

# COUNTRY REPORT

GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN MENTAL RETARDATION JFY 1998

**1.NAME** Dr. Kanchana Koonrungsesomboon

**2.COUNTRY** THAILAND

**3.NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION**  
NORTHERN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## **4.OUTLINE OF THE FUNCTION OF YOUR ORGANIZATION**

An optional outline of the function of my organization :

4.1 The center provides services for children who have delayed development, mental retardation and behavioral problems . The center services 17 provinces of the north . These includes CHIANGMAI, PAYAO, CHIANGRAI, LUMPANG, LUMPHUN, PRAE, NAN, UTTARADIT, PITSANULOK, PETCHABOON, PICHIT, SUKHOTHAI, KAMPANGPET, UTHAITANI, NAKORNSAWAN, TAK, and MAE HONG SON.

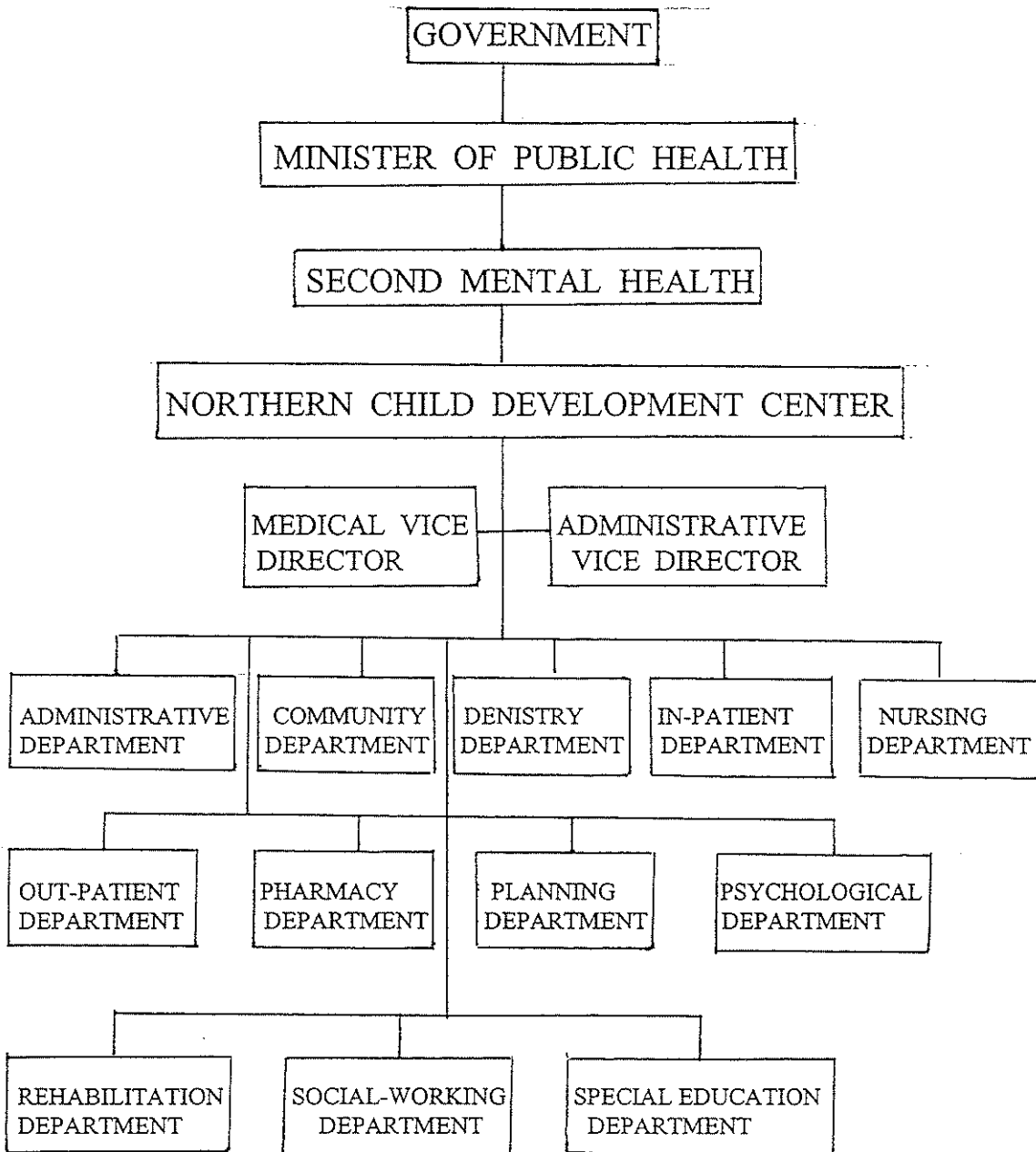
4.2 The center provides promotion and prevention programs for mental retardation in each of the 17 provinces listed above.

4.3 The center provides developmental promotion programs and special education programs for 0 to 6 years old handicapped children.

4.4 The center is a teaching center about handicapped children in the north for medical personnels and special education teachers.

4.5 The community section of the center is responsible for integrating child development projects into the primary health care system through home visits, and by acting as a technological supported system for local schools, NGO s and local child development center.

5. ORGANIZATION CHART (Please indicate your section.)



## MY JOB

- chief of in-patient department
- administrative and academic committee of the center
- pediatrician and pediatric psychiatrist at the center
- consultant at -The Chiangmai orphan's home
  - The foundation for the welfare of the mentally retarded of Thailand under the royal patronage of her Majesty the Queen ,- Chiangmai Branch.

## IN PATIENT DEPARTMENT

- Hospitalization for handicapped children

Our services include:

1. Medical treatment and diagnosis

- Auditory Brainstem Response
- Electroencephalogram and Brain Mapping
- Chromosome analysis

2. Developmental promotion programs and Speech therapy.

Handicapped children are grouped as follows:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Mental Retardation
- Hyperactive and Autistic

-Day care

-Handicapped children (using our facilities during the day time only) are provided with the same services as those who are hospitalized.

- Well child are brought into the center to allow:
  - : our medical personal to study normal development.
  - :handicapped children to immitate well child activies.

## **6.THE CURRENT SITUATION AND TRENDS IN REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**(Please outline the status of educational,welfare/social and medical systems and services ,financial aids and voluntary activities for people with MR in your country.)**

### **6.1 The educational system in THAILAND.**

There are five public special educational schools which the mentally retarded children can attend. One of these schools is located in BANGKOK and the other four are located in four regions of THAILAND. Each school provides self-caring and self-helping individuals between seven to fifteen years of age. A small number of Thai handicapped children are able to attend one of these five public special educational schools. Unfortunately, most of the handicapped children are unable to benefit from these schools and further, they do not find services available to them in the community where they live.

The government new policy for handicapped children is to integrate them into normal schools with normal children.

### **6.2 Welfare and social services**

The handicapped children receive a handicapped card. This card allows them access to both physical and mental handicapped services. Further, the card entitles its carriers medical treatment and devices.

### **6.3 Medical systems**

In each community there are community public health volunteers actively try to identify individuals with mental retardation. When such individuals are identified, they are referred to a local health center or district hospital. In complicated, severe or cases which need further investigation, these individuals are referred to a province hospital or a child development center.

In the child development center screening processes are used to identify the extent of the developmental delay. The modified DDST is used in our center to screen the children from 0 to five years of age and intelligence quotient tests (I.Q.tests) are used to screen the children from five to fifteen years of age. When the patients are identified ,we set up a developmental promotion programs to suit the individuals specific needs.

#### 6.4 Financial aid and voluntary activities

Handicapped children receive financial aid and voluntary activities from

- National annual budget
- contributions from private individuals
- a variety of charity foundation, for example The Foundation for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded of THAILAND under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, The international rotary organization.

### **7.YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MR AND PROBLEMS TO SOLVE WHEN MAKING THE PHILOSOPHY ACTUAL**

Our philosophy is that rehabilitation services should be provided as a part of the countries primary health care system. When children born with handicaps, children or adults who acquire handicaps during their lives should be entitled to the services they needed throughout their lives. The communities which these individuals live need to accept that handicapped people have equal rights in the fields of policy, economy, culture and social life.

The problems:

-Primary health care teams have little knowledge in dealing with handicapped children. Further, they have many other services to provide, such as the treatment of infectious diseases, which tend to be given higher priorities than on going treatment of handicapped children.

-Government policy tends to give priority to the treatment of diseases which can be cured easily with in a short time, so the budget for mental retardation programs is limited. Hence, mental retardation programs can not have adequate personnel plus lack fund and the necessary materials for efficient effective treatment.

-The Northern Child Development Center become operational in 1996, currently this center is understaffed.

The Northern Child Development center's staffs feel encouraged about their role in mental health picture for Thailand. Our staffs also continue to see positive solutions to our current difficulties. With further experience we hope to make Thais more aware of the needs of the mentally retarded population.

Our philosophy will quickly become reality if we can get further support both academically and economically.

### **8.COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMS PROVIDED FOR PEOPLE WITH MR IN YOUR COUNTRY.**

In THAILAND, community based rehabilitation programs are still a relatively new concept, our center attempts to send a team which includes a doctor, a nurse, a psychologist, a social worker and a occupational therapist into the patients home when our patients or their families fail return to the center for follow up visits.

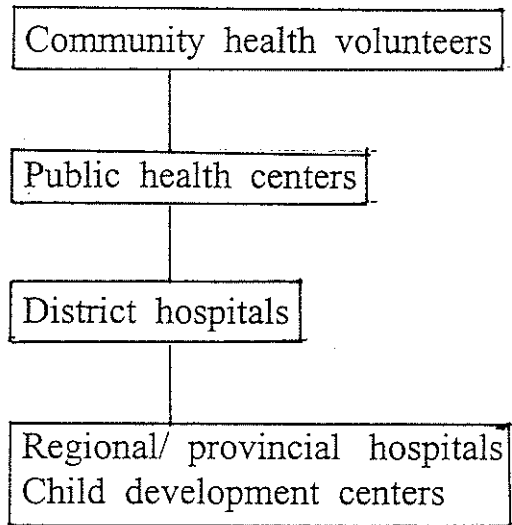
Family training session are available at our center that provide the parents of our patients with the tools they require to teach their children daily life skills.

In school age handicapped children, we try to integrate them into normal schools with normal children.

### **9.SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM AND RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS.(Please draw an organization chart or flow chart starting from sections at the lowest level for every agency in your country which is responsible for service delivery system.)**

The service delivery system in THAILAND is being carried out by the government and private organizations. The government stake holders in the delivery of service to the handicapped are:

### 9.1 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

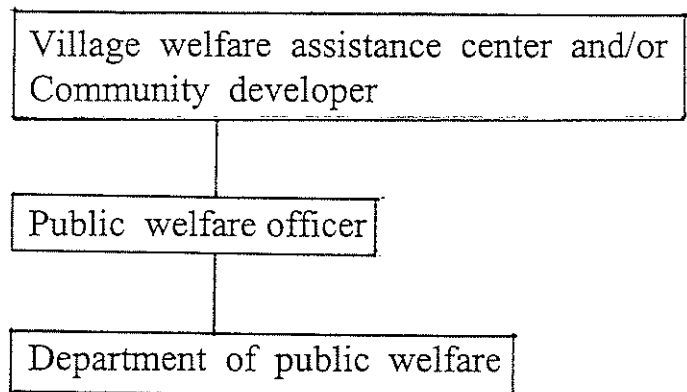


### 9.2 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The ministry of education provides 3 forms of education for handicapped children.

- complementary and/ or integrated education for mildly handicapped children
- special education for moderately to sever handicapped children
- non-formal education for handicapped children who cannot go to normal schools because of their age or some other disability.

### 9.3 MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE



## RELEVANT LAWS and REGULATIONS

### Law of mentally handicapped right and property.

If the people are identified as mentally retarded, they are protected by law.

In a factory that have 200 employees, the employer must hire at least one handicapped individual. If a factory owner fails to comply with this law, the owner must pay into a government fund for the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

### Law of mentally handicapped wrong-doing

If individuals are identified as mental retarded, they are except from sentencing in all cases of wrong-doing.

### Law of mentally handicapped social welfare

Handicapped people receive a handicapped card. With this card they are able to receive free of medical services and rehabilitation.