

Spinal Cord Injuries Day 5th September

"International Days" are celebrated to mark important aspects of human life and history. On the suggestion of its Prevention Committee, International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) has decided to observe 'Spinal Cord Injury Day' on 5th September every year with the intention of increasing awareness amongst the general public. It is presumed that the awareness would facilitate an inclusive life for persons with disability and ensure greater chances of success of prevention programs.

As the incidence of spinal cord injuries were seen to be increased on the teen agers and youth, it was chosen to organise an awareness programme on "injury prevention and quality of life" at BJB college Bhubaneswar. Rehabilitation team from SVNIRTAR organised a wheelchair mini marathon(5km) on the occasion of this day from Biju Pattnaik Park to BJB College where the Commissioner of Police Sri Y.B.Khurania, IPS and State Disability Commissioner Ms Minati Behera, graced the occasion of the flag off for the race. A total of 19 spinal cord injured participated the race who were assisted by the volunteers from SVNIRTAR. The race commenced at around 7 AM at Biju Pattnaik park crossing Rajmahal junction, Kalpana square and ended at the BJB College, where the marathoners were received by Dr Sruti Mohapatra, the chief guest of the function, Prof. Mohammed Nawaz Hasan (Principal BJB College) Dr Rita Pati (Vice Principal) near the arts block auditorium at 8 30 am.

The race was followed by an awareness meeting at BJB college auditorium for the students of the college where Dr P P Mohanty (HOD, Physiotherapy, SVNIRTAR) Dr. Sruti Mohapatra (Founder, NGO, Swabimaan). Prof. Mohammed Nawaz Hasan (Principal BJB College) Dr Rita Pati (Vice Principal) shared the dias. Welcome address was delivered by Dr.PP Mohanty followed by inspirational talk by Dr Sruti Mohapatra, the chief guest of the function who specially emphasized on injury prevention concepts and quality of life after the spinal injuries. The college Principal discussed about the preventive aspects and the theme of World Spinal injury Day and the Vice Principal shared the importance of the integration of Persons with Disability as well as to enhance the participation into the community. All the participants were provided medals by the chief guests after the speech. Testimonials by various patients further added the credits to the programme. Throughout the programme the concept of injury prevention was reinforced to the young generations of the college. The programme was closed with the cultural programmes performed by Persons with Disability and PG students of SVNIRTAR. Various wheelchair skills were demonstrated by the differently abled during the session. The participants received a standing ovation for the performance. Vote of thanks was delivered by Mr C. R. Mishra, (Senior Physiotherapist, SVNIRTAR).