and other countries and there could be exchange programme.
9. The institutions offering AuD programmes in India may enter into MoU with institutions in USA and other countries and conduct the course as per rules and regulations of the Indian Universities. Initially, the programme may be implemented on pilot basis to be revisited after five years subject to approval of RCI.
10. The Advisory committee will develop course curriculum for the proposed programmes before the end of this month preferably by 27<sup>th</sup> of this month.
11. The Council may consider recognizing the institutions willing to offer AuD programme from next academic session 2017-18 provided all formalities are completed.
12. Advanced Certificate Courses/ fellowship programmes (for example Cochlear Implants, Vestibular sciences, Tinnitus and Hyperacusis, etc) may be considered by institutions and appropriate proposals may be placed before RCI.

  
(Shri Suman Kumar)

  
(Shri R Ranjith)

  
(Dr. A.K. Sinha)

  
(Dr. C. S. Vanaja)

  
(Dr. S. P. Goswami)

  
(Dr. B. Mallikarjun)

  
(Shri S.K. Srivastava)

  
(Prof. M. Jayaram)

  
(Dr. Vinod Aggarwal)