

Mental Retardation in Korea

A. Recent Situation

There are approximately 600 thousand mentally retarded people in Korea. Our total population is 40 million.

Their birth rate is about 2 out of 100. Around the nation we have 32 special schools for the mentally retarded (10 public and 22 public schools), in which we have 4,853 students and 420 teachers. Their courses are primary, middle, high school courses. At public primary schools there are 714 special classes, 10,976 students and 716 teachers for the mentally retarded in all.

The contents of curriculum for special schools are self-help, social adjustment, communication, cognitive, physical development, emotional development, vocational skills and special activity.

There are 20 institutions for MR in my country. Most of them are private except one.

Even MR students who are studying at schools, there are few places to go after school. They are staying at their homes.

B. Specific Principles or philosophy on Education and Welfare for MR

1. For educational service we provide individualized educational program to help them develop maximum potential capabilities.

2. In welfare service, we have many things to do from now on.

C. Comments

For better education and welfare services for them I believe the following problems must be solved soon :

improving Identification Methods, expanding Educational Opportunity, providing more Work-Shops, Gurantee of Working Place, providing Leisure Facillities and Changing Attitudes of Parents & Community Members toward them.

I hope we can help each other for their bright future.