

Country Report

1. Name of Training Course: THE GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN MENTAL
RETARDATION IN FY 1996

2. Name of Participant: MRS. WANAPA INTAPRASERT

3. Name of Country: THAILAND

4. Name of Your Organization: NORTHERN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

5. Organization Chart:

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

Northern Child Development Center is responsible for providing promotive, preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative services for mentally retarded children in the northern part of Thailand (17 provinces). The functions of the center are:

1. providing day care and hospital care to the children age 0-6 year.
2. providing community care services to mentally retarded persons and their families with no limitation of age.
3. providing individual, group and family therapy or counselling.
4. providing knowledge, technology and skills training for medical personnels, teachers, parents and public.
5. conducting research in the relating fields of child development and mental retardation.

5. My job as a social worker I have to work according to the policy of the center. My main functions are:
1. social assessment - to find out causes of problems within the individual or the family.
 2. social treatment - provide therapy and counseling for individual, group and family.
 3. social rehabilitation - social skill group and special activities.
 4. community work - provide home care and hot-line services.
 5. social resources and management - co-ordinating with other networks and providing necessities for the clients.
 6. research and development - conducting research in the related field of mental retardation. Training and teaching to medical personnels, students, teachers and parents.

6. The current situation and trends in rehabilitation services.

Participants are requested to outline the status of educational, welfare/social and medical systems and services, financial aids and voluntary activities for people with mental retardation in their own country.

In my opinion the status of educational systems and services for people with mental retardation in my country is still struggling. We try to have the mentally retarded children in the main stream schooling systems. At present only a few schools know about and accept the system. There is about 600,000 of people with mental retardation in Thailand but there is not enough institutions, organizations, and personnels to provide services for most of them. Most of these people are still underserved. We have the policy to give free medical and education to mentally retarded people as well as financial aid. Many MR. persons and their family don't know about the services which provide for them and about their rights. The information is not widely reach the people.

In Thailand people with mental retardation are not widely accepted. Most people do not understand or have a clear knowledge about them. There is still a big stigmatization on these people. Thus, the voluntary activities for these people are not widely developed.

7. Participants are requested to state their own philosophy on rehabilitation services for people with mental retardation and problems to solve when making the philosophy an actuality.

8.

My philosophy on rehabilitation services for people with mental retardation are:

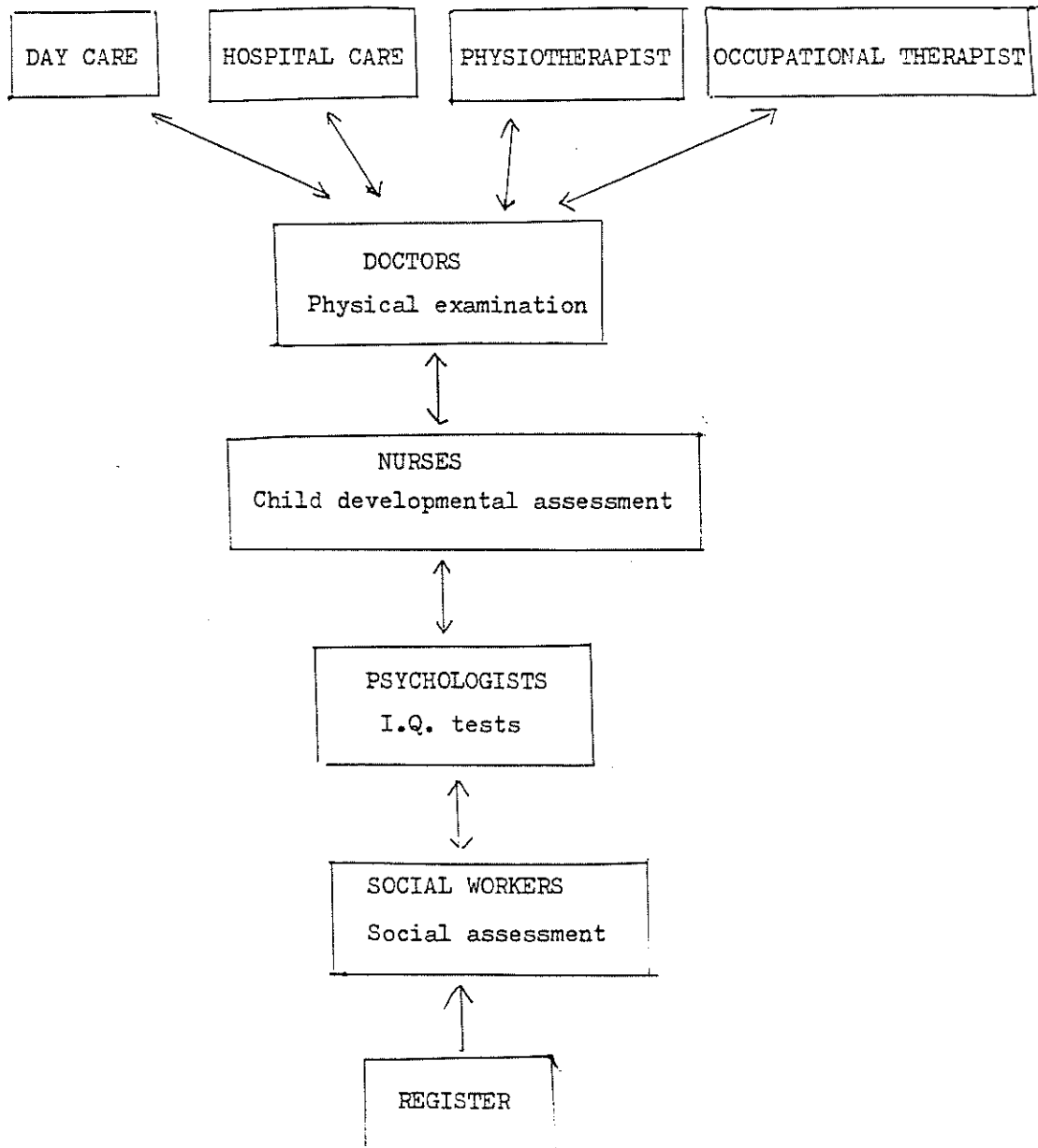
1. We all have to accept by heart that mentally retarded persons are the same as us who have needs to be developed. They are normal people who happen to be slow. But in reality most people still underestimate and look down on them.
2. In order to be success in helping these people we need to develop a technology for early detection. The technology should be simple and effective enough for most people or parents to be able to use. In reality many parents denied the fact that their child is mentally retarded person. By the time they accept the fact , it may be quite late to help the child.
3. The services should be widely covered for all the mentally retarded people in Thailand. In reality we do not have enough staffs, technology and financial aid for all of these people
4. Persons who work in this field should be knowledgable and flexible in helping these people. Not many people are keen in this field. New technology and service system should be developed.

8. Participants are requested to describe community-based rehabilitation programmes provided for people with mental retardation in their countries, if any.

In my opinion our work in community is more likely to be home care or home visit than community based rehabilitation programmes. However, the Northern Child Development Center has a plan that we will have a team work to go into the villages to assess clients and teach parents or care givers how to rehabilitate their mentally retarded child. If the family face financial problem the center will give one of the care-giver a financial aid enough to keep them at home for looking after and helping in rehabilitate the child. The team work will follow up cases regulary.

9. Service delivery system and relevant laws and regulations

Participants are requested to draw an organization chart or flow chart (starting from sections at the lowest level) for every agency in their country which is responsible for service delivery systems.



Notes: It is advisable to use audio visual aids such as films, slides, pictures, etc., when presenting the country report.