

Report of National Workshop conducted by Department of Psychology,
Government College for Women

“NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATIONS”



Date: 18th, 19th & 20th December 2023

Venue: Orice Hall, Government College for Women

Coordinators: Shiju Joseph, HOD, Department of Psychology

Smita G. S., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology at Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, hosted a 3-day National Workshop from December 18th to 20th, 2023 titled “NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATIONS”. The workshop funded by Directorate of Collegiate Education was coordinated by Mr. Shiju Joseph, Assistant Professor & HOD, Department of Psychology, Government College for Women and Smita G. S., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Government College for Women. The three-day event focusing on the Neuropsychological Assessments and their practical applications was meticulously designed to give participants a comprehensive overview of the interplay between cognitive and behavioural functions and the underlying neurological structures.

The workshop was intended to give the participants an in-depth understanding of the intricate relationship between the brain and behaviour. Given the growing importance of interdisciplinary approaches to mental health, this workshop was conducted to equip psychology students with specialised knowledge and skills in neuropsychological assessment. Through hands-on activities by experts in the field, the participants gained practical insights into assessing and addressing cognitive and emotional challenges arising from neurological conditions. Eminent resource persons were invited for teaching Psychology students, analytical skills and instilling in them a professional outlook that can help them collaborate effectively with neuroscientists and healthcare professionals.

List of Resource Persons for the National Workshop on Neuropsychological Assessments and Applications.

RESOURCE PERSONS



Dr MOHAMMAD AFSAR

Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi, NCR. He has completed his MPhil. in Clinical Psychology and Ph.D. from NIMHANS, Bangalore in the area of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Dr DHANYA CHANDRAN

Associate Professor, Dept of Clinical Psychology, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi. Completed MPhil in Clinical Psychology from University of Calcutta and PhD from NIMHANS, Bangalore.



INDUPRIYA B

Clinical Psychologist. Doctoral student at University of Queensland, Australia-IIT Delhi Joint PhD program (UQIDAR), IIT-Delhi in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Completed MPhil in Clinical Psychology from NIMHANS, Bangalore.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The inaugural ceremony of the National Workshop on Neuropsychological Assessments was held on 18th December at Orice Hall, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, on the first day of the National Workshop on Neuropsychological Assessment and Applications. The session was presided by Dr. Anila J.S., Vice Principal, Government College for

Women. The event commenced with a warm welcome extended to esteemed guests, renowned professionals, faculty members, and eager participants by Mr. Shiju Joseph, Coordinator of Workshop .The 3-day National Workshop was Inaugurated by Dr. Anuradha V. K., Principal, Government College for Women. Dr. Mohammed Afsar, Resource person addressed the gathering.

The dignitaries, in their opening remarks, underscored the significance of advancing knowledge in the field of neuropsychology and its pivotal role in understanding the intricate workings of the human mind. After the inaugural ceremony, the national workshop commenced by a session with Dr. Mohammed Afsar. He gave a detailed account on ‘ Functional Neuroanatomy’. He described about Neural anatomy and how these parts influence human behaviour. He pointed out the different areas of the brain and elaborated about its function and influence on various cognitive functions. The detailed information regarding neural anatomy provided great knowledge to the students. The way of presentation made the participants more curious. Various activities were involved in the session which made it more interesting. The session was concluded by the clarification of doubts regarding the topics that were discussed throughout the session.



The afternoon sessions, started on the topic “ Introduction to Neuropsychology Assessment”. This interactive session was also held by Dr. Mohammed Afsar. He began his session by explaining the prerequisites for the practice of Clinical Neuropsychology. He discussed the important aspects of understanding the Neuropsychological assessment. He pointed out the functions and process of Neuropsychological Assessment and the approaches to Neuropsychological assessment such as the fixed healthy approach, the flexible battery approach, and Boston process approach. He emphasised the various tools of neuropsychological assessment which include need for Indian Batteries, NIMHANS Neuropsychology battery, and the neuropsychological test for attention, memory, and mental speed. He also conducted various activities with the help of participants that clearly showed how the neuropsychological test can be done. He concluded his session by clarifying the doubts on Neuropsychological assessment.

The first day of National Workshop on Neuropsychological Assessment and Applications ended with a vote of thanks by Femina Ann Thomas, Student, MSC Psychology second-year student of Govt. College For Women, Vazhuthacaud

The Second day of the National Workshop began with the introduction of the new resource person, Indu Priya B, Clinical Psychologist. Doctoral student at University of Queensland, Australia-IIT Delhi joint PhD program (UQIDAR), IIT-Delhi in collaboration with All institute of Medical Sciences. The first session was handled by Dr Muhammad Afsar in which he talked about how to do a research proposal. With his vast knowledge and skill, he taught the participants to do a research proposal in a very easy and interesting way. He started the session by talking about the need to do research and gave a general idea. He divided the class into groups and guided the participants to frame the research questions and also gave technical knowledge of the same. Also, the ethical issues faced while doing research were addressed and urged the participants to do research in a more ethical way, whatever it costs. Participants' doubts and queries were also solved.





The third day of the national seminar began with the introduction of the resource person, Dr. Dhanya Chandran, Associate Professor from the Dept of Clinical Psychology, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences in Kochi. Dr. Dhanya Chandran is an expert in areas such as neuropsychology, affective neurosciences, and process-oriented psychotherapies. She has also contributed to the development of a social cognition intervention program for Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders while mastering her PhD. The session, led by Dr Dhanya Chandran, focused on Assessment and Applications in Social Cognition and Home-Based Rehabilitation Techniques. She provided a comprehensive explanation of Social Cognition, and its practical and clinical implications, and detailed the origin of social cognition, social skills, and their deficits. She further delved into the domains of social cognition, and social cognition deficits

in individuals with schizophrenia. She also provided a thorough presentation on the main assessments employed in the Social Cognition discipline. She offered an in-depth and engaging explanation of each test and shared insights into the developers of the test and its intended use, particularly in the clinical setting. She extensively discussed social skills, cognitive rehabilitation in individuals with schizophrenia, and cognitive rehabilitation therapy. As she concluded the session, she addressed the questions raised by the participants and expressed her appreciation for the interactive session.



The second session of the day, handled by Ms. Indupriya B, was on Neurodegenerative Disorders and Neuropsychological Applications where she provided valuable insights into dementia. She began the session with a roleplay demonstrating a clinical picture of a patient having dementia where she acted as the clinician and Dr. DhanyaChandran played the patient. She explained the

differences in social behaviours between the two patients (one was done the previous day by Dr. Mohammad Afsar) highlighting how to observe and attend to a patient even from the doorway. She discussed the different types of dementia. She dispelled common misconceptions about dementia as she touched upon her own clinical experience to provide a better understanding of the topic.

The afternoon session involved an overview of Computerized Assessments in Neuropsychology. The participants were introduced to various computerized neuropsychological assessments such as MicroCog Assessment of Cognitive Functioning, CNS Vital Signs, Cogstate, ImPACT, ANAM, CANTAB, and TabCAT. Computerized assessments such as these, save time and provide a detailed report almost instantly. Such software can be used to assess and evaluate a range of mental processes like processing speed, memory, motor performance, and executive functions. The session also included a demonstration of a computerized assessment in CNSVS, with a participant volunteering to perform the Symbol Digit Coding Test. This session was concluded by highlighting the different types of reports generated, including their interpretation to evaluate the participant's neurocognitive state. As the 3-Day National Workshop came to a close, participants engaged in a Q&A session with the resource persons. The experts answered various queries, shared their experiences in neuropsychology, and encouraged the participants to explore the field further. Following this, the valedictory function took place. Meghna P.C., the student coordinator, delivered a vote of thanks to the resource persons and participants. Mr. Shiju Joseph expressed gratitude for the invaluable assistance of the volunteers in the execution of the event.



The program coordinators, Mr. Shiju Joseph and Ms. Smita G.S. presented the mementos and tokens of appreciation to the resource persons. Representatives from the delegates, Amritha (University College), Mridula (Kerala University- Kariavattom Campus), Seethalakshmi (Loyola College), and Stephy (Govt. College for Women) shared feedback on the learning experience. The workshop came to a close with a final gesture, as all the resource persons and participants assembled for a group photograph.

