

7. MEXICO

Ms. Silvia Clementina IZAZOLA EZQUERRO

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (JFY 2003) COUNTRY REPORT

I.- GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States of Mexico has a territorial extension of 1, 967, 183 square kilometers. The total population in the year 2000 was estimated at 97, 483, 412 inhabitants. Of these, 72, 759, 822 (74.64%) inhabit urban areas and 24, 723, 590 (25.36%) inhabit the countryside. In spite of conforming such a vast territory, the highest population density is found in Mexico City (5, 643 inhabitants per square kilometer).

In Mexico, life expectancy according to the 1999 statistics is calculated at 75.35 years. 73.1 years for men and of 77.6 years for women. Infantile and maternal mortality rates have fallen nearly 50 percent in the last 25 and 15 years respectively. However, infant mortality during the 1995 - 2000 period rose to 15 under 5 years of age for every 1000 born alive, whereas maternal mortality has dropped considerably. In 1980 it was at 9.5%, and 19 years later the figure stood at 5.1%.

In 1930 schools had a million and half of children and youngsters. As of today, the educational system enrolls more than 26 million students. In the 1996-1997 school period, 14, 650, 521 children were registered in elementary school. Present adult education level stands at seven years and in six decades the illiteracy index fell from 70 to 10 percent approximately. According to the year 2000 census the highest illiteracy rate group stands among the 50 year-olds or elders, (men 24.1% - women 36%), and the smallest, among the 15 to 29 year-old-group (men 3.3% - women 3.9%).

Following President Vicente Fox Quesada's Educational Guidelines of December 2001 a Constitutional Amendment was approved that made Pre-education school compulsory starting out with the 2004 – 2005 school period according to which it will be enough to cover the third year of that level before 1st. Year Elementary School. At present 90% of the preschool population within the 5-6 year-old group is already covered, whereas among the younger than 5 years it is only contemplated at 50%. The population less benefited is that of the children younger than 3 years who receive a mere 15% coverage.

It is undeniable that poverty undermines opportunities to the population that suffers it. In educational matter, 11.5 % of Mexican women, within the 20 year – old and higher range neither read or write. This percentage increases to 31.4% among women who live in conditions of poverty, and to 43.5% among women who live in conditions of extreme poverty.

According to the 1994 – 2002 National Survey of Urban employment and employment indicators, the average unemployment rate reached 4.9% .

II. SITUATION OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

Situation of I.D. in general, Services for I.D. provided such as

People handicapped by disabilities are all those who suffer a temporary or permanent decrease in their physical, mental or sensorial abilities which prevent them from leading normal activities.

Statistics place the number of disabled people in Mexico at between ten to twelve million.

I.D. Concept

The American Association of Mental Retardation defines mental retardation as a substantial limitation in the person's daily undertakings, and it is characterized by significantly lower intellectual operations in relation to average persons and generally goes hand in hand with two or more of the following areas concerning adaptability abilities:

- Communication
- Self-care
- Life at home
- Social abilities
- Life inside of the community
- Self-direction
- Security and health
- Functional academic abilities
- Leisure time
- Work

Finding and Diagnosis of I.D.

Qualification and rehabilitation of people suffering from intellectual disabilities should start out at an early age. Detection and diagnosis may even take place during the neonatal period. Such are the cases of:

- Amniocentesis
- Corneal hairiness biopsy

As concerns genetic nature sicknesses, different explorations are made which allow to determine the surge of suffering within family risk groups thanks to genetic counselling.

Other causes take place during the perinatal period which cause different encephalopathies such as:

- Hypoxic-ischemic
- Hemorrhagic or hyperbilirubinemic, making essential the use of diagnostic instruments such as:
- The Virginia Apgar Test or
- Prechtl Neurological Exploration (1984);

Such clinical observation proposal illustrates the newborn's central nervous system condition.

In other cases one may opt for the Neonatal metabolic profile Test Sieve, in order to detect alterations such as the

- Congenital Hypothyroid, which conditions retardation in the Intellectual development.

Following up Neurodevelopment will allow to determine the probability to present Cognitive sequels.

Therefore, the following Test will help out as indication of retardation that shows up early:

- Assessment at Infancy
- Ordinary Scales of Psychological development (1975 Uzgis and Hunt), which offers information about the stages that make up the sensorimotor period and which is based on Piaget's postulates,
- "Diagnosis of the Child's normal and abnormal development" (1941, Gesell and Amatruda) which sets maturity levels according to the Infant's integral development areas.

Whenever the specialists' and parents' suspicions are confirmed, the early intervention programs will be the best alternative to start out the treatment.

Early Intervention

The National Pediatrics Institute investigations area, which belongs to the Health Secretariat, contains the Neurodevelopment follow up – Laboratory, where work is undertaken with a population of sucklers who have been diagnosed with the proven perinatal Neurological damage. These sucklers were sent to this lab by Neonatology and Endocrinology services.

Neurodevelopment's follow up takes place whereby the Early Intervention model under the mother-son interaction modality is realized.

Early indicators are established through different kinds of explorations;

- Neurophysiological
- Neurological
- Neurodevelopment
- Cognitives
- Linguistic

Which allow to determine the possibility to conform some Neurological sequels:

- Motor
- Cognitives
- Language
- Convulsive

There are also valuations which evaluate variables in relation to mothers, in order to determine their profile, observation, capacity, etc.

Early Intervention programs for children with I.D., as well as populations at risk have been established, due to the high economic resources available to this sector, which enable it to possess more highly sophisticated diagnostic tools, even for the gestation period, and permit moving against disabilities during early stages.

Education

Special Education is an Institution which assists population with particular needs with or without disability.
Services Granted

- It offers Educational attention to boys, girls and youngsters with particular needs with or without disability; starting out with 45 day – olds to labor training at essential levels;
 - ✓ Initial
 - ✓ Pre- school
 - ✓ Elementary school
 - ✓ High school

- Special teacher's attention linked to psychopedagogical support formed by:
 - ✓ Psychologists
 - ✓ Language teachers
 - ✓ Social workers,

Who will help out in the potential development of his own abilities.

Pre- School: At 4 or 5 years of age

C.A.M: Multiple Attention Center

Elementary School: At 6 years of age

USAER: Support Services Unit to Regular Education

Junior High School: Under 15 years of age by September 1st

Vocational Training and Employment

the Secretariat of Public Education offers Services for work training to the most unprotected population's sectors at Formation Centers through its General Direction which supervises:

- ✓ Norms for the operation of the Training Centers for Industrial Work and ICAT. By means of agreements with the State Governments and the Industries where the creation of facilities and their equipment are defined, up to the courses and appropriate programs that conform regional necessities.
- ✓ The formation services for and at work offered to youngsters and adults that need to be qualified at a brief time in order to join the labor market at industrial companies or through self-employment. It is a didactic process based in simultaneous or immediate practices of theoretical knowledge (80% practical and 20% theoretical). Personnel gets specialized in manual work, machinery operation and team-work (qualified workers, artisans and practitioners of diverse occupations).

As to the preparation in the Technological and Industrial fields the General Direction of Industrial Technological Education, offers through its CETIS CBTIS facilities, educational services at the Middle High Level (Senior High school) with a professional technical career in the industrial, commercial and services areas. Summing up, the aforementioned Direction offers 92 careers and specialties.

Open System of the Industrial Technological Education (SAETI). – It attends to the formation of adults who have concluded their junior-high studies and youngsters which haven't finished their Middle-Half Level; these is made through 163 facilities with periodic consultantships, without having to attend daily classes.

With the aforementioned knowledge acquired through the diverse Educational Centers, a formation is achieved that permits the inclusion of people with I.D. to Industrial, Commercial, Handcraft fields, and Social Services which benefit the community. Starting out with the Current Government the labor Integration Program is being implemented to all kinds of people, including I.D. persons. The Program has not been completely fulfilled yet, however the trend has been set.

Laws Concerned with I.D..

Legal bases:

The protection of people with Disability is mentioned in the following legislation:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Uniform Norms for the Equality of Opportunities of People with Disability (UN).
- International Organization of the Work Agreement 159 on the professional readaptation and the employment of invalid people.
- The Political Constitution of United States of Mexico, which contemplates the equality, the right to health, to education, to respect, to dignity and personal integrity, the civil rights and the political rights
- General Health Law. That takes care of the development of basic principles stated in the article 4o. of the Constitution which talks about the right of the people to health and the General Law of Education
- Law for People with Disability in the Federal District.
- Organic Law of the Public Administration of the Federal District.
- Law of Sport, Law of Transport, Law of Urban Development.
- Regulation of Construction. Regulation of Traffic and Regulation of the Council Promoting the Integration for the Development of People with Disability..
- Civil Code, Criminal Code and Federal Code of Institutions and Electoral Procedures.

Right to the equality.

The Universal Declaration of the human rights mentions as first article: "All human beings are born free and created equal in dignity and rights."

The article 1st. of the Mexican Political Constitution, states the right of all persons to enjoy habeas corpus.

The article 4th. states: "The man and the woman are equal before the law....."

The Criminal Code considers it a crime to attempt against the dignity of people as stated in Title 7th bis, only chapter, article 281 bis:

Sanctions from one to three years of prison, of a fifty to two-hundred-day fine and twenty-five to a hundred work-day period will be imposed in favor of the community to he which for reasons of age, sex, pregnancy, civil state, race, language, religion, ideology, sexual orientation, skin color, nationality, origin or social position, work, profession, economic position, physical character, disability or state of health, causes or incites to hate or violence, or exercising his-her activities denies a person, a service or a benefit to which he-she is legitimately entitled.

Right to the free displacement

Architectural barriers limit access to necessary spaces for fulfillment of daily activities, for social and productive participation and injure people's dignity that have difficulties in their displacement.

Right to work

The access to work is one of the most difficult aspects for people with Disability. Exclusion conditions and disadvantages suffer are amplified in this field. On June 20th. 1983, International Work Organization adopted agreement 159 on readaptation and employment of people with disability which contemplates minimum rights with which they should count in this subject, as well as basic agreements of the corresponding policies. Our country ratified this agreement in 1999.

Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of human rights and article 123 of the Mexican Political Constitution, point out that every single person is entitled to lead a worthy and socially useful means of life...."

Right to social development

This aspect is widely contemplated in the Uniform Norms for Equality of Opportunities of People with disability, where it is pointed out that the States should: Promote the satisfaction of the disabled person in the family life, and the right to personal development, to look after integration in cultural activities. Provide access to facilities for recreational and sport activities. The tourism promotion and cooperation for gaining access to housing programs, cultural programs and libraries with equipment

Right to education

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of human rights and article 3rd. of the Constitution mentions: "All individual is entitled to receive education". Access to regular education spaces with the benefit of supports services and interpretation is encouraged. Whenever the disability is intellectual, they will be incorporate to the system of special education, either in special schools or, even more desirable, in special groups inside the regular schools, for the coexistence with children with no disability.

Right to the health

The right to the health is fundamental for all human being. It is necessary to stand out the aspects of prevention, attention and rehabilitation.

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says : "All persons are entitled to an appropriate level of life that assures them , as well as their family, health and well-being and especially food, clothing, housing, , medical attendance and the necessary social services."

The 4th Constitutional article points out : "All persons are entitled to health protection " .

Article 174 of the General Law of Health refers to the attention as regards to prevention of disability and people's rehabilitation with disability."

Civil rights and political

Justices is a supreme value of which one should not exempt people with disability.

Civil rights. Article 6 th of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights says: "Every human being is entitled, everywhere, to the recognition of his artificial legal personality". The Civil Code mentions : "the legal capacity of people is acquired by the birth and is lost at death."

Political rights. Article 21st of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights and Article 35 of the Mexican Constitution point out that all persons are entitled to participate in the government of their country and to have access to public functions". To exercise the vote, the access should be guaranteed at the electoral stalls. Likewise , article 218 of the Federal Code of Institutions and Electoral Procedures points out : "Those voters that are handicapped physically to mark their ballots , will be able to ask a trusted person to accompany him or her.

Right to Communication

People that present a sensorial disability require special supports to communicate:

For the blind : Elimination of physical barriers, sign- installation in Braille, use of the same in manuals and menus, audio-books reproduction and their acquisition.

For the deaf: The elimination of physical, social and cultural barriers implies : To place subtitles in television, to implement electronic screens or television monitors in airlines or public buildings, existence of key telephones through operators, luminous signs in the public buildings, interpreters' disposition in all areas of public attention at government institutions, hospitals and at symposia. Fomenting the teaching-learning of the manual language of signs as well for the deaf as for the listeners.

Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs (System, Responsible Organization

Within the presidential cabinet there are diverse organisms that have taken charge of the social well being of people with disability:

Human and Social Development.

- Secretaría de Educación Pública. (SEP) República de Argentina N° 28 Col Centro Tel.53281097
- Secretaría de salud. (SSA) Lieja No. 7, Col. Juárez. C.P. 06696 Tel.5553 6888
- Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social (STPS)Periférico Sur No.4271. Col. Fuentes de Pedregal Tel. 5645-3995
- Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL) Av. Constituyentes No. 947. CP 01110 Tel. 5512 1616
- Oficina de Promoción e Integración Social para las Personas con Discapacidad
- Comisión Nacional del Deporte (CONADE) Camino a Sta. Teresa No. 187, CP14010 Tel 5665 3394
- Consejo Nacional de la Educación para la Vida y el Trabajo Dirección General De Empleo Y Capacitación. Gante No. 15, CP 06040, Tel. 5518 0705

Other Institutions

- Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales para los Trabajadores del Estado (ISSSTE) San Fernando 547 CP 14050 Tel. 56662441

- Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) Gustavo Baz Prada 142, CP 56530, Tel. 5361 4201
- Lotería Nacional Juárez No 101 CP 06030 Tel. 5510 1506

Government Agencies Concerned with I.D.

- ✓ Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia.(DIF) Zapata 340 P.B., Sta. Cruz Atoyac, 03310, México DF. Tel. (55) 3003 2200
- ✓ Centro Nacional de Rehabilitación. (CNR) Calzada México-Xochimilco 289, Ampliación Arenal de Guadalupe, 14389, México, DF. Tel. (55) 5999 1000
- ✓ Instituto Nacional de Pediatría. (INP) Insurgentes Sur 3700. Insurgentes -Cuicuilco, Tel. 56848971
- ✓ Consejo Nacional de Derechos Humanos. (CNDH)Periférico Sur 3469. CP 10200 Tel 5681 9800

Non Governmental Organization (NGO)

As time has gone by our organization forms, have been improved achieving as from 1990, the conformation of the National Council of Organizations for and to people with Disability that represent the formal, structure, responsible for keeping the relationship with the institutions and the government's organs, establishing bonds and working in a coordinated way with more than 600 organizations in our country, with people of different disabilities.

It is still necessary to establish commitments and agreements that strengthen the union, the harmony and the trust among the members with the public institutions which through the National Coordinating Commission, orchestrates the National Program for the well-being and the Incorporation to the Development of People with disability (PNBIDPD). Such institution comes out as the result of the National alliance among the country's organizations and the fair claims to the Executive branch.

The directors of this Commission (PNBIDPD) point out that they still have a lot to do , since the program requires legal conformation , larger participation and coordination. Furthermore, a real commitment is needed on the side of the organizations` representatives in order to become change factors and development promoters.

"Among these organizations and groupings, conformed as State Councils, National Associations, Committees and Foundations, we may highlight the participation of the Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la persona con Discapacidad Intelectual A.C. "CONFE"(Carretera México-Toluca 5218, El Yaqui, CP 05320 Tel. 5292 1390); Asociación Pro Persona con Parálisis Cerebral A.C., "APAC" (Dr. Arce No. 104, Doctores; CP06720 Tel. 55889929); Federación de Deportistas Especiales A.C. (Av. Río Churubusco. Pta.9 2º. Piso, Magdalena Mixhuca. CP 08010 Tel 5519 2040); Discapacitados Mexicanos A.C., "DIME(Playa Hermosa N° 550 Col. Reforma Iztacihuatl C.P. 08840 Tel: 55100954); Asociación Nacional de Rehabilitación Integral A.C (Calle 27 N° 59 Bis Col. San Pedro de los Pinos C.P. 03800 Tel: 55634322 .; Industrias de Buena Voluntad I.A.P (Álvaro Obregón N° 178 Col. Roma C.P.06700 Tel: 55841292.; Libre Acceso A.C.; y las Federaciones del Deporte Adaptado. All these groups conform the Directive Meeting of this National Council.

Some others are: Fundación Jonh Langdon Down A.C. Selva N° 4, Insurgentes Cuicuilco. C.P. 04530 Tel: 56668580. Adelante Niño Down A.C. Latacunga N° 893 Col. Lindavista C.P 07300 Tel:55867273. Fundación de ayuda al Débil Mental A.C. Av. Tlahuac N° 4574 Col .Lomas Estrella C.P. 09890 Tel: 56565418.Vida Digna Down Palmarola N° 70 Col. Andrés Zacahuitzco C.P. 09440 Tel: 55327105. Comunidad Down Calle Aguilas N° 1681 Col Lomas de Gpe. CP. 01720 Tel: 56352462. Federación Mexicana de Salud Mental A.C. Rómulo O`Farrill N° 351 Col. Olivar de los Padres C.P. 01780 Tel: 56814287. Asociación Mexicana Pro Niño Retardado A.C. Prolongación Calle chica N° 8 Col. Toriello Guerra C.P. 14050 Tel: 56663254.

Activities of International Organizations

Among International Organizations the activities of UNESCO and UNICEF may be cited.

III OUTLINE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

1 Function

The Centro Nacional de Rehabilitación (CNR), is a unique Institution in its genre in Mexico and Latin America. It is not a new hospital, it is an Institution of change and transforming. Of Transforming, because the medical attention, through scientific investigation, offers effective models of prevention, resolution, definitive cure, to a high population of disabled people. Of Change, because the National Health System, is fed and updated permanently with the advances of excellence in medicine and effectiveness in the attention to the disabled, leaving behind the "Hospital Paradigm" that while assisting illnesses and lesions, these are the ones which generate most of the disabilities.

The Centro Nacional de Rehabilitación, comes out as a result of an effort begun in 1973, by the Secretariat of Health and the Government of Mexico, through the National Program of Rehabilitation and Special Education, in order to offer the population in general (children, youngsters, adults and third age people), an Institution that ensures them that to obtain effective solutions, in the face of the different disabilities that affect the country's population under the motto: "In the face of Specific Needs, Concrete Solutions ". With the sum of human, material and financial efforts of the three Institutes of Rehabilitation Medicine, Human Communication and Orthopedics, the Centro Nacional de Rehabilitación is today an innovated Institution, different for its concept of diverse medical modernity, which transforms the social reality and offers equality in the distribution of health expenses.

The hope of 10 million Mexican families at present lies, in the Centro Nacional de Rehabilitación, because as from today, a change has been made in the medical attention to people with disability, within a modern concept modeled on fairness and social justice, complying this way, with the government's commitment which starts out with the implementation of medical excellence to the Mexican population's that suffers the disability ravages throughout the whole country.

2. Mission:

Support the National Health System to impel prevention actions of disability and to improve the attention to people suffering from disability. To provide quality services for the rehabilitation of patients with illnesses and sequels of disabilities of the locomotive apparatus, of the audition, voice, language, cardiorespiration of all types as well as sport injuries, with the application of the most advanced scientific knowledge through the use of top technology, in order to obtain the best results, with a high human sense and covering the integral physical, psychological, social and occupational aspects of every patient, with the active participation of the multidisciplinary team that includes the participation of the family and the community. To form and to qualify human resources fit for rehabilitation, with the best scientific and human participation that can use equipment and top technology; with an attitude for continuous self-improvement; with aptitudes for teaching and with capacity for the scientific investigation; liable to act as leaders of the social benefit team in their specialty. To develop scientific investigation that allows the widest and specific knowledge of the of the disability epidemic phenomena; of the actions to prevent it and to detect it on time; of their physiopathological mechanisms and of those that act for their prompt recovery or compensation; of the substitution of organs, tissues and damaged functions; of the resources of diagnosis and treatment and of the technological development for the prosthesis production, orthosis, implantations and technical aid, as well as of the family and community aspects of related with this problem.

3. Your responsibility

Division Of Therapy In Human Communication.

The Division of Therapy is conformed by the service manager : Dra. C. Edith Reyes García, a coordinator of the service for every shift, a service subcoordinator in every shift and 106 therapy workers in Human Communication.

The Service Language Therapy in Human Communication works in three major fields:

1. Medical area: A worker in the Therapy of Human Communication knows, interprets the medical diagnoses and manages the appropriate terminology with the purpose of programming the specific therapies.
2. Psychosocial area: It acknowledges , it values and it applies the information of the psychological diagnosis for the best adaptation to the rehabilitation programs. And it acts as promoter of the development in benefit of the patient's rights to integrate him / her back to society.
3. Rehabilitation area: It knows and applies the methods of specific technical rehabilitation for the individual's appropriate handling of Human Communication problems .

The main objective in the rehabilitation of patients with pathologies in Human Communication is:

The integral rehabilitation of the subject with specific technical diagnosis, treatment and education that allow him / her to integrate himself back in to his / her community. The Human Communications worker undertakes an action which is rich in formative and human values: to understand and to interrelate with his patient, as well as his pathology.

Pathologies faced by the Human Communication worker are:

Reception , integration and expression problems:

- ✓ Problems of Reception: They are mainly the audition dysfunctions.
- ✓ Integration Problems: They are mainly : attention deficit , learning problems , patients with Cerebral Damage, Cerebral Paralysis, Apraxis and Disfasias.
- ✓ Problems of Expression: Disfemy, Disglosies, Disfonies, Orofacial congenital malformations, Laringectomies, speech and Voice problems.

The Human Communication worker, is capable to rehabilitate people that present any problem of Human Communication; being integrated to the interdisciplinary medical team that looks to incorporate the patient back to society. He/ she is also qualified to act in programs of preventive medicine, as well as to be involved in areas of education and investigation.

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INTERNET SITES

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