

Dr Priya Treesa Thomas BPT, PhD, Psychiatric Social Work

Dr Priya Treesa Thomas holds Ph D in Psychiatric Social Work from National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India. Currently, she is working as an Additional Professor in the department rendering psychosocial care services to the neurologically ill and is involved in clinical, teaching and research activities.

In NIMHANS, she essentially concentrates her clinical expertise in social work and social science research with the persons suffering from various neurological illness and their families and works extensively with neurodegenerative disorders including Motor Neuron Disease. She is interested in the social contexts that define people's experiences and the complex social networks that influence psychological wellbeing across the life span, is interested to develop psychosocial care models for various neuropsychiatric conditions, and is dedicated to the development of Neuro Palliative care services that can be scaled up to different settings in India.

Research Projects ongoing

- **Development of a Neuro- palliative and Supportive care model for patients with chronic neurological conditions in NIMHANS** –funded for 3 years by **Cipla Foundation**, aimed at development of a context specific neuropalliative care model for chronic progressive neurological disorders. Status: ongoing. My role: co- principal investigator and project implementation.
- **Psychosocial Intervention in Motor Neuron Disease – Funded by ICMR** (completed)– Developing psychosocial intervention for Motor Neuron Disease focusing on psychological distress and care giving.

Clinical Expertise

Specialises in and undertakes communication of the diagnosis, individual therapy for patients with Motor Neuron Disease and their family members.

Training

Responsible for training students of Psychiatric Social Work, DM Neurology and related fields on psychosocial care for motor neuron disease and neuropalliative care.

Research

Undertakes research in Psychosocial care in Motor Neuron Disease, Psychotherapy and family caregiver interventions, home based and End of life care for Motor Neuron Disease through the various funded projects and student's dissertations.