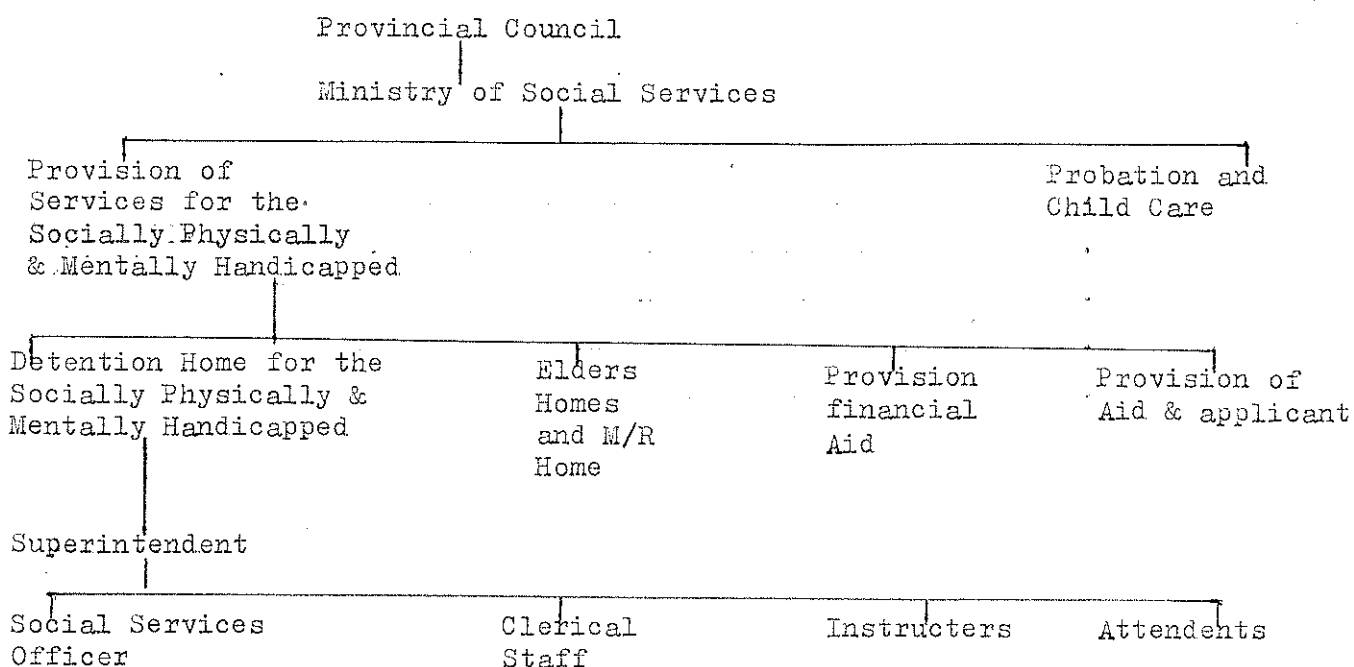


Country Report

1. Name of Training Course: THE GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN MENTAL RETARDATION IN FY 1995
2. Name of Participant: PRIYANI SUSANTHA T.R.
3. Name of Country: SRI LANKA
4. Name of Your Organization: STATE HOME OF DETENTION  
GANGODAWILA, BORALESGAMUWA.

5. Organization Chart:

Participants are requested to outline their function of the organization and their own job.



## COUNTRY REPORT.

Sri Lanka is an Island in the Indian Ocean, 25,000sq. miles in extent, with a population of 1,70,000,00. It was under the subjugation of colonial powers for a period of four hundred years and gained independence in 1948.. It was after gaining independence that the Government paid attention to the welfare services of the people. Before independence the welfare of the handicapped was left to the charitable organizations set up mostly by religious bodies. The concept of social services then was granting of financial assistance to the needy to enable them to fend for themselves at subsistence level.

This concept has now changed to that of development. Therefore the functions of the Department of Social Services and other Departments engaged in the provision of services for the disabled have changed widely to embrace the activities of education, training and rehabilitation of the handicapped including the mentally retarded to bring about development of the individual,

In a developing country like Sri Lanka High priority has to be given to economic development and therefore the mentally retarded receives low priority in allocation of funds in the national budget. Therefore inadequacies in the budgetary provisions have to be met with foreign donations and voluntary contributions.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services and Ministry of Education are the key ministries which provide services for the Mentally retarded in Sri Lanka. Non governmental organizations also play a wide role to rehabilitate these type of disabled<sup>in</sup> our country. These services include.

1. Institutional care and rehabilitation.
11. Vocational training.
111. Special and integrated education.
- 1v. Free medical facilities.
- v. Charity allowances.
- v1. Community based services.

Cont.....}

Our experience show that Mentally retarded are the most difficult category of disabled persons to rehabilitate. Due to socio-economic problems faced by the parents of these children and due to lack of knowledge of handling their children parents of most of these children seek the assistance of the government to place them in special homes. At present there are 28 homes for mentally retarded in the Island with a capacity to accommodate approximately 1300 persons. Most of the family members of these persons are fearful for the future of their children and seek institutional care for them, partly because they believe this is the best possible chance the child has for some form of security. As all the residential institutions are full to capacity with long waiting lists for entry these children are remaining in their own homes. As expanding of residential institutions involves a considerable amount of money & also setting up of institutions is not conducive for the M.R. to achieve full participation and equal opportunities in the society the government has identified, the community based rehabilitation approach is the best possible way to rehabilitation disabled in the country. This will be implemented with active participation of the disabled themselves, family members and the local community.

Educational Services for the mentally Retarded:

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the provision of educational services for the Mentally retarded children. Special educational services are provided under the following two systems...

- 1) Integrated system.
- 2) Segregated system.

Integrated System:

Integrated education is provided through special units setup in regular schools. The objective is to integrate as far as possible, children in need of special education with the general education system. At present there are 177 units in regular schools. Sri Lanka introduced free education in 1945 to ensure equal opportunities for all in education. Yet these are not adequate to cover the whole mentally retarded student population due to shortage of teachers.

Cont.....)

The process of training teachers is continuing and therefore the units will be increased as time goes on. The Department of Special Education at the National Institute of Education is the training arm of the Ministry of Education. This Department provides the following services to strengthen the educational services for the mentally retarded children.

1. Adaptation of curricula.
2. Preparation of Handbooks for teachers and a series of pre-reading and pre-writing books for the children.
3. Short training courses for teachers.
4. Awareness programmes for educational administrators.
5. Organizing of workshops

Segregated System:

There are 4 special schools catering to the mentally retarded children in Sri Lanka. These 4 schools are run by the voluntary service organizations in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education is also involved in the implementation of community based rehabilitation programmes. This programme was started in 1967. Detection and identification of children with disabilities at early age and provision of educational services and rehabilitation services is the objective of this programme.

Social Welfare Services.

Social Welfare Services for the mentally retarded are provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Services and non-governmental organizations.

Services Provided by the Ministry of Health and  
Social Services.

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1) Community based rehabilitation programmes:

At present the Ministry implements 40 such projects in 40 divisions in the country.

Cont.....)

Location of Mentally retarded, identification of their rehabilitation needs early intervention and provision of rehabilitation services are done by the volunteers who have been trained to provide such services. These identified are referred to school or training centres. If such services are not available the family members are trained to provide rehabilitation services for their mentally retarded members in the family. Volunteers are trained by the professional staff of the disability studies unit set up under the faculty of Medicine in the University of Kelaniya.

Pre-School education:

Pre-school education for the mentally retarded children is also provided by the social service ministries of the provinces and non governmental organizations. Teachers are trained by the Department of Social Services.

Vocational Training:

The Department of Social Services runs vocational training centres for the mentally retarded and other disabled youth. There is one vocational training centre for the mentally retarded. Some are receiving vocational training in the other vocational training centres with physically handicapped. In all these centres they are trained in envelop making agriculture, handicraft, Carpentry and Coir work. Those who complete there training successfully are placed in employment.

Job Placement:

In Sri Lanka it is not easier to find employment for the mentally retarded. Therefore the Ministry of Social Services has taken steps to formulate legislation to enable the mentally retarded persons to find employment in the private sector, with the aim of finding employment in the private sector the Department of Social Services and non governmental organizations has established a council called "Employment promotion council for the disabled." very reacently. The council will promote the Job placement services for the disabled including mentally retarded and to find contract jobs for them. At present very few mentally retarded persons are working in factories and other private organizations.

Cont.....)

Training Programmes.

The Department of Social Services conduct training programmes for the staff involved in the provision of services for the mentally retarded. The officers who were trained in Japan by JICA and Japanese volunteers attached to the Department organize these type of short training courses.

Running of Rehabilitation Centres:

The Department of Social Services runs rehabilitation centres for the mentally retarded. At present there is only one such centre. Due to shortage of funds the Department was unable to expand rehabilitation centres in the country. However steps have been taken to set up 6 such training centres in the country this year.

Financial Aid:

The Department of Social Services provides financial assistance to the needy mentally retarded. The amount is Rs.100/= per month. Apart from that they are issued food stamps worth of Rs.50/= per month too. These assistance are not sufficient at all to meet the needs of the mentally retarded.

Non governmental organizations local and foreign play a significant role in the field of mental retardation. These organizations are registered with the Department of Social Services. Ceylon Association for the mentally retarded, Down's Association are some of the organizations of the organizations who speak for their members and represent matters concerning the mentally retarded to the government for solution. Further they represent the policy making committees and participate in discussions before taking decision on matters concerning the mentally retarded. Specially with regard to making action plans and legislations they represent their members. This gives these organizations to express their views and to meet other organizations and officials and to establish a close rapport with them.

There are lot of other non governmental organizations which provide lot of welfare and rehabilitation services for the mentally retarded. They provide following services mostly by collecting funds from foreign and local donors with less financial support from the government.

Cont.....)

1. Running of special schools.
11. Day care centres.
111. Rehabilitation Centres.
- 1v. Resource Centres.
- v. Vocational training centres for the mildly retarded.
- v1. Job Placement.
- v11. Finding contract Jobs.
- v111. Outreach programmes.
- 1x. Community based programmes.
- x. Conducting training programmes.

At present there are 28 such organizations involved in the provision of above services and covering the sectors not covered by the state. These organizations provide opportunities for the mentally retarded in managing their own affairs. Thus the non governmental organizations for the mentally retarded persons perform an important role in rehabilitation and integration of the mentally retarded.

Medical Systems:

There are no special medical facilities for the mentally retarded. But Medical Facilities are free to all the citizens in the country.

The available services are:

1. Health Education
11. Maternal and child health clinics
111. Antinatal clinics.

Health Education:

Breast feeding  
Sanitation  
Nutrition  
Immunization

Clinics:

1. All the pregnant mothers are tested.

Cont.....)

Community Based Rehabilitation Programme.

The government of Sri Lanka has accepted that community based rehabilitation is the most suitable and Cost-effective method to rehabilitate the disabled in the country. At present the Ministry of Health and Social Services is responsible for the implementation of the national CBR programme. Ministry of Education and some other non-governmental organizations are also involved in implementing CBR projects in various parts of the country. All these programmes cover all the categories of disabled people including mentally retarded. At present the Ministry of Social Services implement 40 CBR projects in 40 Division. Ministry hopes to cover all the 300 divisions within a period of 3 years.

The National Programme.

Components: (For the mentally retarded)

1. Location of MR children and identification of their rehabilitation needs.
2. Medical care.
3. Socialization within family and community.
4. Early stimulation to promot more normal development.
5. Schooling.
6. Training in activities of daily living.
7. Communication training.
8. Income generation.
9. Monitoring and evaluations.

Steps in implementation:

1. One day senior to inform regional leadership in 4 sectors (education, labuor, health, social services)
11. Two day workshops to inform/involve divisional management leading to the
  - Setting up of Divisional Steering Committees.
  - Selection of 3 officers to form Divisional Core team' includind social services officers.
111. Two - week training course for Divisional core teams.
- 1v. Divisional Core teams report back to divisional steering commiteess, make plans of action and budgets.
- v. Community preparation leading to the
  - Seeting up of community rehabilitation Committees. (CRC)
  - Selection of volunteers by the CRC.



- v1. Two - week training course for volunteers.
- v11. Volunteers start home and community level interventions
- v111. Orientation workshops for other community members including parents.
  - 1x. Monitoring by Divisional steering committee through collation of data and of reports from Div. Core teams.
  - x. Reporting from Div. steering committee to National Coordinator.
  - x1. Develop health referral system.
  - x11. Workshops for school teachers.
  - x111. Workshops for Labour officers.
  - x1v. Follow - up workshops.

At present there are no laws and regulations with regard to the Mentally retarded. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has already drafted the legislations to Cover all the disabled persons.

The major problems currently existing are as follows;

1. Lack of trained personnel in the field of services for handicapped specially for the mentally retarded.
2. Lack of resources and facilities to meet the demands and needs for deserving persons.
3. Need for community based rehabilitation for the mentally retarded persons.
4. Lack of welfare homes for mentally retarded persons.
5. Lack of non-residential occupational guidance and daily life training programmes.

Cont.....)

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ORGANIZATION CHART.

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