



**DISHA 2024- National Conference on Early Detection and Early Intervention of Developmental Disorders**

## New Clinics in CDC

### Diya – CVI Clinic

Initiated in January 2024, this clinic screens and manages infants at risk for Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI).

Schedule: Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

### “KUDE” – Palliative Care Clinic

Launched in January 2024, this clinic provides psychological and palliative support for families of children with neuro developmental disorders.

### Teenage Club for Children with Type I Diabetes

Started in November 2023, the club promotes peer interaction and emotional support for adolescents with Type I Diabetes. The clinic caters awareness classes, life skill education, and Creative performances and recreational activities

## Publications 2024

George B, Aswathymana Raju J, Mundappaliyil Leela L, et al. Development and Validation of a Tool for Assessing Pre-Writing Skills of 2-5 y old Children. *Indian J Pediatr*. 2024;91(10):1014-1020. doi:10.1007/s12098-023-04776-6

Bhaskaran, D., Thomas, S. & Scaria, L.M. Neurobehavioral Outcomes of Children with Antenatal Exposure to Antiseizure Medications. *Indian J Pediatr* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12098-024-05165-3>

Bhaskaran, D., Scaria, L., & George, B. (2024). Grief among parents of children with autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20473869.2024.2387401>

### DISHA 2024 National Conference:

CDC organized a National Conference on the Early Detection and Early Intervention of Services, Director of Medical Education, along with other government officials and UNICEF Neurodevelopmental Disorders- 'DISHA 2024' on October 21st and 22nd, 2024", with technical support from UNICEF. The conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Health Minister of Kerala, with the Health Secretary delivering the presidential address. The Health Secretary, Director of Health representatives, including the UNICEF-All India Chief of Health and other key personnel attended the conference. National and state experts in Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics shared their knowledge on early detection and intervention for Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NDDs). Additionally, two workshops were held, focusing on Genetics in NDDs and Neurodevelopmental Assessment. Doctors from all over India has attended the Conference.

### Release of ASD Resource book by Dr R Bindu, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Kerala

The development of the Resource Book on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) involved a comprehensive process including content development workshops, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), expert interviews, and an extensive review of both national and international literature. We conducted eight two-day workshops with approximately 60 specialists across various fields to cover all aspects of ASD. It aims to guide professionals and caregivers by outlining the disorder and offering practical intervention guidelines. The book was developed with significant contributions from Dr. Paul Russell and Dr. Muhammad Asheel, then Executive Director of Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM). The book was released by Hon Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Dr R Bindu on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.



## Zonal Conference on Redefining Communication for Children on the Autism Spectrum: Current Trends and Future Prospects

The Zonal Conference on “Redefining Communication for Children on the Autism Spectrum: Current Trends and Future Prospects” was successfully conducted on 16th and 17th November 2024, bringing together 60 professionals including speech-language pathologists, developmental pediatricians, psychologists, educators, and therapists from across the region. Organized by the Child Development Centre, the conference served as a platform to explore emerging approaches, technologies, and research in the field of communication support for children on the autism spectrum. The sessions included keynote addresses, expert panels, and interactive workshops focusing on evidence-based interventions, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), neurodiversity-affirming practices, and family-centered approaches.



### Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Nagee G and Dr. Indu Viswanathan for securing first and second ranks in the Developmental and Behavioural Pediatrics fellowship examination during 2023-2024.



The DASII (Developmental Assessment Scales for Indian Infants) Training Program was conducted from 11th to 14th November 2024, by expert faculty team from KEM Hospital, Pune

### ● UNICEF Project

As part of the UNICEF initiative of ‘Creating Awareness and Strengthening Systems for Screening, Surveillance and Management of Developmental delays or disorders in Kerala’ done in collaboration with NHM, CDC has been recommended as a “Centre of Excellence/Resource Centre for inclusive early child development” and awaiting for an order from the Government of Kerala. As part of this various research and training programmes has been envisaged. The first one is the “GAP analysis of the District Early Intervention Centres in Kerala”. Aim of this study is to assess whether DEICs are functioning as envisaged in the national guidelines for RBSK, identify potential gaps in early detection and early intervention for developmental delay/disability and obtain suggestions to improve the overall functioning of DEICs in Kerala.