

Position Status of Occupational Therapy in India

Occupational therapy is a skilled health care profession concerned with promoting health and attaining maximum level of functioning of people across all age groups including infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly with neurological, developmental, orthopaedic, cognitive, psychiatric & behavioural problems by engaging them in purposeful & curative tasks based on their interests & potentials.

In simpler terms, an occupational therapist tries to help a patient improve the quality of his/her life. The aim is to make the individual integrate into the community and be productive in their life roles. The caseload of occupational therapists is dominated by paediatric cases including cerebral palsy, autism, learning disabilities, behavioural and emotional problems. And in adults, the common conditions are paralysis, hand, head and spinal cord injuries and other orthopaedic, neurological and psychiatric conditions.

Occupational therapy is a major emerging healthcare profession in India and the rest of the world. A large part of India's population can benefit from OT. Findings of the National sample survey organization carried out in 1991 suggest that 9% rural and 7% urban households in India have at least one disabled person (the average household size is 5.8 people). It is also a fact that only 1% of the population living in rural areas has access to some kind of rehabilitation service. This signifies the need for occupational therapists and the challenging role they have, both in urban and rural settings.

Children with disabilities are less likely to be in school, disabled adults are more likely to be unemployed, and families with a disabled member are often worse off than average. With better education and more access to jobs, people with disabilities can become an integral part of society, as well as help generate higher economic growth that will benefit the country as a whole. Occupational therapists play a crucial part in the Government's drives to reduce the numbers of people living with disabilities and help them participate in meaningful productive life – productive life provides them with an income and also adds value to their lives.

Occupational Therapy (OT) is being practiced in India for more than five decades. All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) has been governing the education, practice & licensing of occupational therapy in India, since 1952. Unfortunately this potential, vibrant, noble profession doesn't have enough publicity as it deserves across the country.

Every year AIOTA provides the opportunity to one of its state units to organize the annual national conference – OTICON. This annual meet provides an opportunity to report on the innovative work that has been carrying out within the practice, academic or research area and also to share ideas with fellow professionals which ultimately influences the future of the profession.

This year, the annual national conference of All India Occupational Therapists Association OTICON 2013 - is to be hosted in Trivandrum, Kerala on February 26th, 27th & 28th 2013. This is the first time ever an AIOTA conference is to be held in Kerala and we are indeed privileged to be given the responsibility to conduct this mega event in its 50th year.

OTICON provides a platform for the exchange of information and knowledge, and to hold discussions, lectures, workshops and exhibition of programs and databases. This year being the Golden Jubilee, we expect more than 750 participants which include experts from all over the country and many from abroad. Something that's unique to our conferences is the encouraged participation through providing quality time and resources to our students to exhibit their aptitude and talents. Ultimately all these influence the future of the profession.

However, our finances primarily through delegate's registration cannot support this large endeavour. In addition to this, we will not be getting any financial support from pharmaceutical companies as we are not dealing with prescription of medication. In the past, the success of our event has largely been due to the contributions of our sponsors who have gone out of their way to lend financial support to this event. We want your sponsorship to cope with the increasing demands and challenges of organizing this event.

Every penny contributed by you is going into a good cause and will be appreciated from the bottom of our hearts. While you're sponsoring this program, you will also be given an opportunity to put your company's stall, put your firm's banner, corporation's name in meeting announcements and promotional materials, signage recognizing contribution at event, acknowledgement on program learning materials and logo on various places provided for advertisement including conference website as banner adds.

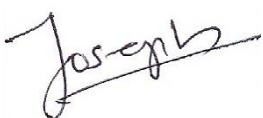
The detailed documents and sponsorship form is enclosed with this letter. We hope that you will choose the best option for your sponsorship to help us in making the 50th golden jubilee conference of AIOTA (OTICON – 2013) a grand success. Moreover, help us to spread the awareness about this noble profession among public.

We thank you for taking time to go through this letter. We would really appreciate if you could let us know about your interest in the event and the sponsorship. In case of any information regarding this program or for accepting sponsorship proposal, feel free to contact us on +91 9600005002, +91 8144230203 or mail us at oticon2013@gmail.com or info@oticon2013.com

We hope to hear favourably from you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sunny



Organizing Secretary