

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

(JFY 2003)

COUNTRY REPORT

. General Information

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Name of Country | : | Honduras |
| Are(sq.km) | : | 112,492 k m ² |
| Population | : | 6,500,000 habitants |
| Life Expectancy | : | 68 years |
| Infant Mortality Rate | : | 43.0% |
| Literacy Rate | : | 72.7% |
| Unemployment Rate | : | 45% |

. Situation of People with Intellectual Disabilities

In this item, I can mention only information regarding Autism because that is what we have been working on and maybe some general information of the country. As APO-AUTIS, we are trying to develop for the future programs; projects and activities to cover: finding and diagnose of Autism, early intervention, education, vocational training, employment, financial assistance, to develop a service system, to make that the National Congress approve our Law Project(already presented), to provide community-based rehabilitation programs and others.

Since Honduras is a country in development and that is working in other problems that are considered priority, the disability area has been worked by NGO`s concerned of this matter. As a consequence, these organizations and institutions are the ones developing and supporting the government responsibility and in this moment, the present administration is trying to participate at least in a minimum manner according to their possibilities. There has been a significant growth of organizations and institutions trying to cover all the different disabilities and problem, but in autism, APO-AUTIS

is the only organization in the county. We have got to know the following organizations that are in the list we are attaching.

| INSTITUTION | | | |
|-------------|--|----|--|
| 1 | Aldeas S.O.S | 29 | Handicap International |
| 2 | ALFH | 30 | Hogar Bencaleth |
| 3 | AMHBLI | 31 | I.S.E.E |
| 4 | Amoren Accion | 32 | Infracnovi |
| 5 | ANADISH | 33 | Integrar,Sindrome Down |
| 6 | APANJE | 34 | Juana Leclerc |
| 7 | APO-AUTIS | 35 | Luis Braille |
| 8 | Arca de Esperanzas | 36 | Ministerio Cristiano para Sordos "Esmirna" |
| 9 | Arca de Honduras | 37 | N.P.H |
| 10 | Asociation Nacional de Sordos de Honduras(ANSH) | 38 | Olimpiadas Especiales |
| 11 | Asoc.Pre Natal | 39 | ORGADISFA |
| 12 | Asociation Discapitados Villa de San Francisco | 40 | PREPACE |
| 13 | CAIPAC | 41 | PROENOVOS |
| 14 | CEN | 42 | UNCIH |
| 15 | Centro de rehabilitacion Municipal Gabriela Alvarado | | |
| 16 | Centro de Rendimiento Educ. Esp. CREER | | |
| 17 | Centro Inter comunitario "Solidaridad" | | |
| 18 | Cooperative Union y Esfuerzo | | |
| 19 | CRIC | | |
| 20 | CRII | | |
| 21 | CRIO | | |
| 22 | EEELA | | |
| 23 | Emilia D`Cuire | | |
| 24 | Escuela Pilar Salinas | | |
| 25 | Fenapapenes | | |
| 26 | Fundacion Casayuda | | |
| 27 | Fundacion Rescate Tiflogico | | |
| 28 | Ghapers | | |

. Outline of “Asociation Hondurene de Apoyo al Autista”(APO-AUTIS)

Function :To support children, adolescents and adults that suffer from autism by improving the familiar and environment with the goal of integrating them as active and independent elements of our society through the search, creation and exchange of educational, informative, scientific, technological resources and specific systems (vocational training with workshops early intervention, employment, community based rehabilitation programs, laws that protect them and others) that contribute to the well being of autistic people in Honduras.

Organization Charge: President of the Directive Board (since 1999)

Responsibilities: To explain this point I would like to mention general information about what APO-AUTIS is and the goals accomplished during my period as President of the Directive Board.

The Asociacion Hondurena de Apoyo al Autista(APO-AUTIS) was created on the 27th of September,1997 as an organization without profitable interests, created and organized in the first instance by parents and families with autistic sons, daughters or relatives and then, by special education teachers, doctors, volunteers or people interested in helping Honduran autistics. Actually, in the association we count with 70 members (65 parents and relatives and 5 professional volunteers) and 65 cases of Autism between the ages of 2 to 27 years. Also, it is important to mention that these cases do not belong only to the central region of our country but, of different areas of it. On the other hand, taking in consideration the general rate of incidence around the world we may have in Honduras 2,000 cases of Autism and 2,000 cases of Asperger Syndrome. In this moment, we only have APO-AUTIS in the central area always consideration all the cases that we have for any assistance but, our vision and desire is to expand around the country to offer better support and to grow as a chain that benefit all the persons with autism in our country.

We know that there is a lot of work that we need to do, but through all these years many goals have been obtained such as:

- Performance of a television documental (8 minutes)
- Elaboration of brochures
- Major sensibilization and consciousness about Autism.
- Realization of multiple activities to raise funds (around 15)
- Credibility and projection of a good image of APO-AUTIS.
- To publish what Autism and APO-AUTIS are through means of communications (t.v., radio and written sources).
- To promote training and transferring knowledge activities with foreign professionals (3 seminars and 3 workshops) that give important information to parents, relatives and professionals to assist in a better way the persons that suffer of Autism.
- Had the opportunity to develop the first project in the area of disabilities with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with a durability of one year and with a cost of \$15,000 (Lps.246, 750). This project was called “TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING METHOD FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM TO ACHIEVE THEIR INDEPENDENT LIVING”.
- To provide evaluations for autistic children, adolescents and adults with foreign professionals.
- To organize field trips, recreation activities and celebrations with all the members of the association to strength and stimulate their participation.
- To make contact with Organizacion Mundial Autismo (OMA) and the Federacion Latinoamericana de Autismo (FELAC). In the FELAC Honduras got a representation with APO-AUTIS as counsellor member of this movement.
- Exchange of experiences with associations of other countries.
- Elaboration of 4 projects: Macro Project of an Autism Center, Law Project to Protect Autistic People, Micro Project of an Autism Center and a Farm with vocational workshops.
- Participation in trainings from other countries.
- Member of the Coodinadora de Asociacions e Instituciones de Rehabilitacion de Honduras (CIARH) and COIPRODEN.
- To promote and obtain economical and material donations.
- Orientation to families that are starting this experience.
- To provide speeches to students of careers related to this matter to

different universities (UNAH, UNIVERSIDAD PEDAGOGICA FRANCISCO MORAZAN AND UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA).

- Perseverance in the effort of obtaining a piece of land with the Alcaldia Municipal del Distrito Central (A.M.D.C)
- An increase of the number of members that belong to APO-AUTIS.
- A better representation of the association with the participation of Mrs. Evelyn de Andion (wife of the past ambassador of Mexico) and Honorary President of our association for two and a half years.
- As members of CIARH we obtained for the first time government funds to develop more programs, projects and activities in favor of Autistic persons.
- To finance with our funds a scholarship for one professional at Costa Rica with the objective to prepare with good knowledge a staff. At the same time, we coordinated his assistance to the 2 most excellent institutions of that country (Escuela Neuropsiquiatrica Infantil and Andrea Jimenez Institute).
- To accomplish the in conditional collaboration of the Familia Atala as Members that contributes for their entire life.
- To establish permanent contacts, relations and links in different levels such as means of communications, private enterprise, Escuela Tecnica del Ejercito (ETE), Sra. Agnes Ocana de Maduro (Primera Dama de la Nacion), Club de los 40`s and others.
- To rent a place that is our see and Attention Center (starting in this month) and that will give more formality to APO-AUTIS.
- Systematization of all the activities done.
- Representation of APO-AUTIS in the Federacion de Padres de Hijos con Necesidades Especiales (FENAPAPENES)
- To increase the number of volunteers.
- To increase in 97% the financial resources of the association, etc.

We consider that the association has more accomplished goals than the above mentioned and in this moment, the more important is the organization and functioning of the Autism Center. For this reason, the following 5 years are important execute the micro project in this space that we are renting and the only staff that we can pay now is a special education teacher and the psychologist that is finishing the scholarship at Costa Rica. Then, the rest of

the persons of the Directive Board, members and volunteers just work to achieve all the activities, projects and programs.