

**7th National Conference of World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation- Indian Chapter
(WAPR-IC)**

Organized by

Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH),
Tezpur, Assam, Pin-784001

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World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation Indian Chapter
(WAPR-IC)

Date: 17th-18th March 2023

Theme: Promoting Rights and Recovery in Mental Health

Brief Scientific Report

The 7th National Conference of World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation-Indian Chapter was organized by LGBRIMH, Tezpur and WAPR-IC on 17th and 18th of March, 2023. The conference consisted of speakers from across the globe with carefully selected array of topics relevant to the theme. The conference was supported by **North Eastern Council**, Government of India, Shillong, **Mariwala Health Foundation**, Mumbai, **Indian Overseas Bank** Tezpur, **CPWD**, Tezpur, **Sigma Technologies**, Bengaluru, Parliamentary and Administrative Research Institute (**PARI Training**), New Delhi, **INTAS Pharmaceuticals**, **Rusan Pharmaceuticals**, **Linux Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.**, **Oxpro Pharma Pvt. Ltd.**, **Life Supports and Pharmaceuticals**, **Sun Pharma**, **AlteusBiogenics**, **Shine Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**, **Bokahola Tea Co. Pvt. Ltd**, Jorhat 785001 (bokaholasales@gmail.com).

A total of 288 delegates participated in the conference from different part of the country. To deliver evidence based and well-informed scientific sessions, 35 eminent experts from the field of mental health (psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychiatric social workers, NGO personnel) were called from India and abroad. The list of speakers also included persons with lived experiences and caregivers with the objective of highlighting the issues and needs of service users and to strengthen the existing psychosocial and rehabilitation-oriented service delivery models.

Dr. Karuna Hazarika, Principal, Tezpur Medical College and Dr. Bharat Vatwani, Founder of Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation and Magsaysay award winner were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively for the inaugural function on 17th of March 2023. Dr. Gabriele

Rocca, President WAPR, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Secretary General, WAPR, Dr. Murali Thyloth Immediate Past President WAPR, Dr. C. Ramasubramanian President WAPR-IC, Dr. H Chandrashekar Secretary WAPR-IC addressed the gathering. Dr. S.K Deuri Director and Organising Chairperson welcomed the delegates and Dr. Sobhana H Organising Secretary gave the vote of thanks.

The Valedictory function was held on the 18th March 2023. Dr. Mathew Varghese, Vice President of WAPR-IC presided over the meeting. Dr. H Chandrashekar Secretary WAPR-IC was also present on the dais. Dr. Sonia P Deuri, Chairperson Publicity and PR Committee, Head of Department of Psychiatric Social Work gave the welcome address, Dr. P Abhishek, Chairperson Scientific Committee read out the conference report. Dr. S.K Deuri addressed the delegates. Four delegates also gave feedback on the conference. Dr. Sobhana H gave the vote of thanks.

The scientific programme included two plenary sessions, six workshops, two corporate sessions and a panel discussion. Researchers working in the area of psychosocial rehabilitation for persons with mental illness participated in significant number and a total of 66 free papers were presented during the technical sessions.

The details of the scientific proceedings are mentioned below:

Plenary 1: Theme-Promoting Rights and Recovery in Mental Health

Speakers:

Dr. Gabriele Rocca, Health Director of the 'Solaris', Social Enterprise, Professor at the Post Graduate School of Psychotherapy, Milan (AT Centre) Italy and President WAPR

Dr. V. K. Radhakrishnan, Director, CNK Hospital (P) Ltd, Changanachery and Secretary General, WAPR,

Dr. Murali Thyloth, Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru and Immediate Past President WAPR

Mr. Alexander Smith, Director of Adult Mental Health Services at The Counseling Service of Addison County, USA

Chairpersons: Dr. C. Ramasubramanian & Dr. G. Gopalakrishnan

Dr. Gabriele Rocca- Speaking on the topic **Deinstitutionalization and Human Rights: A critical issue**, Dr. Rocca presented the historical perspective of deinstitutionalization and highlighted the fundamental questions such as pathophysiology and psychiatric symptoms, molecular processes, and psychiatric disorders. He also emphasized on innovation in deinstitutionalization, need for community-based practices, many crucial aspects on a rights-based approach in the development of mental health services.

Dr.V. K. Radhakrishanan: In his talk, Dr. V.K. Radhakrishnan spoke about the **Genesis and Importance of World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation**. He also described how the first world congress on Rehabilitation of Mentally Ill in Helsinki, in 1970 paved the path for the planning of the association which was formed in 1986 in Lyon France, with Dr. Oliver Wilson as its first president.

Dr. Murali Thyloth: The topic by Dr. Murali Thyloth was **Rights Training Module**. He described the recent NHRC 2023 findings on the present status of mental health care institutions. He pointed out that despite the enactment of MHCA 2017, there are instances of individuals with severe mental illness kept chained, and abandoned by the family. He also discussed in length the important factors in psychosocial rehabilitation.

Dr. Alexander Smith: Rights and Recovery in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services in the US was the title of the talk by Dr. Alexander Smith. He shared his experiences with the practice and system change with community mental health services in Vermont USA. Some current areas of focus regarding rights and recovery in psychosocial rehabilitation in the US which include trauma informed services. He highlighted the importance and application of Open Dialogue (Collaborative Network Approach) in psychosocial rehabilitation in Addison County and described the challenges with right based practices in the US.

Plenary 2: In Memoriam: Prof M. Sarada Menon- A Legacy in Psychosocial Rehabilitation

Speaker: *Dr. R. Thara, Vice Chairperson and Chair of Research, Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), Chennai*

Chairpersons:*Dr. Murali Thyloth and Dr.V. K. Radhakrishanan*

The 2nd Plenary session was a Memoriam on Prof. M Sarada Menon the first woman psychiatrist and the founder of Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF). She highlighted the immense contribution by Dr. Sharada Menon to the field of mental health and psychosocial rehabilitation. Dr.Thara recalled Dr. Menon as a caring and committed professional who considered the involvement of the family to be cardinal to the recovery and rehabilitation. Dr. Menon was instrumental in founding the Indian Chapter of WAPR.

Symposium 1: Theme-Different Models of Psychosocial Rehabilitation in India

Speakers:

Dr. C. Ramasubramanian, Founder and Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, MS Chellamuthu Trust and Research Foundation, Madurai and President WAPR-IC and Regional Vice President, South East Asia, (WAPR)

Dr. Shashi Rai, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and Chairperson, Richmond Fellowship Society (India)

Dr. R. Padmavati, Director, Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), Chennai

Dr. Mohan K. Isaac, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, The University of Western Australia, Perth and Consultant Psychiatrist, Fremantle Hospital, Fremantle, Australia and Advisor, Medico Pastoral Association, Bengaluru

Chairpersons: Dr. H. Chandrashekhar & Dr. Kamala Deka

All speakers highlighted the importance of participation of stakeholders such as users, caregivers, communities, religious & political heads, and legal authorities as the reason behind the success of the models of psychosocial rehabilitation. The advantages of bringing in peer support volunteers and motivated local volunteers were emphasized. Despite the struggles faced with limited resources & manpower, all the models provide an example & give hope for community based psychosocial rehabilitation in India that is culturally sensitive which follows a Rights Based Approach.

Symposium-2: Theme-Rehabilitation in Northeast India

Speakers:

Dr. Mintu Moni Sarma, Program lead, MITA (Mental Illness Treatment Alliance), the ANT, Bongaigaon

Mr. Dilip Gaonkar, Parivartan Trust, Tezpur

Dr. Nilesh Mohite, Clinical Head of Parivartan trust, Consultant and Trainer for MITA (Mental illness treatment in Assam), Consultant and Trainer for Ekjut (Jharkhand)

Dr. Rajkumar Lenin Singh, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, RIMS, Imphal

Chairpersons: Dr. S. K. Deuri & Dr. Soumitro Ghosh

Session sponsored by Mariwala Health Initiative

Speakers discussed the status of psychosocial rehabilitation in Assam from the collective, contextual and community perspectives by emphasizing the need for harnessing the traditional ethnic and religious practices of the various communities in Assam. Further, the need for community-based rehabilitation, about the challenges in delivering mental healthcare services in India, including lack of adequate funds and lack of mental health personnel were highlighted. The session also focused on the feasibility, safety and outcome of persons with opioid dependence in non-custodial and collaborative facility in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Symposium-3: Theme- Rehabilitation of Homeless Persons with Mental Illness

Speakers:

Dr. G. Swaminath, Consultant Psychiatrist, Bengaluru, Chairman, ChittaSanjeevini Charitable Trust, Karnataka

Dr. Bharat Vatwani, Psychiatrist, Founder Trustee and Chief Functionary, Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, Mumbai

Dr. Anjana Goswami, Founder, Director, Ashadeep, Guwahati

Mr. Maichel P. A., Founder and Director of Jyothinivas Charitable Society, Wayanad

Chairpersons: Dr. B. R. Ravi Shankar Rao & Dr. Indira Sharma

Session sponsored by North Eastern Council

The models of rehabilitation of homeless persons with mental illness were illustrated in this session through the Chittadhama Experience- Homeless mentally ill (HMI), Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation- The Karjat Project, The Ashadeep Foundation and The Jyotinivas Charitable Society. The session also highlighted on the challenges in the rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

Corporate Session: Role of Protein Kinase C in Bipolar Disorder Management and Real-World Experience of Endoxifen

Speaker: Dr. Nishant Goyal, Professor of Psychiatry, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi

Chairpersons: Dr. Hemanta Dutta & Dr. Vijay Gogoi

Session sponsored by INTAS Pharmaceuticals

The session elaborated upon the use of Endoxifen in the treatment of persons with mental illness.

Corporate Session: Neurofeedback Technologies for Mental Health: Methodology – Systems – Clinical Application

Speaker: Dr. Horst Schneider, BEE Medic Inc, Germany, Switzerland

Chairperson: Dr. Jamuna Rajeswaran

Session sponsored by Sigma Technologies

The use of qEEG based neurofeedback in the remediation of persons with mental illness was elaborated in this session.

Workshops

There were 6 concurrent workshops on the first day of the conference which saw considerable participation by the delegates.

Workshop-1: CBT in Psychosis- Augmenting Recovery Oriented Psychiatric Rehabilitation by Improving Insight

Resource Person: *Dr.Devvarta Kumar, Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru*

Workshop-2 Psychosocial Rehabilitation with Industrial Workers

Resource Person: *Dr.Rachit Sharma, Head, Department of Psychiatry, Army Hospital, Tezpur*

Workshop-3: Cognitive Deficits and Cognitive Remediation in Psychosis

Resource Persons:*Dr.Lakshmi Venkatraman&Dr. SubhashiniGopal, Schizophrenia Research Foundation, Chennai (India)*

Workshop-4: Adaptation of the WHO's Rehabilitation Competency Framework (RCF) in the Indian Context

Resource Persons: *Dr.Aarti Jagannathan, Ansur Farooq Khan &RugozevouKhate, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, India*

Workshop-5: Caring for Carers: Creating a Network of Support

Resource Person: *Dr.VeenashreeAnchan &Dr.Kallappa N.*

Workshop-6: Transforming Rehabilitation Landscape using the CFSR Model

Resource Persons: *Dr. Srilatha Juvva, Professor, Centre for Equity and Justice for Children and Families, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai*

Day 2 (18.03.2023)

Symposium 4-Theme:Legal Issues and Dilemmas in Psychosocial Rehabilitation (Vide MHCA, PWD)

Speakers:

- **Dr. G. Gopalakrishnan**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, MVJ Medical College & RH, Bengaluru
- **Dr. H. Chandrashekhar**, Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, ESIC Medical College, Bengaluru and Secretary, WAPR-IC
- **Dr. B. R. Ravi Shankar Rao**, Chairman, Chittaprakasha Charitable Trust, CHITTADHAMA -Residential and Rehabilitation Centre for Homeless Persons with Mental Illness, H.D. Kote, and Editor, WAPR-IC
- **Dr. Priyaranjan Avinash**, Associate Professor and in-charge, Department of Psychiatry, Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Dehradun

Chairpersons: Dr. Shashi Rai and Dr. Kangkan Pathak

Session Sponsored by North Eastern Council

The session highlighted the facets and facts of the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 and some of the challenges in its implementation. The act was discussed in the context of rehabilitation of homeless persons with mental illness and in the process the Chittaprakasha Charitable Trust experiences were shared. The role of statutory bodies in rehabilitation of persons with mental illness was also discussed. An overview of Rights of Persons with Disability Act, and its implications in the care of persons with severe mental illness was also discussed.

Symposium-5: Helping Families of Persons with Chronic Mental Illness

Speakers:

- **Dr. Mathew Varghese**, Senior Professor of Psychiatry & Adjunct Professor, St John's Medical College, Bengaluru & KMC, Manipal and Vice President WAPR-IC
- **Dr. Aarti Jaganathan**, Additional Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
- **Dr. Upasana Baruah**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatric Social Work, IHBAS, Delhi
- **Dr. Indira Sharma**, Emeritus Professor, National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Chairpersons: Dr. Kalpana Sarathy & Dr. Sonia P. Deuri

Session Sponsored by North Eastern Council

The session primarily highlighted the need for the inclusion of family in the treatment of persons with mental illness. Crucial facets of family interventions, such as role of family in psychoses, tasks in intervention, effective problem solving, managing crisis and several such important aspects were emphasized. Further evidenced based family interventions were a major focus of the session. Further highlights of the session were implication of family intervention in schizophrenia, predictors of burden for caregivers, Yoga and psychosocial programme for caregivers, and the need for family centric rehabilitation for persons with

mental illness. The session also elaborated upon the home-based rehabilitation model and family caregiver intervention and support programme in dementia.

Symposium-6- The Role of Work in Recovery, Restitution and Rehabilitation of the Persons with Mental Illness: A Historical Account of the Asylums of India

Speakers:

- ***Dr. Sanjeev Jain***, Senior Professor of Psychiatry, Dept. of Psychiatry (Retd.), and Ex-Dean, Behavioural Sciences, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
- ***Dr. Alok Sarin***, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research, New Delhi
- ***Dr. S. K. Deuri***, Professor of Psychiatry and Director LGBRIMH, Tezpur

Chairpersons: Dr. R. Thara & Dr. Nishant Goyal

Session sponsored by Mariwala Health Initiative

The session started with a description of the 19th century Victorian England practices of occupational therapy and the then prevailing concepts of work therapy and Pinel's contribution, development of the emancipatory and integrative approaches in psychiatry from 1800-1950. It further highlighted the system of work in Asylums of Bengal, the Lunatic Asylum, Bangalore, costs of providing employment and the regional differences in India at the end of 19th century. The issue of work in asylum as therapy vs colonial exploitation was also emphasized. A major focus of the session was the therapeutic and rehabilitative functions of employment, and how simple work engagement can be stimulating to persons with mental illness. The session further highlighted the narratives of institutionalization and de-institutionalization are basically the narratives of power. Efforts of care in integrations in Ranchi mental hospitals was presented. Finally, the journey of LGBRIMH, from its establishment in 1876 to the construction of new buildings in 2018 was presented. The rehabilitation focussed approach of LGBRIMH, development of rehabilitative and future plans in the direction was elaborated upon.

Symposium 7: The Journey of Recovery Oriented Services (ROSeS) café at NIMHANS: Conceptualization, Current Status and Learnings

Speakers: Dr. Sailaxmi Gandhi, Dr. T. Sivakumar, Ms. Kantadorshi Parashar, Dr. Nishanth K. N.

Chairpersons: Dr. R. Padmavati & Dr. Srilatha Juvva

The experience of the ROSES café, its conceptualization, current status and the learning which evolved in the rehabilitation of persons with mental illness was highlighted. The symposium emphasised that the persons with severe mental illness (SMI) should be engaged in domestic activities, and that a source of livelihood facilitates functional independence and enhances self-esteem. ROSES café, an initiative towards facilitating employment for persons with SMI proved to be a promising model which also augments the recovery process. Some of the challenges identified in the model were recruiting and managing the flow of patients, irregularity in attendance, and patients being unwilling to do certain tasks.

Symposium 8: Community Based Rehabilitation

Speakers: Dr. R. Thara, Dr. Sachin Barbde, Mr. Binit Kumar Mohanta

Chairpersons: Dr. G. Swaminath & Dr. Mohan K. Isaac

The session elaborated upon the community based rehabilitation in the rural setting, and the experiences gained of SCARF in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Assam were shared. The STEP program and its component were highlighted. Some of the major focus of the work in Tamil Nadu toward the rehabilitation of mentally ill were training of community workers, awareness programs, family empowerment. The Jharkhand and Assam experience also highlighted the community led mental health programs including Tele Psychiatry, home visits and counselling, support group meetings, and facilitating social contact. Experiences from the two states support the CHIME framework for facilitating recovery.

Symposium 9: Mental Health of Immigrants and Refugees- Indian Scenario

Speakers: Dr. Binu Mathew, Chitrekhya Sippy, Dr. Ch. Padmini Roy

Chairpersons: Dr. Arunjyoti Baruah & Dr. Kunjalata Gogoi

Speakers explained the differences between refugee and migrant, and differentiated the former also with foreigners. The refugee scenario in India was explained, and pertinent statutory perspectives and policies were also highlighted. Further, a perspective was given on the core human rights and their relation with refugee law, and how the Indian constitution provides a basic framework that ensures the protection of refugees was highlighted. Finally, the relation between migration and its possible effect on the development of psychiatric disorders was explained.

Symposium 10: Integrating Knowledge and Methods of Neurosciences and Psychotherapy for Recovery in Mental Illness

Speakers: Dr. Manisha Jha, Dr. Vibha Sharma, Dr.Sampa Sinha

Chairpersons: Dr. Jamuna Rajeswaran&Dr.Diptarup Chowdhury

The session focussed on the neuropsychologically informed psychotherapy, and how such therapies help in the process of recovery for persons with mental illness. It highlighted the lasting effect of psychotherapy on measurable changes in the brain, formulation of neuroscience informed psychotherapy models, and the mediating/moderating role of psychotherapy in psychosocial recovery.

Symposium 11: Pragmatics of Running a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Work Program in India

Speakers: Dr. T. Sivakumar, Dr. Amrita Roy

Chairpersons: Dr. Shashi Rai &Dr. Manisha Jha

The speakers explained that most rehabilitation included vocational activities that help in keeping patients involved, led to therapeutic skill training, generated income & improve QOL of patients. The session described the NIMHANS experience, where the vocational activities undertaken by persons with mental disorders met with the hospital requirements and also helped in producing saleable items.

Symposium 12: Social and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Mental Health Issues in India:Challenges and Gaps

Speakers: Dr. Sushma Kumari, Dr. Sangeeta Gotewal

Chairpersons: Dr. Priya Saxena &Dr.Sampa Sinha

The session cited the United Nations Sustainable goals to create sustainable world. The Rights of Persons with Disability Act, Mental Healthcare Act, and Rights to Property Act were also touched during the session citing their relevance in social and economic inclusion. Challenges and gaps in the process such as burden of cost of treatment, stigma, lack of awareness, poor budgetary allocation were also emphasized.

Symposium 13: Dementia-Friendly Hospitals: Insights for Implementation in the Indian Context

Speakers: Dr.SravaniGaddipati, Dr. Jyotsna Jain, Dr. Sharad Philip

Chairpersons: Dr. Mathew Varghese &Dr. Subhashish Nath

Dementia and the risk factors were highlighted. The gender and rural/urban distribution of the disease were also highlighted. Further, dementia care services, poor ratio of psychiatrists,

clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers in India were stressed upon. Finally, the nuances in setting up dementia friendly hospitals were also discussed.

Symposium 14: Community-Based Services in the Field of Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Speakers: *Dr. Kavita V. Jangam, Mr. Aasim Ur Rehman Ganie, Ms. Cathy Roshni*

Chairpersons: *Dr. Vibha Sharma & Dr. Bondona Timungpi*

The session introduced the parent child wellbeing clinic in NIMHANS, Bengaluru. The nature of the clinic and its basic focus of dealing with minor emotional/behavioural and relational difficulties were highlighted. The holistic nature of interventions in the clinic such as assessments, parent-child interaction therapy, positive parenting practices and several other practices were discussed. Further the session focussed on children in conflict with law and the impact of the problem on the children in conflict with law (CCL), their families, communities and society in general. The need for reintegration and rehabilitation strategies for CCL were also discussed.

Symposium 15:

Topic: **Transcranial electrical stimulation, its role in psychiatric rehabilitation**

Speaker: *Dr. Nishant Goyal, Professor of Psychiatry, CIP, Ranchi*

Topic: **EEG-Neurofeedback Intervention in Chronic Psychiatric Disorders**

Speaker: *Dr. Jamuna Rajeswaran, Professor and Head, Clinical Neuropsychology & Cognitive Neuroscience Centre, NIMHANS, Bengaluru*

Chairpersons: *Dr. Sanjeev Jain & Dr. Alok Sarin*

The symposium highlighted the newer advancement of brain stimulation-based technology in psychosocial rehabilitation. Some of the major highlights were the use of transcranial direct current stimulation and qEEG based neurofeedback in the stimulation and treatment of persons with mental illness. In this context, research evidence and meta-analytical findings were also presented.

Symposium-16

Topic: **Mental Health Initiatives at Paripurnata**

Speaker:*Mr. Bidhan Chandra Chakrabarti, Honorary Secretary and Chief Functionary, Paripurnata*

Topic: Mental Health Initiatives at Satra

Speaker:*Mr. Nani Kumar Saikia, Executive Director, Satra, Sipajhar*

Chairpersons:*Dr. Jyoti Hazarika &Dr. E. Aravind Raj*

The session focussed on the rehabilitative works at Paripurnata and Satra. The psychosocial approach of intervention at these NGOs were discussed in detail. For example, how the residents at Paripurnata are stimulated through socio-cultural activities like painting, signing, dancing, participation in festivities etc. Satra also discussed their community based mental health projects that focus on identification and facilitating treatment for persons with mental illness in the community.

Panel Discussion: Needs and Issues of Families of Persons with Mental Illness

Panel Members: *Mrs. Aabha Rani Devi (Caregiver),Mrs.KamalakshiAgarwala (Caregiver),Mrs. Ranju Begum (Caregiver), Ms. Bhaswati (Caregiver)*

Moderator: *Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarma*

Sponsored by Mariwala Health Initiative

The panel discussants consisted of four caregivers among who two also were service users as well. The discussants described the challenges of caregiving and the expectations they had for from the government and mental health systems. This discussion seemed to be also cathartic for the panellists where each one could explain their own experiences and relate to the experiences of the others. It was suggested that mental health service delivery for persons with chronic mental illness who are now aging needs to be strengthened. Caregivers also spoke about the financial difficulties faced in providing regular treatment for their family members. They emphasised on the need for support in the areas of livelihood, caregiving and finance.

Outcome of the conference

- The conference sensitized the participants towards the need for rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

- It led to the dissemination of valuable knowledge on the various psychosocial approaches for the rehabilitation of persons with mental illness
- The needs for service users were highlighted, and the development of user-oriented service delivery model was emphasized. It led to fruitful discussions among the delegates during the conference.
- Delegates also got to know about the experiences of NGOs in the field, and led to a better understanding of challenges faced in community-based rehabilitation.
- Need for deinstitutionalization and community-based treatment of persons with mental illness was a major focus of the conference, and was observed as imperative for the rehabilitation across several sessions.
- State of the art brain stimulation techniques such as *tDCS and EEG-Neurofeedback* evoked a lot of interest among the audience, and the current research in the field caught significant attention among the participants.
- The workshops provided opportunity enhance their competency in psychosocial rehabilitation services through the skills training sessions.
- The conference also provided an active platform to services users (persons with mental illness and their caregivers) to elaborate upon their specific needs and the barriers which they face.

Prepared by

**Dr.Priyadarshree Abhishek, Chairperson Scientific Committee and Dr. Sobhana H,
Organising Secretary, 7th National Conference of WAPR-IC**