

KERALA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION

Regn. No. EKM/TC/579/2017

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News Report

28/10/2022

The Kerala Chapter of All India Occupational Therapists' Association proudly hosted the "World Occupational Therapy Day" at Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum. The event was inaugurated by the Hon. Minister of Higher Education and Social Justice Dr. R Bindu. The event was presided over by Adv. Mons Joseph, M.L.A, Patron, Kerala Occupational Therapists Association. The guest speakers of the event included Mr.Chandrababu, Executive Director, NIPMR (Nation Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation), Former Additional Director of Kerala Health Service Department Dr. T.V. Velayudhan and Head of the department of Occupational Therapy at National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) Dr. Vinith Dani Jose. The event was also addressed by Dr. Joseph Sunny, President, Kerala Occupational Therapists Association, and by Dr. Anu John, Secretary of, the Kerala Occupational Therapists Association.

The key points of discussion during the meeting included the steps initiated to resolve common concerns relating to the practice of Occupational Therapy in the State. It is hoped that the implementation of the Council of Allied and Healthcare Professionals Act, passed by the Central Government in 2021 will be able to resolve the issues relating to the profession of Occupational Therapy. It was declared by Dr. R Bindu that the recommendations prescribed in the act will be enforced without delay in the state. The Minister also guaranteed better remuneration and benefits for the practitioners of the noble profession of Occupational Therapy in Kerala.

Adv. Mons Joseph M.L.A made the request to change Occupational Therapists of the various projects undertaken by the Social Justice Department from category 8 to category 10 and to make their posts permanent. He also spoke about enhancing and updating coursework associated with Occupational Therapy in Kerala which will resolve concerns regarding maintaining and improving the standards of practice in the state. He recommended introducing new colleges with occupational therapy courses to equip more therapists to provide better services to the community. He urged the inclusion of more seats for eligible candidates and higher remuneration, at par with UGC Scale, for faculty of Occupational Therapy colleges. He also said such steps will ensure that medical practices across the state will be better equipped to handle patients who are in need of Occupational Therapy Services.

The event also honored members for their selfless contributions to the field of Occupational Therapy. The lifetime achievement award in the field of Occupational therapy was awarded to Senior Occupational Therapist Annie George by Dr. R Bindu. Academic Excellence awards were distributed to Ms. Navanya T., first-year BOT student from NISH, and to Ms. Anupama A., first-year student, BOT, NIPMR. The awards for professional excellence were presented to Dr. Mary Philip, Ahila Gladis, Lincy Philip, Dr. Joseph Sunny, Dr. Jameson Samuel, Achu Rajam, Dr. Anu John, and Dr. Muhammed Shareef.

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