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SEMINAR NOTICE

Title: "Environmental Issues In Relation to Developmental Disability: Causes and Prevention"

Speaker: Dr. Satish C. Girimaji , Senior Professor of Cjid & Adolescent Psychiatry and Dean (Behavioural Sciences), NIMHANS, Bangalore.

Date: 21 January , 2021

Time: 4 PM

Venue: Online using MS Teams

Abstract: Human brain development is a truly amazing process from the time of conception extending well into adulthood. Unlike other animals, a large proportion of early brain development in humans occurs after birth, to facilitate learning and to fully realize the potential for development. There are four overlapping areas of development, viz., cognitive, social, language / communication and motor. Both positive and negative environmental influences can significantly affect the brain development. Neurodevelopmental disorders are developmental conditions that lead to significant impairments in one or more aforementioned areas of development. Some examples of these conditions are intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, specific language impairments, cerebral palsy, and specific learning disorders. Environmental factors contribute directly or indirectly to the causation of these neurodevelopmental disorders. These factors can operate before, during or after the birth of the child. Such environmental factors include brain infections, nutritional deficiencies, exposure to toxins, pollutants, teratogens and substances of abuse, brain trauma, hypoxic-ischemic injury and psychosocial deprivation. Worryingly, evidence is accumulating for adverse effects of commonly occurring pollutants in our environment on brain development. It is worth noting that these environmental factors are eminently preventable causes of developmental problems through awareness, advocacy, policy changes, specific protective measures and medical management. We must remember that our children have a right to grow up in safe environments.

ALL ARE WELCOME