

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Dr Deepa Bhaskaran, Director (i/c), CDC receiving Learning Development toolkit developed by ICFOSS from Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan

Teenage day Oration

The 21st Child Development Centre oration was delivered by Shri. Mohammed Hanish, I A S Principal Secretary to Government, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Kerala on October 31st October. The presentation topic was 'Life skill education of Adolescents with Disabilities'. Dr MKC Nair, former Vice Chancellor KUHS and Founder Director of CDC introduced the speaker. Dr Aneeta Balan, Joint SME, inaugurated the Teen Club. The Teen Club named 'Madhurikkunna Koumaram' is intended to support adolescent children with Type I diabetes mellitus attending the Mitai Clinic of SAT Hospital.

**CDC – Genetic and Metabolic Laboratory certified as NABL Accredited Laboratory.**

The Genetic and Metabolic Laboratory at the Child Development Centre has received NABL accreditation. This lab is the first clinical laboratory in the government sector in Kerala to obtain NABL accreditation. The lab is one of the 15 specialty units of the CDC and does many genetic and biochemical tests, including genetic karyotyping and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) tests. Molecular laboratory testing facilities for genetic testing and genetic counselling have been conducted at the centre for the past decade. The CDC laboratory has been selected as an apex unit for the diagnosis of rare diseases in Kerala. The laboratory functions under the leadership of Dr. Sankar V.H., Consultant Geneticist to the CDC.

Amniocentesis facility at CDC as part of Sradha project

The "Sradha Project" is a state-wide programme for reducing childhood disability through various antenatal interventions, including anomaly scanning using the 4D ultrasound machine and advanced facilities already available at the Genetic and Metabolic Unit of the CDC. Now this 'SRADHA' project delivers free expertise in high-risk obstetric and foetal medicine for the poor and needy pregnant mothers in government settings. The CDC started Phase II of the "Sradha Project," which deals with invasive procedures like amniocentesis for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Prenatal diagnostic tests like amniocentesis can diagnose genetic disorders that run in the family or are suspected in an antenatal scan.



A CME on Adolescents with ASD: The Way Forward was conducted on 30th November 2023. This was a one-day program that focused on the mental health, educational and vocational concerns, and approach to sexuality in an adolescent with ASD. The CME was inaugurated by Professor Linnet J Morris, Principal, Govt Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. The faculty of the CME were; Dr. Swetha Madhuri Chikkala Asst. Professor in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, CMC Vellore, Ms. Merlin Thanka Jeni Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, CMC Vellore, Ms. Jayanti Duruvaiyan Special Educator, CMC Vellore and Dr. Nandita de Souza, Director, Sethu Centre for Child Development & Family Guidance, Goa.



Sasradham- NCD Prevention Programme - Life Style Disease Screening and Intervention for Higher Secondary School Students in Kerala

Higher Secondary Department, Government of Kerala has entrusted Kerala to initiate a programme for identification and prevention of Lifestyle Diseases among Adolescents, Higher Secondary School Students in Kerala. The major outcome measures are identification of Hypertension and Obesity among 11th Standard students. The programme started in September 2023. All the 1.75 Lakh, 11th standard students studying in 850 Government schools in Kerala are the target population. After initial assessment they would be given intervention programme and the assessment would be done after 6 months. This will be a pioneer NCD project in Kerala considering coverage of all students of the age group. The programme named Sasradham, is ongoing in all the Government higher secondary schools in Kerala.

Training Program on Management of Autism Spectrum Disorder at Jammu & Kashmir.

CDC team gave leadership to the two-day training programme on Autism Management Training, SMGS Hospital Jammu Kashmir on 7th and 8th August, 2023. The training programme was handled by the CDC team of Ms. PrassanaG L, Developmental Therapist, Ms. Sharon Susan Sam, Speech and Language Pathologist, Ms. Bismi David Occupational Therapist, and Ms. Preema Mahendran Developmental Therapist, CDC. About 100 health professionals from NHM, DEICs and GMC, Jammu Kashmir participated in the training programme.