

Report on World Autism Awareness Day (2nd April 2025)

World Autism Awareness Day was observed on 2nd April 2025 by Department of Psychiatry and Department of Occupational Therapy in collaboration with Department of Paediatrics under the able guidance of our Medical Superintendent Dr Veena Kumari K.



Staff of the hospital participated with lots of excitement & enthusiasm. Curiosity & interest about Autism & its rehabilitation was evident by the participation of IPs and their wards.



Educative banners about autism & its management were displayed for the information of the IPs. A beautiful skit depicting symptoms of Autism in a child in different scenarios like home, interaction with mother, playground and with a friend visiting the house was performed by nursing officers and support staff of our hospital which piqued the interest of the gathered IPs and their wards to learn about autism.



A presentation about Autism, its early signs from developmental point of view which parents can notice and take child for evaluation, causes and socio-demographics of autism was given by Dr Jayalakshmi G, Dept of Psychiatry. Management options including early interventions that can improve language and social integration of children with Autism were discussed.

A presentation about how occupational therapy plays a significant role in rehabilitation of Autism starting from sensory integration therapy, early intervention till adulthood as well as caregiver education & support was given by Occupational therapist Mr Surinder Pal Singh.



A 7-year-old boy with Autism and his parents were invited to the program. Child's mother shared her life experiences about difficulties & support she received from family, friends & professionals, in bringing up the child. Parents expressed their lived experience of raising child with Autism, facing issues in the social setting where others were judging parents because of restrictive and repetitive behaviors of the child, then expressed gratitude to Doctors and Occupational therapists for helping the child to overcome his physical & cognitive difficulties as well as guiding about various government welfare schemes and support groups. The child chimed in asking the gathering to clap for everyone. The child was presented with a sensory toy by our Medical Superintendent.



The Medical Superintendent was amazed at the perseverance and efforts of the child's parents and urged the gathering to be sensitive towards children and family dealing with Autism, extend the kind support needed and be aware about the symptoms of Autism, recognize and seek help from various facilities available at the hospital.

Autism screening program was conducted after the programme. All the IPs and children participated in screening with zeal. 12 children and parents were screened from Short sensory profile-2 for autism. No new cases of Autism were identified.