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Republica Federal de Mexico

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**Integral Development
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(DIF)

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General Information:

México is located in the northern part of America. It has almost 2 million sq Km. In extension is the 14o place in the world and the 5th in America. México borders with the United States of America in the north, and with Belize and Guatemala in the south. At the east, there is the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. At the west, there is the Pacific Ocean.

With the promulgation of the Constitution of 1917, our Country organized the current administrative, territorial and political administration. Nowadays Mexico has 31 states and a Federal District known as México City, residence of the Federal Government. All together conform the Federation.

Every State is divided in Municipios (counties), that are the base of the Federation. In Mexico there are 2,443 municipios.

In 2001 the INEGI (Mexican official Office for Statistics) informed that Mexico had 101 millions inhabitants. In population, México is the 11th in the world and the third in America.

75% of the population lives in cities and the rest, 25% live in rural areas. As in many other countries, the population in Mexico is growing urban.

Expectation of Life

With important advances in health services, the expectation of life grown to 73 years for men and 78 for women.

From the total population, 51.5% are women and 48.8% are men. The 61% of the population is 30 years old younger.

San Luis Potosi , the Place where I Work

The State of San Luis Potosi is located 5 hours north of Mexico city, in the center of the Country.

In the State of San Luis Potosi we have four regions with different levels of development. These areas are; Altiplano, Huasteca, Zona Media and the Center of the State. We have

58 municipios (counties).

San Luis Potosi has 2 million inhabitants. Most of the population (800,000) lives in the capital city also named San Luis Potosi. There are other important cities, like Ciudad Valles, Matehuala, Río Verde and Tamazunchale. All together they have 300,000 inhabitants. The rest of the population lives in small villages.

San Luis is rich in different native races, like "The pames", "The Huastecos", "Nahuatls", they speak their own mother tongue, but many of them are bilinguals.

Intellectual Disabilities in Mexico

The lack of knowledge of intellectual Disabilities in México, represent one of the reasons of the problems the people with intellectual disabilities have to face. Nevertheless in recent years, the government has approved several laws in favor of these people This laws are the following:

1. Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-173-SSA 1-1998 para la atención integral de personas con discapacidad. Mexican Norm.

Reglas de operación de programas de atención a discapacitados, publicado en el diario oficial de; 09 de marzo de; 2001 Operative rules

Specially in San Luis Potosí: La ley de Integración Social para personas con Discapacidad de; Estado de San Luis Potosí, publicada en 1995. Approved in the State I work in.

La Ley de Education de; Estado de San Luis potosi, decreto publicada en el periódico Oficial el 16 de junio de 1995. State Education

The State has a annual budget for the attention of people with disabilities of \$18 238,061.00 pesos (around 1.7 million US cy)

Integral Family Development System. "National DIF"

The »Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia" also called "*DIF Nacional*" (Integral Family Development System "National DIF"), is the most important organization in the Country that takes care of the social welfare for the most needed.

Its Mission is conduct public policies to promote the integral development of the family and the community, in coordination with DIF Systems in Each

State of the Country. "Statal DIF and Municipios (counties). It also support public and private institutions all around the Country.

My Job in the DIF San Luis Potosí.

In San Luis Potosí, the DIF supervise 40 rehabilitation centers. I Work in the San Luis Potosí Rehabilitation Center, where we treat poor disabled patients from all over the State. They can be newborns, lactate, or adults. We offer physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychological therapy. We receive patients with motor disabilities, intellectual disabilities, blinds and deaf. We have a team that works specially for the most in need. Our most important objective is to offer the treatment to promote their integration back to the society. As coordinator I also supervise the long time treatment department. I am in charge of the contact with patients and their families.

I also coordinate the different programs in the treatment area, like the following:.

Early Detection of disability process. Early intervention for High risk Newborn.

Integration of Disability Children at the Education System:

I am continually in contact with personnel of the 37 rehabilitation basic units. I have responsibilities with training and updating of their personal. The Basic Units represent the first contact and an important opportunity to detect patients with disabilities, also intellectual disabilities.

I also coordinator one Rehabilitation Center and one Gerontology Unit . The Basic Units are located in small cities all around the State.

In San Luis Potosí there are 7000 with Intellectual Disabilities . In their treatment also take part other Institutions as Public Education Disabilities in the State , we do not have already a specific program. Nevertheless, the authorities are worried. That is why they support my participation in this fellowship.

Community Based rehabilitation (CBR)

The Community Based Rehabilitation unit started in the 90 s following directions of National DIF . In San Luis Potosí the first 5units satarted en 1997 in the main cities of the State. In the year 2000 we already have 8 units and now we have 37 basic units, a full scale Center, and

a unit for gerontology.

The challenge we face is not to create new unit, but to hire and train the personnel.

San Luis Potosí is concerned with the professionalism. We recently review our Manuals, organize courses and seminars.

Situation of people with Intellectual Disabilities.

The diagnosis of diseases that produce Intellectual Disabilities is not for everybody. Newborns of part of the population are tested for early diagnosis of metabolic diseases such as congenital hypothyroidism. There are still cases of late hormonal treatment. The Mexican Government increase the number of vaccinations including the Hemophilus Influenzae, to avoid meningitis in lactants.

1. Please explain the problems in order to conduct effective supports to ID people .

A campaign of information to void cases of Intellectual Disabilities related to consanguinity.

A campaign of indoctrination to educated people about Intellectual Disabilities to avoid the abuse of people with disabilities .

Study and read cases of Autism.

Develop programs in favor of people with intellectual disabilities to make easy for them to insert themselves in their local community.