

8. Thailand

Ms. Orn-Anong Songcharoen

COUNTRY REPORT

FOR

GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

BY

**Orn – Anong Songcharoen
Thailand**

I. General Information.

1. Name for Country : Thailand.

2. Area : 517,200 sq.km.

3. Population in

<u>whole country</u>	<u>61,737,000</u>
<u>rural area</u>	<u>42,765,000</u>
<u>urban area</u>	<u>18,972,000</u>
male gender	30,726,000
female gender	31,011,000
child age (Lower than 15 years)	14,764,000
labor force age (15-59 years)	41,647,000
elderly age (60-79 years)	4,974,000
student age (6-21 years)	16,703,000

4. Life Expectancy

life expectancy at birth (years)

male 71.1

female 76.1

5. Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000/per year) 16.4

6. Crude Death Rate (per 1,000/ per year) 6.5

7. Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 livebirth) 22.4

8. Maternal Mortality Rate at Birth (per 100,000 livebirth) 16.4

9. Literacy Rate 91.4

10. Education (Compulsory) 9 years (will be extend to 12 years in next few years)

11. Unemployment Rate 5.4 (of population in labor force)

References

No. 2 Statistic Report 1998, National Statistical Office, Office of the Prime Minister.
Thailand

No. 3 – 9 Mahidol Population Gazette. Volumn 9, Number 1 January 2000. data on Jan 1,
2000

No. 10. National Economic and Social Development plan, Number 8 (1997 – 2001). Thailand

No. 11. Report of The Labor Force Survey, Whole Kingdom, February 1999. National
Statistical Office, Office of the Prime Minister. Thailand

I. Situation of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Thailand.

1. Situation of I.D. in general and Services provided for I.D.

1.) Finding and diagnosis of I.D.

Statistical survey has shown different number of people with disabilities due to its source, time and research methodology, Therefore, the number of people with disability in Thailand range from 385,560 to 1,259,000 persons or 0.5 to 6.3 percent of the population.

The up to date data from different national level institutes are as follows :

(A.) The Health and Welfare Survey 1996, National Statistical Office, Office of the Prime Minister.

There were 1,024,120 disabled persons or 1.70 percent of the whole population of Thailand, the details are shown in table 1.

Table 1 : Number and percentage of disabled persons in Thailand

Type of disabilities	Number	Percentage of all disabled persons	Percentage of all population.
<i>Intellectual disability</i>	160,190	15.60	0.27
Deaf & Hearing - Impaired	222,990	21.70	0.37
Blind & Visually - Impaired	118,230	11.60	0.19
Physically - Disabled & Mobility - Impaired	274,590	26.80	0.45
Mental illness & Behavioral Disorder	62,380	6.10	0.10
Others	18,574	18.20	0.03
Total	1,024,12	100.00	1.70

10

From this research, I.D. ranks the 3rd among all disabilities in Thailand. There were 160,190 I.D. persons and it was 0.27 percent of all population.

(B.) Report on Survey of In-School and Pre - School Disabled Persons (0 - 19 years old), Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, 1998. The results are in table 2.

Table 2 : Number and Percentage of 0 – 19 years old disabled persons in Thailand

Type of disabilities	Number	Percentage of all 0–19 years old population
<i>Intellectual disability</i>	16,818	0.096
Deaf & Hearing - Impaired	11,417	0.065
Blind & Visually - Impaired	2,799	0.016
Physically – Disabled & Mobility - Impaired	15,233	0.087
Mental illness & Behavioral Disorder	1,043	0.006
Multiple disabilities	19,275	0.11
Total	66,585	0.38

In 1997 there were 66,585 disabled persons with the ages of 0-19 years in Thailand. Its majority has multiple disabilities. For those who have one disability, I.D. was the largest group. There were 16,818 I.D. persons or 0.096 percent of the population with 0-19 years of age.

(C.) The specific research on I.D. done by Rajanukul hospital in 1988 – 1989 for the whole kingdom found that there were 221, 929 I.D. persons or 0.4 percent of all population.

However, study on statistics of disabled persons in Thailand should pay more attention on definitions used in each research. That is, every study done on statistics of disabled persons should use the same definition of disabilities and other related terms. Hence, the result of each study will be more accurate and more reliable.

Diagnosis of I.D.

I.D. is diagnosed as follows :

1. The individual's intellectual functioning is below 70
2. There are significant disabilities in two or more adaptive skill areas.
3. The age of onset is below 18.

Classification system for categorizing children with I.D. is based on ICD – 10 (International Classification of Disease – 10).

The diagnostic categories for I.D.

- F 70 Mild Mental Retardation (IQ 50 – 69)
- F 71 Moderate Mental Retardation (IQ 35 – 49)
- F 72 Severe Mental Retardation (IQ 20 – 34)
- F 73 Profound Mental Retardation (IQ < 20)
- F 79 Unspecified Mental Retardation.

Intellectual functioning and adaptive skills are evaluated by clinical psychologist by using standard I.Q. tests and social adaptive behavior scales. In Thailand there are clinical psychologists in hospitals under Mental Health Department, Public Health Ministry such as Rajanukul Hospital which provides services for I.D. persons, Child Mental Health Center, etc. The other places are hospitals under Ministry of University Affairs where there is Child Psychiatry Unit such as Siriraj Hospital, Ramathibodi Hospital etc.

Before an individual is defined as I.D., the intellectual functioning and adaptive skills must be evaluated and physical examination must be done to find out genetic disorders such as chromosomal disorder (Down Syndrome) and metabolism disorder (PKU). It is very important especially for the inborn because early detection of inborn errors and appropriate treatment can prevent I.D.

2.) Early intervention

Early intervention program was first started at Rajanukul hospital in 1981 by clinical psychologists. Infants or children under 4 years of age who have developmental problems are evaluated intellectual functioning (or developmental) and adaptive skill. Before starting E.I. program, we must meet their families to provide family counseling to support parents' emotion and to help them identify strengths and weaknesses of their child. After that, we will set up E.I program for each child. We demonstrate and train parents to teach their children and show what will facilitate his/her continuing growth and development. The program is provided once a week, and child's development is evaluated every 3 months to follow up his/her progress.

Now Rajanukul hospital has another Early Intervention project, provided for out-patients and inpatients. It is done by physicians and nurses.

There are many Early Intervention project at present such as Psychiatry Hospitals (Under Mental Health Department), Siriraj Hospital, Ramathibodi Hospital, Chulalongkorn Hospital and many private hospital provide E.I. for I.D. children but there is still need for more services.

3.) Education.

In Thailand, educational system services provided for I.D. are divided into 2 systems.

(1.) Special education schools for I.D.

Most of these schools provide education for I.D. children whose I.Q. below 50 and can't learn in inclusive school. It consists of

a) *Special education school for I.D. in hospital.* There is only one at Rajanukul hospital.

b) *Special education school for I.D under Educational Division for Disabled persons.* There are 22 special schools for I.D. (Some schools include deaf or hard of hearing children) These schools are distributed in every part of Thailand such as Kavila-anukul school, Nan - special education school etc.

(2.) **Inclusive schools**

Provided education for children with special needs in the same class as children without special needs, with the purpose of promoting educational and social integration.

There are many units which provide inclusive education for I.D. as following.

a) *Elementary Education Department* was the first government unit which provided inclusive education in these patterns.

(1) providing inclusive education in Assisting Education Schools.

(2) sending special teachers to other schools such as school under Educational Office of Bangkok.

b) *National Primary Educational Office.*

There are 9 inclusive schools under National Primary Educational Office in Bangkok now.

c) *Educational Office of Bangkok.*

There are 10 inclusive schools under Educational Office of Bangkok in Bangkok now.

In the future, there are trends to extend inclusive schools to serve students with I.D. and other types of disabilities.

4.) Vocational training

Vocational training programs for I.D. under government are provided at :

a) *Rajanukul hospital* : There are programs to prepare I.D persons to work. It is provided for I.D. persons with 16 years of age who have adequate adaptive skills. The training includes housework, office work, art work (wood, leather, clothes etc.) , service and industrial work.

b) *Bangpoon Vocational training center for male teenage I.D. persons* : at Pratumthani province, the training is similar to that of Rajanukul vocational training programs, but there are additional programs on agriculture such as to grow vegetables and to herd animals.

5) Employment

From the follow up data what I.D. persons do after finishing vocational training program, most of them go home and do nothing. Therefore, Social Work Unit of Rajanukul Hospital set up an employment project for I.D. persons receiving budget from Mental Retardation Assistance Foundation. Now there are 15 I.D. persons working at government offices and receive income of 1,500 baht per month. This is the pilot study.

6.) Financial assistance.

Financial assistance for I.D. persons come from.

(1) non – governmental organizations such as Mental Retardation Assistance Foundation

(2) government

(a) Social work unit provides financial support to I.D. persons who do not have money for medical cost and transportation fees.

(b) Public Welfare Department : When I.D persons registered for disabled identification card, they are eligible to receive financial assistance from government for example, the government provides loan of for approximately 20,000 baht for disabled people who want to do their own business such as hairdressing, dressmaking, grocery selling, etc.

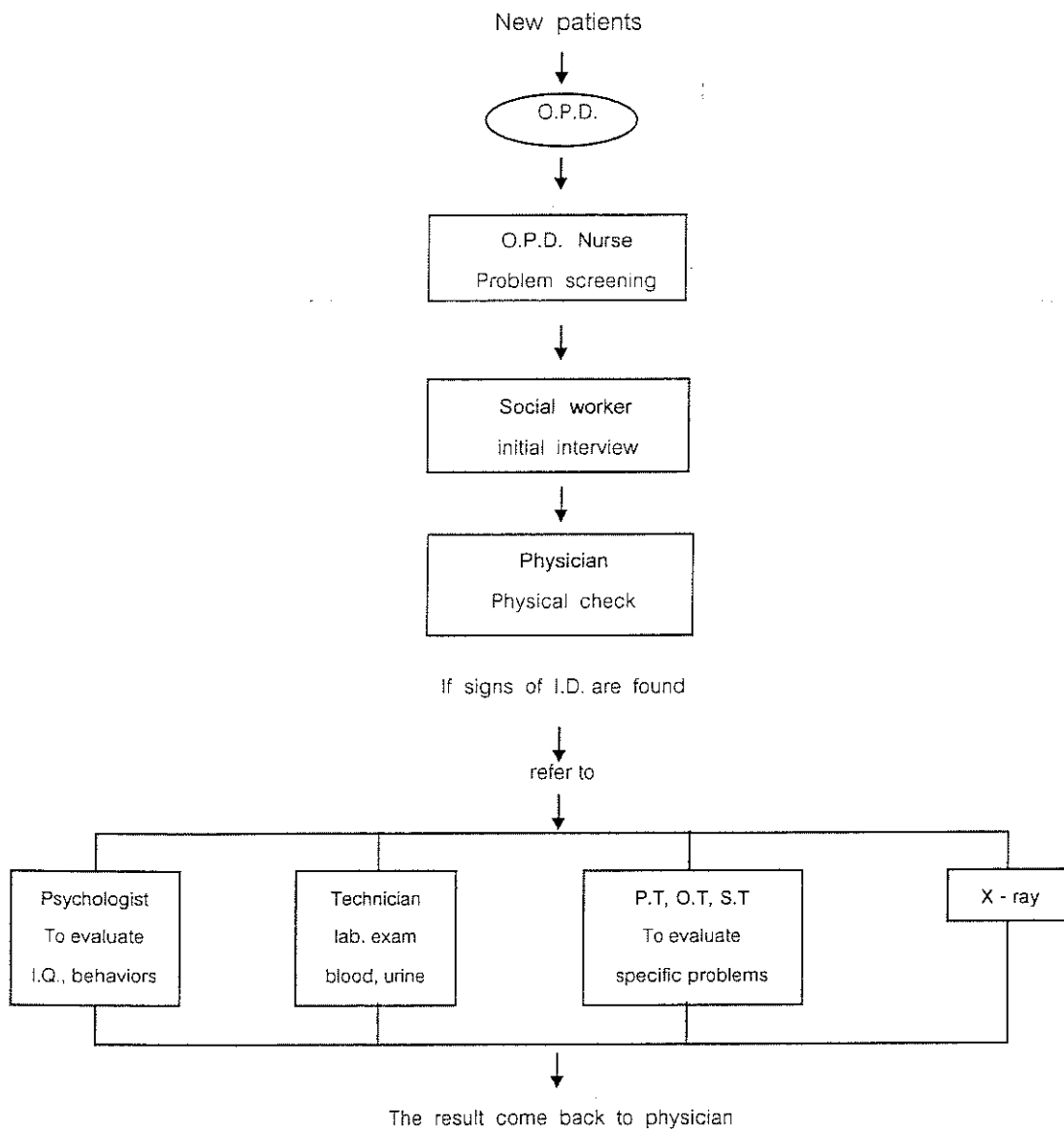
The government also provides another form of financial support. For persons with severe intellectual disability who live with a family of low income, their carers can request for monthly allowance of 500 baht. The decision making of the above mentioned service is up to Public Welfare Department officer and it requires specific process.

7.) Others

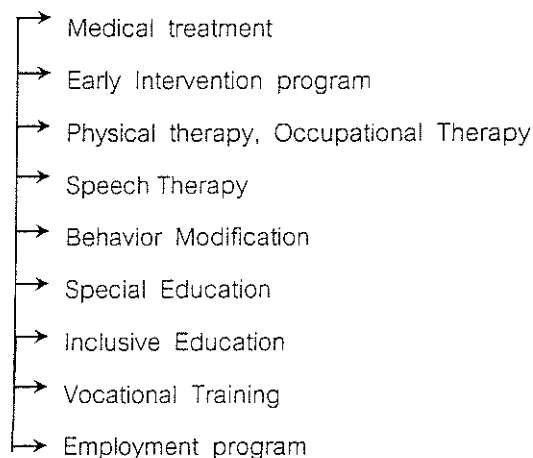
There are other services provided for I.D. persons such as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Behavior Modification, Speech Therapy, Recreation such as sport, shopping, religions activities. etc.

2. Flow chart of Service Delivery System.

Rajanukul Hospital provides complete services for I.D. persons. Below is the flow chart of service delivery system.



The physician will collect data to make decision about suitable services for that I.D. child and refer for



etc.

3. Laws concerned with I.D.

1.) Laws concerning punishment of I.D. persons when breaking the laws such as committing crimes, stealing, etc.

Law No.65 mentioned that if someone does something wrong while he can't control himself or does it without consciousness because of psychotic condition, feeble-minded, delusion, hallucination, mentally deficiency etc, Law may forgive him.

2.) Law about protection I.D. persons in case of making law commitment, receiving assets, renounce assets.

Because I.D. persons can't do complicated things by themselves, they are protected under the law. The court will appoint a manager to do legal affairs on behalf of the I.D. persons.

3.) Law about military service exceptance. The disabled persons are waived of military service.

4.) Law about the right of disabled persons to receive all rehabilitation services (medical, education, vocational, social).

5.) Law about disabled rehabilitation fund

6.) Law about architecture

Buildings, Public services, Transportation must be accessible for disabled persons

7.) Law about employment and job opportunities for disabled persons

4. Community – Based Rehabilitation Programs

1.) Outreach program (home health care)

This program is a part of CBR, under responsibility of Community Unit, Rajanukul Hospital. It provide services specific all in Bangkok by cooperating with Public Health Center of

Bangkok (5 centers). The objectives are to prevent I.D., to consult and demonstrate early intervention program, to promote mental health of I.D. family.

2.) Community – Based Rehabilitation Program

Responsibility of Ratchasuda College, it is a part of rehabilitation counseling. We visit different Bhuadamonthon district communities to visit I.D. persons and their families. The philosophy of this program is that everyone has the right to live at home with their natural families. The goals of this program are :

- 1.) To reduce and prevent stigma that devalue a person in the others' attitudes
- 2.) To encourage community acceptance
- 3.) To provide rehabilitation counseling for I.D. persons and their families
- 4.) To give information about their rights in receiving rehabilitation services
- 5.) To promote development and independent living skills

We went to the community once a week and worked with community development officers and local officers. Its process is to identify strengths and weaknesses and the need of I.D. persons in order to provide appropriate support in accordance with these 4 dimensions :

- a.) dimension I : intellectual functioning and adaptive skill.
- b.) dimension II : psychological / emotional considerations.
- c.) dimension III : physical health/etiology considerations
- e.) dimension IV : environmental considerations.
- f.)

5. Government Agencies responsible for I.D.

(1.) Thai Government is concerned about Policy and plan to develop Thai disabled persons and established the Rehabilitation Act of 1991 and have declared the government resolution as follows :

- (a) Vocational rehabilitation and job placement
- (b) Job opportunities in Government sector and State - Enterprise
- (c) Facilitate accessibility for disabled persons
- (d) Commitment on Thai disabled person rights.

(2.) Public Health Ministry : responsible for medical aspects.

(a) Sirinthon Center for National Medical Rehabilitation : This center is responsible for medical rehabilitation and provides support to other medical care institute

(b) Mental Health Department : services for I.D. and persons with mental health problems. There are 14 hospitals and centers to provide services.

(3.) Ministry of Education : responsible for education aspects.

It provides education for disabled persons both special education and inclusive education. It consists of

- (a) Education for Disabled Persons Division
 - (b) National Primary Education office
 - (c) National Private Education office
 - (d) Special Education Center, Suandusit Institute
 - (e) Bangkok Primary Education office
- (4.) Ministry of University Affairs : responsible for producing graduates who can effectively work with disabled persons and also provided services for people with disabilities.
- (a) Ratchasuda College
 - (b) Special Education Section, Srinakarin tharavirot University
 - (c) Demonstrated School of Kasetsart University
- (5.) Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare : responsible for vocational and social
- (a) Labor Rehabilitation Center
 - (b) Job Placement Services Division
 - (c) Department of Skill Development
 - (d) Disabled Rehabilitation Committee office

6. Non Government Organization (NGO)

1. Number of Organization : 16

2. Name, Address, Function

(1) Thai Disabled Persons Association.

Address : 18 Pradipat Road Samsanenai Bangkok 10400

Tel : (662) 271-4724

Function : Training services for Moderate and Severe I.D. children

Branches :

(1) Center 1.

456 Mitrapab village Onnuch Prakanong Bangkok

Tel. (662) 321-0401

(2) Center 2

18 Pradipat 3 Pradipat Road Samsanenai Bangkok 10400

Tel : (662) 271-4724

(2) Thai Mental Retardation Assistance Foundation

Address : 4739 Dindang Road Bangkok 10320

Tel : (662) 245-2643, (662) 245-3954

Fax : (662) 246-8329

Function : Provided Services

(1) I.D. rehabilitation (medical, education, vocation, social)

(2) Social welfare for I.D

(3) Academic work

(4) Volunteer training

Branches : (1) Punyavutikon

Prachanivet Jatujat Bangkok

Tel : (662) 589-5762, (662) 954-3089

(2) Prapakanpunya Training Center for I.D. children

Sirinthon Road Talinchan Bangkok

Tel : (662) 448-6604, (662) 448-6510

(3) Pre – school Intellectual Disability children Development Center

(Kongtay community)

Adnarong Road Kontay Bangkok.

Tel : (662) 249-3168

(4) Special Children Development Center (Bangkane Community)

Kongsaimai Road Saimai Bangkok.

Tel : (662) 531-7721

(5) Punyakan Vocational Training Center.

Tivanon Road Pak krat Nonthaburi

Tel : (662) 583-9994-5

(6) Assistance center for Intellectual Disability Persons.

(in the north of Thailand)

Numpun village Sarapi Chengmai

Tel : (6653) 321-011

(7) Assistance center for Intellectual Disability Persons

(in the North – east of Thailand)

Udou-konkan Road Nonsoung Udonthani Province

(8) Assistance Center for Intelleetual Disabled Persons.

(in the South of Thailand)

Pavong Muang, Songkla Province.

Tel : (6674) 333-755

(3) Sataban Saeng Sawang

Address : 850/34 Sukumvit 71 Road Kongtun Bangkok 10110

Tel : (662) 381-5362-3

Fax : (662) 381-5362-3

Function : Center of education and rehabilitation for special children

(4) Infant Mental Retardation Assistance foundation.

Address : 78/9 Pak krat Nonthaburi
 Tel : (662) 583-6815
 Fax : (662) 583-4000
 Function : Provides rehabilitation services for infant with Mental

Retardation

(5) Down Syndrome's Parents Club

Address : Genetic Unit, Medical Faculty, Siriraj Hospital
 2 Prannok Road Bangkoknoi Bangkok 10700.
 Tel : (662) 419-7025, (662) 419-8547
 Fax : (662) 419-8414
 Function : Early Intervention Clinic
 : Family support
 : Training for parent of Down Syndrome

(6) Autistic's Parents Club

Address : 140/7 Banchanglor Bangkoknoi Bangkok 10700
 Tel : (662) 441-2899, (662) 866-5729
 Function : Training for parent of Autistic
 : Inclusive project
 : Training center project.

7. Activities of International Organization : Japan International Cooperation Agency has giving scholarship I.D. training program to oversea participant including Thailand.

: Cardiff State, Wale has giving scholarship of CBR. for I.D. training program to Mental Health Department staffs.

11.

III. Outline of My Organization

1. Function

Ratchasuda College, as an institute within Mahidol University, is the only institute of Thailand which directly and indirectly provides support in terms of developing quality of life of persons with disabilities. The College's services are teaching in Master degree program in rehabilitation service for people with disabilities, providing academic services and doing research. Study program.

The Master of Arts Program in Rehabilitation Service for Persons with Disabilities has 3 major fields of study as follows :

- (1) Rehabilitation Counseling and Guidance Service for Persons with Disabilities
- (2) Access Technology for Persons with Disabilities.
- (3) Rehabilitation Service Administration for Persons with disabilities

The objective of study program is to produce graduates who can :

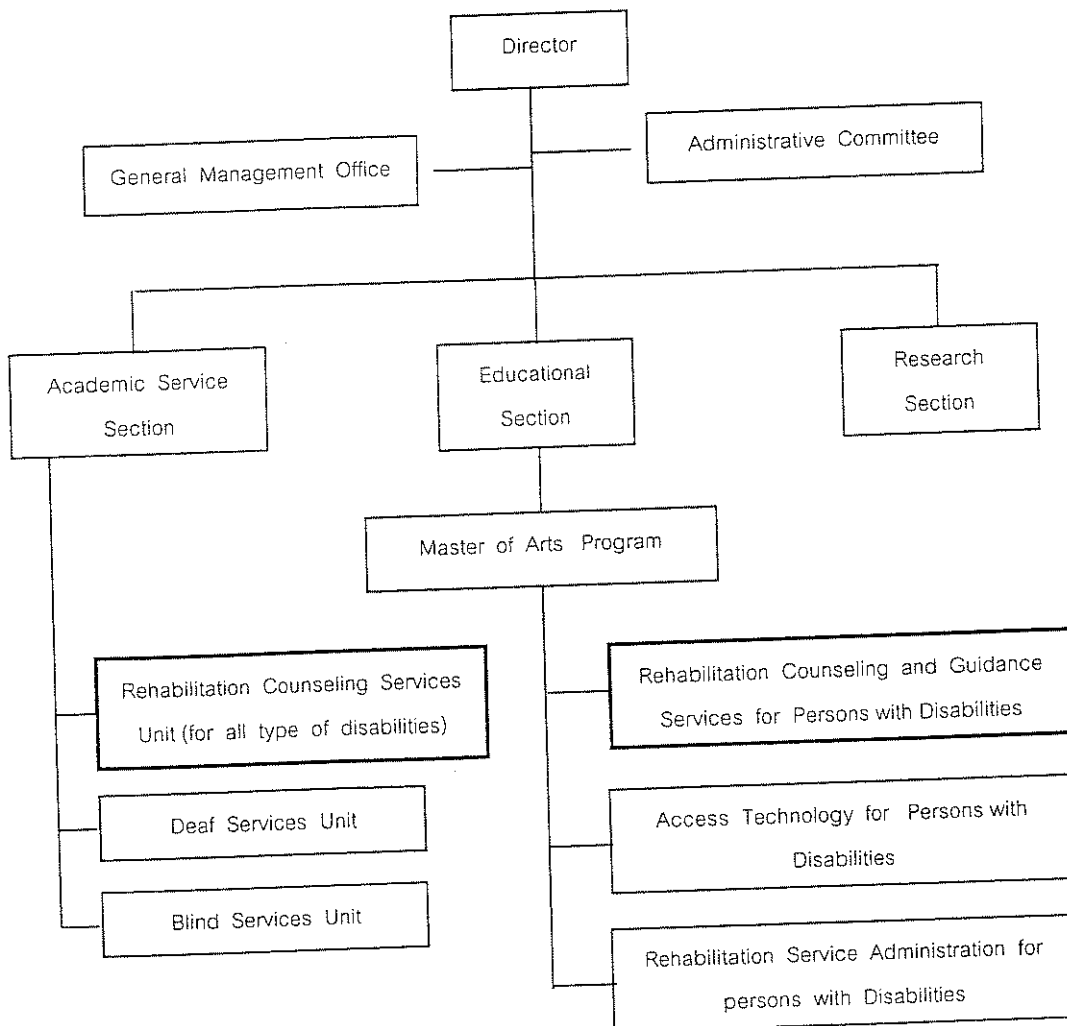
1. work with disabled persons effectively, corresponding to the needs of each individual with disability.
2. study, analyze and apply the knowledge so that the rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities can be developed more effectively
3. pursue their career in rehabilitation service for persons with disabilities effectively in each particular field.

Academic Services

Ratchasuda College provides academic services for persons with all types of disabilities such as Orientation and Mobility Program (O&M), Braille Training, Sign Language Training, Rehabilitation Counseling etc.

2. Organization Chart (indicate my section)

Ratchasuda College's Chart



11

My section is Rehabilitation Counseling, working in 3 areas

(1) Teaching in major field of rehabilitation counseling and guidance services for persons with disabilities.

(2) Providing rehabilitation counseling for persons with any type of disabilities.

(3) Researching in the area of rehabilitation psychology

3. My Responsibilities.

1. Teaching in Major field of Rehabilitation Counseling and guidance service for persons with disabilities in these subjects.

1.1 Study on Persons with Disabilities

In the topics - Intellectual or Learning disabilities

- Mental illness or Behavioral disabilities

1.2 Principle of Counseling and guidance

1.3 Counseling and guidance for persons with developmental Disabilities or learning difficulties

1.4 Counseling and guidance for persons with Mental illness or Behavioral Disabilities

1.5 Counseling and guidance for Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons

1.6 Psychological Assessment in Counseling and guidance

1.7 Individual and group counseling

1.8 Practicum in Counseling and guidance

1.9 Vocational Counseling guidance and career Placement.

1.10 Seminar in Rehabilitation service

2. Services System

As the head officer of Rehabilitation counseling service unit, my responsibilities are

2.1 planing and setting up rehabilitation counseling services for people with disabilities (I.D. children, the blind, the deaf, the physically disabled as well as staff who have some mental health problems and need counseling. The services are as follow.

- hot line
- Early intervention for disabled children
- individual counseling
- mascle relaxation
- toy library
- family counseling.

2.2 Community Base Rehabilitation (CBR)

planing and going to visit people with disabilities in their communities, to evaluate their problems and needs and try to help them solve their problems and reach their needs by work with community staff such as public health staff and educators.

2.3 Coordinating between all staff and all activities, so the program can run effectively.

2.4 Participating in establishing coordination center for people with disabilities

3. Ongoing Research

3.1 Mental health and needs of person with physical disabilities or mobility impairment. (1998-2000)

3.2 Evaluation on master of arts programme in Rehabilitation counseling and guidance service for persons with disabilities (1999-2004)

3.3

4. The committee of educational plan for children with Intellectual disability (under Education for Disabled people Division as a member of committee,

5. Curriculum development

COURSE NO: J-00-00640