Annual Report of the Alzheimer’s & Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI), Guwahati Chapter for the year 2017-18

The Alzheimer’s & Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI), Guwahati Chapter was founded in August’2012 and was registered under the Societies registration Act.XXI of 1960 on 24th August’2012. The Guwahati Chapter is affiliated to both the National as well as the International body.

The founder members of the society are –

1. Dr.(Mrs.) Ajaya Mahanta –President
2. Dr.Dipesh Bhagabati- Secretary
3. Sri Prashanta Goswami – Vice-President
4. Sri Rajkamal Bhuyan – Treasurer
5. SmtiGayatri Bhattacharya
6. Sri Biswadip Barooah
7. Sri Padmapani Mahanta
8. Sri Prabin Ch .Acharya
9. Sri Kaushik Das (since deceased)
10. Sri Kiron Ch. Baruah

At present we have 38 Life Members and 8 Annual Members
As we are nearing the end of the session, our membership goals become more and more important.

The new life members in the year 2017-18 are;
Mrs. Namita Bhagabati

Activities of the Society –

  - A drama “Antaryuddha” was staged by renowned actors of Assam as well as members from ARDSI. The drama showcased some of the typical symptoms of Dementia and its devastating effect on the sufferer and his family members. The Drama was staged multiple times, twice at Madhavdeva International Auditorium at Shankardeva Kalakshetra and once at Rabindra Bhavan. Each show managed to get a packed auditorium.
The evening was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr. G.L Agarwalla, a senior journalist and founder of G.L Publications with a compendious speech.

“Antaryuddha” was a success in achieving its goal which was to create awareness and initiate discussions about Dementia. Many articles and news clippings were published in the print media.

- Students pursuing Masters in Psychology from Don Bosco University visited the day care centre on 10th July, 2017. A sensitization session on various issues regarding the elderly including Dementia was discussed. Similar visits were organized for students from different courses.

- A Memory Screening camp was organized at Mother’s Old Age Home, a residential facility for elderly people in November, 2017. A donation of blankets and edibles were also made.

- Two students pursuing MSW from Tata Institute of social sciences conducted their research in collaboration with ARDSI, Guwahati in the months of December-January.

- An internship program has been initiated under which 4 students have interned till now. The first intern batch attended in the months of March- April, 2018 and the second batch attended from May – June, 2018. Students are from Psychology, Sociology and Neuroscience background. Their role is to attend the day care centre and interact with the patients, organize activities for them and take a detailed case history and MSE of each.

- On the occasion of Bihu, an intergenerational bonding program was organized on 6th April, 2018. Both school and college students along with the elderly participated in it. The program included group songs, art and craft activities and a fun dance performed together by both our elderly and the students.

- A resource person from ARDSI was invited to present a lecture on issues concerning the senior citizens and role of geriatric social workers at Tata Institute of Social Sciences on 23rd April, 2018.

- A total of 119 memory assessments were done in the session 2017-2018 in the memory clinic.
The cases were mostly referred by Neurologists and psychiatrist from Guwahati.

- Our President Emeritus, Dr.(Mrs.) Ajaya Mahanta was invited for a talk show on a local News channel (News Live) hosted by Mr. Homen Borgohain, an eminent literary figure of Assam which was telecast on 3rd June, 2018. The interaction was focused on Dementia and its causes, risk factors, importance of early detection and management.

ARDSI, Guwahati Chapter, though still in its growing years, has been able to reach out to a larger audience in Assam by creating awareness about Alzheimer’s and providing some form of assistance to the sufferers and their families. The alarming increase in the rate of dementia cases demand multiple day care centers, memory clinics in different parts of the state. Forming a workforce of professionals is one of the goals of our chapter so as to enable us reach out to every corner of the state and provide the needful to the affected families. In order to make our aspirations a reality, we fervently request all the members of the Chapter to come forward with their whole-hearted support and co-operation.

Dr. Rupali Baruah
Secretary, ARDSI (Guwahati Chapter)