



Introduction to Department of Addiction Medicine (DAM) e-learn Initiative

The Department of Addiction Medicine (DAM) at LGB Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur, has launched an impactful e-learning initiative in collaboration with Virtual Knowledge Network (VKN), NIMHANS, Centre for Addiction Medicine (CAM), NIMHANS, and ECHO India. This initiative aims to bridge the treatment gap for Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) across India, with a focus on the North Eastern region. This initiative has successfully conducted two major programs: the Certificate Course in Basics of Addiction Management (CCBoAM) in 2022 and the Advanced Certificate Course in Management of Addictive Disorders (AACMAD) for 2023-24.

Program Overview

Certificate Course in Basics of Addiction Management (CCBoAM) 2022

Launched in July 2022, CCBoAM was a 30-hour online course designed to train doctors in the fundamental aspects of addiction management. The course incorporated small didactic sessions, case discussions, quizzes, and assessments, aimed at integrating screening and brief interventions for substance use disorder into clinical practice. It had participation from 36 doctors across India. This program demonstrated a successful blended online learning model, which included 24 hours of live tele-ECHO case discussions and 6 hours of self-paced e-learning with four assignments.

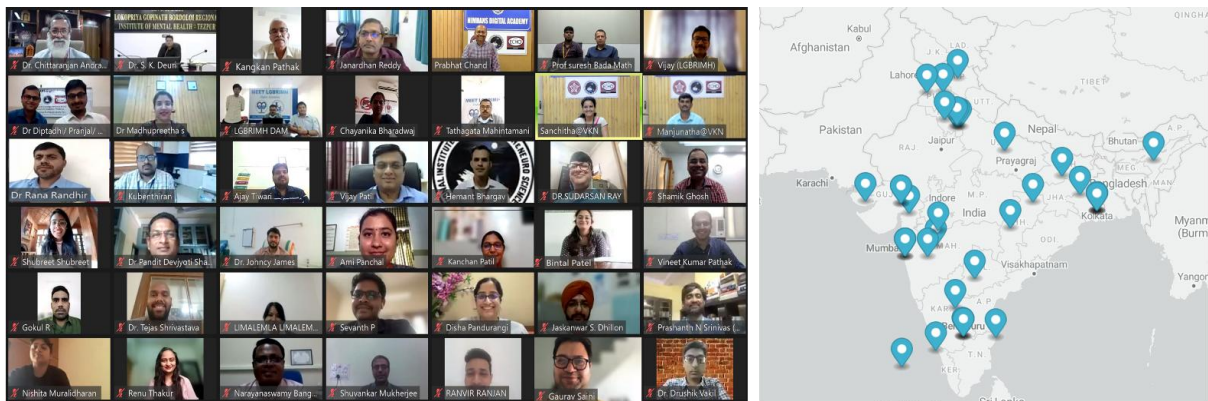


Figure 1: Group photo of CCBaAM and geographical distribution of participants CCBaAM

Advanced Certificate Course in Management of Addictive Disorders (AACMAD) 2023-24

Building on the success of CCBaAM, the AACMAD program commenced in November 2023 and concluded in April 2024. This 50-hour blended learning course targeted psychiatrists, MD/DPM/DNB Psychiatry residents, and doctors who had completed the CCBaAM. The curriculum covered comprehensive modules on various aspects of addiction, including newer nosologies, pharmacological management, and psychosocial interventions. It emphasized the importance of a personalized management plan integrating pharmacotherapy and psychosocial interventions. This course was attended by 64 participants, who discussed and managed a wide range of addiction cases, including opioids, sedatives, cannabis, and behavioral addictions like gambling and gaming.

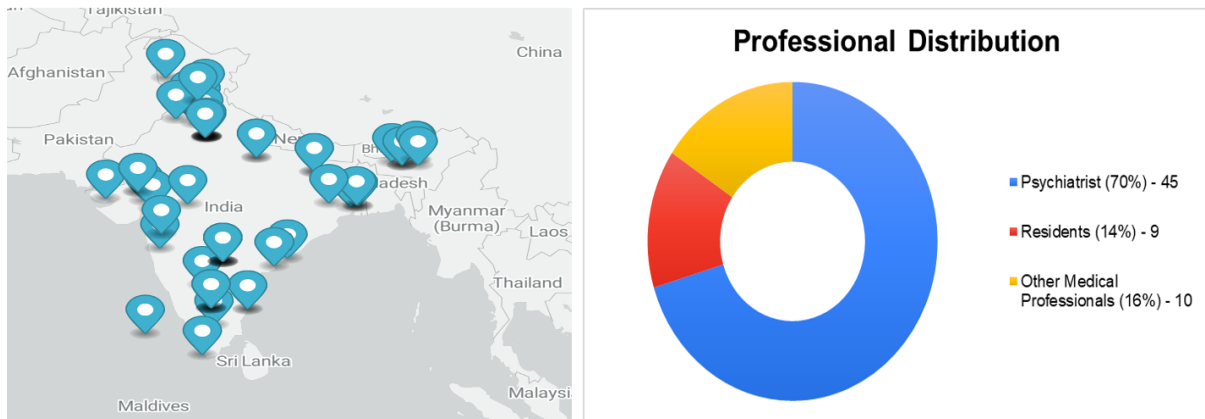


Figure 2: Geographical and professional distribution of the AACMAD participants

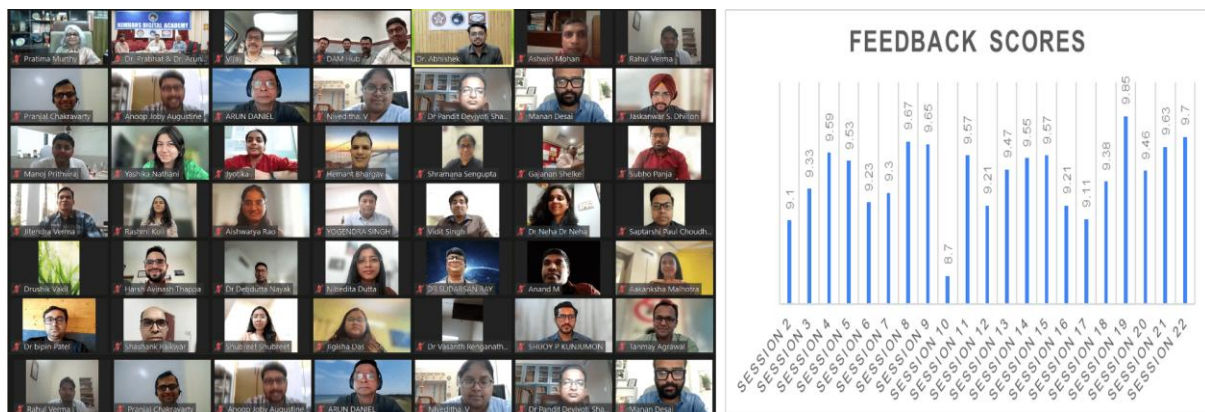


Figure 3: Group photo and Feedback scores of AACMAD

Objectives and Goals

The primary objectives of these programs are to:

1. Equip medical professionals with the skills to screen, intervene, and manage patients with addiction disorders effectively.
2. Foster a deep understanding of the neurobiological, hereditary, and psychosocial factors leading to addiction.



3. Develop tailored pharmacological and psychosocial management plans for patients with SUDs.
4. Enable healthcare providers to differentiate between cases they can manage and those requiring referrals to specialists.

Impact and Future Directions

The collaboration between DAM LGBRIMH, VKN NIMHANS, and ECHO India represents a pivotal step towards addressing the treatment gap for SUDs in India. This learn initiative aims to democratize knowledge and amplify the capacity of healthcare providers to deliver best-practice care for addictive disorders through case-based learning and tele-mentoring.

Through innovative e-learning platforms and comprehensive training programs, this initiative is poised to enhance the quality of addiction management across the country significantly.

The initiative has already made significant strides in enhancing addiction management training in India. As of September 2022, doctors enrolled in CCBoAM have reported reaching over 8,500 lives through their practice. Similarly, the AACMAD program has engaged 64 participants from various parts of the country, discussing and managing a wide range of addiction cases, including opioids, sedatives, cannabis, and behavioral addictions like gambling and gaming.

The future programs will continue to build on this foundation, aiming to develop skilled human resources and provide top-tier care for individuals struggling with addiction.