



# IOTTT

Indian Occupational Therapists Think Tank



## IOTTT

INDIAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS  
THINK TANK



# 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

---

## TABLE OF CONTENT

- 1 About IOTTT
- 2 Mission and Vision
- 3 Executive Committee
- 4 From President's Desk
- 5 Highlights
- 6 Saturday Night Chat

# ABOUT IOTTT



Indian Occupational Therapists Think Tank (IOTTT) is a registered non-profit entity comprised of scholarly and/or professionally oriented occupational therapists with the mission to empower the occupational therapy (OT) profession in India. The think tank members are graduates of OT schools in India and are currently working in different parts of the world.



# MISSION & VISION

## Mission

The mission of IOTTT is to contribute to the development of the OT profession in India by (i) exploring the issues that influence OT practice in India, (ii) developing resources to assist with the growth of the profession, and (iii) empowering the skillset of OTs in India.

## Vision

IOTTT envisions occupational therapy as a scientific, vibrant, and well recognized health care profession in India that enables people in India to live their life to the fullest.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



01. Dr. Karthik Mani, OTD, OTR, FACOT

02. Ms. Shobana Moorthy, MSc (OT), MSc (psy)

03. Dr. Lakshmanan Sethuraman, MOT, PhD

04. Mr. Muralikrishnan Srinivasan, MOT

05. Ms. Ashwini Rao, BOT, PG Dip (EBP), OTR

06. Ms. Kiruba Priscilla Selvapandian, MOT

07. Mr. Manigandan Chockalingam, BOT, MSc

08. Mr. Naresh Babu Karunakaran, MOT, MSc

09. Dr. Sureshkumar Kamalakannan, BOT, MPH, PhD

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Indian Occupational Therapists Think Tank !



The year 2024 has been a year of notable decisions for IOTTT. Recognizing the interest among the occupational therapy (OT) community in joining IOTTT and to synergize the efforts of likeminded professionals to empower the OT profession in India, the Executive Committee decided to revamp the membership model. Subsequently, following the due process, the bylaws were amended. The process culminated by the end of the year with IOTTT membership adopting the revised bylaws. I am excited to share that IOTTT membership is now open to all (OT professionals, OT students, and others who want to support IOTTT's mission) and invite you to join us so that we can empower our noble profession in India.

With the revised bylaws, IOTTT's governance model was also changed. The Executive Committee will also be part of an Executive Board, which comprises nine EC members and six committee chairs. The 15-member board will be responsible for all governance decisions and strategic directions for IOTTT. The Executive Committee will be responsible for managing the operations of IOTTT.

In alignment with our mission, we targeted our activities toward advocacy, capacity building, and research. On the advocacy front, IOTTT submitted comments on Tamil Nadu Allied and Healthcare Professionals Rules 2023 and draft OT curriculum published by National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions. Further, IOTTT registered its strong condemnation for citing OTs as "worker/technician" in the TNAHP Rules 2023 and contributed to an article on Tamil daily newspaper to promote public awareness. In its brief meeting with Tamil Nadu Health Minister Shri. Ma. Subramanian, IOTTT extended its support in the formation of TN OT Council as needed. IOTTT also registered its opposition to a Social Media post that cited OT as an unreliable treatment.

To build capacity, in July 2024, we conducted a webinar on "Cognitive Rehabilitation in Adult Acquired Brain Injuries", with Professor Asha Vas, PhD, OT, a renowned scholar affiliated with Texas Women's University, as the resource person. The webinar was well received by the OT community, especially post graduate students and OT practitioners. We also launched 'OT Foundations Quiz', an effort to strengthen the foundational knowledge among OT students, as sound conceptual understanding is critical for them to emerge as OT practitioners. Our members have also deliberated on the implementation of the National Council on Allied Health Professions Act, 2021 and accessibility issues faced by people with disabilities.



# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

On the research front, IOTTT contributed to the development of preliminary professional competencies for OT in India, which has been accepted for publication in Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy. IOTTT also submitted a commentary on OT curriculum in India which is under review at the time of this writing. Several of our members contributed journal articles and book chapters to advance the science of OT.

I also want to extend my accolades to IOTTT members for their accomplishments at the international level, notably Dr. Sureshkumar Kamalakannan, who is now part of the Board of Trustees for Royal College of Occupational Therapists, and the WFOT delegate from the UK. He also collaborated with me and other international experts in the development of WFOT's Global Workforce Strategy. IOTTT vice president Ms. Shobana Moorthy collaborated with Dr. Emma George, professor from Australia on a project resulted in the development of Modified Occupational Justice Health Questionnaire for use with marginalized populations.

We conducted four Saturday Night Chat sessions brainstorming on crucial topics. At this juncture, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all who joined the sessions and contributed their views. Please note that your time and effort sowed the seeds for the future of OT in India.

I register my sincere thanks to our followers on social media as our LinkedIn page launched in 2024 quickly grew to 300+ followers. I commend the efforts of the Social Media Committee for their efforts and invite you all to follow us on social media.

We concluded the year 2024 with some notable projects, meaningful advocacy efforts, new directions, and great satisfaction. This report offers a snapshot of the same.

Join IOTTT - let's empower the profession of OT in India!

**Dr. Karthik Mani, OTD, OTR/L, FACOT**  
**President, IOTTT**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## 1 Webinar

IOTTT organized a webinar on Cognitive Rehabilitation in Adult Acquired Brain Injuries on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Dr. Asha K Vas, Professor at Texas Woman's University was the Resource Person.

### INDIAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS THINK TANK

invites you for a webinar on



### COGNITIVE REHABILITATION IN ADULT ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURIES

13 JULY, 2024

7.00 – 8.30 PM IST



SPEAKER

**Dr. Asha K. Vas** Ph.D., OT

Cognitive Neuroscientist

Professor, Texas Woman's University

[About the speaker and webinar](#)

## 2 International Partnerships

IOTTT president Dr. Karthik Mani and EC member Dr. Sureshkumar Kamalakannan were part of the core team that systematically developed the World Federation of Occupational Therapy's Global OT workforce Strategy. The systematic scoping review related to this project yielded four publications.

### Global Strategy for the Occupational Therapy Workforce: Framework of Strategic Directions





# HIGHLIGHTS

## 3 Advocacy

IOTTT submitted its comments on the draft regulations on medical education published by the National Medical Commission.

மிகப்பு / செய்திகள் / சென்னை

நாங்கள் பணியாளர்களா? அப்போ டாக்டரை  
மருத்துவ பணியாளர்னு அழைக்கலாமா?  
செயல்முறை மருத்துவர்கள் வேதனை

By Vishnupriya R | Updated: Thursday, February 22, 2024, 16:49 [IST]



Subscribe to Oneindia Tamil

சென்னை: செயல்முறை மருத்துவர்களை (occupational Therapists) அந்த துறையின்  
பெயரை வைத்து அழைக்காமல் இருப்பது அத்துறைக்கு செய்யும் அநீதி என  
அத்துறை மருத்துவர் வேதனை தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

ADVERTISEMENT

IOTTT represented its concern to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu about the term used in TNAHP rules 2023. IOTTT also condemned the misrepresentation of occupational therapists as technicians in TNAHP 2023 Document.

IOTTT President met the Tamil Nadu Health Minister Shri. Ma. Subramanian in Houston during the minsiter's trip to the United States. During the meeting, IOTTT president extended IOTTT's support to the formation of Tamil Nadu Allied Health Council and thanked the government for its initiatives toward the welfare of peopld with disabilities.

## 4 Research

An expert committee from IOTTT guided a project developing preliminary professional competencies for occupational therapists in India led by its member Ms. Dimple Dawar, PhD scholar at McMaster University.



• Indian J Occup Ther. Author manuscript; available in PMC: 2025 Jul 21.  
Published in final edited form as: Indian J Occup Ther. 2025 Jul 11;56(4):107–119. doi: [10.4103/ijoth.ijoth\\_72\\_24](https://doi.org/10.4103/ijoth.ijoth_72_24)

### Preliminary Professional Competency Standards for Occupational Therapists in India: A Global Review and Adaptation

Dimole Dawar <sup>1,2,89</sup>, Sureshkumar Kamalakannan <sup>3,4,5</sup>, Manigandan Chockalingam <sup>4,5</sup>, Jackie Bosch <sup>1</sup>, Lyn Turkstra <sup>1</sup>, Jeyaraj Dural Pandian <sup>2</sup>, Karthik Mani <sup>7,8</sup>

• Author information • Article notes • Copyright and License information

<sup>1</sup>Department of Health Sciences, School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

# HIGHLIGHTS

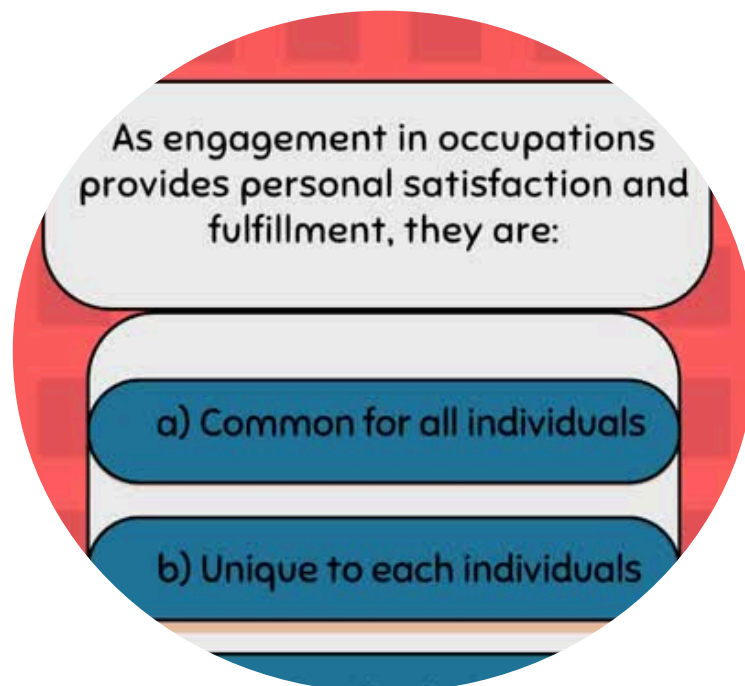
## 5 Social Media

IOTTT expanded its social media presence with an Instagram handle in addition to LinkedIn and Twitter handles.



## 6 OT Fundamentals Quiz

To strengthen OT foundational knowledge among OT students and emerging practitioners, IOTTT posted MCQs on OT Fundamentals on its Instagram and Facebook pages.



# SATURDAY NIGHT CHAT

In 2024, IOTTT conducted 4 Saturday Night Chat sessions. The recording of all sessions are available on IOTTT's [YouTube channel](#).

SNC 11 January 27, 2024	<u>Promoting Awareness of Occupational Therapy in India</u>	Mr.Jothikumar R
SNC 12 March 09, 2024	<u>Occupational Justice in the Indian Context</u>	Dr. Gail E. Whiteford, Australia
SNC 13 May 18, 2024	<u>Geographical Distribution of OTs in India</u>	Mr.Naresh Babu
SNC 14 October 26, 2024	<u>Insurance Reimbursement for OT Services in India</u>	Ms. Cheruba Gem

# FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2024	Income (INR)	Expenses (INR)
Balance brought forward	18106.50	
Revenue generated through donations and webinar registration	52817.51	
Operational expenses		4757.51
Total	70924.01	4757.51
<b>Balance as of 31.12.2024</b>	<b>66166.50</b>	

On behalf of IOTTT, we thank you for your support, engagement, and encouragement. Please continue to support us and help us empower the profession of occupational therapy in India!

email us at [info@iottt.org](mailto:info@iottt.org).



**WWW.IOTTT.ORG**

