

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
JAPAN LEAGUE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

FINAL REPORT
TRAINING COURSE IN MENTAL RETARDATION

FRANCISCO JOSE POSADA RODRIGUEZ
EL SALVADOR

TOKYO , JULY 17 , 1996

FINAL REPORT

PHILOSOPHY

I think for begin talking about our own philosophy an rehabilitation services, I need to explain my point of view related to the Mental Retardation before.

In my opinion Mental retardation is just a point within the wide spectrum of what we call INTELLIGENCE , Knowing about this one as the capacity of the individual to adapt to the change.

From this vision, Mental Retardation must be understood like one characteristic more, not a trait which makes us different from the others, but with different necessities comparing with our own necessities.

However, the society persists in obligate people who suffer Mental retardation to behave, learn , play and live in the same manner than other” NORMAL” people and that makes them unable for living in this world.

Any philosophy related with Rehabilitation services must be hold in the plenty believe that what should be done is to solve just the necessities and to get this we must begin from a common point , which is divided in two ways

One of this way is by having a vision going from the general to the particular and the other way is by locating into the particular itself.

In the first one it is important to think of the society like a global meaning and work from their bases in order to be specific with childhood and also is necessary to teach our children , which are the future of this society , that disability people are the same than

ourselves and just some features makes them different but this is like to be a fat, small, white, black etc.

However to achieve this situation , teachers and fathers must be conscientized trying to brake tabu , believes and fares by exactly explanation of easy understanding in order to eliminate any doubt about M.R. causes , Moreover the necessity of the children and the students to understand this reality.

When this objective is complete it will be easier to reach up to the individual part, in order to succeed on push the government to establish some policies , like improving services , changing budgets and modifying the hostile environment existent .

This way which I was talking about is for a long term , because I think many years has to go over has to go fulfilled and probably if we start now we wont see the expecting results but even so it is very important to take always account that nothing that we can do from the particular point of view will be effective enough if we do not have this general or global vision.

In the particular point of view , I believe that it is necessary to work in the improvement of medical attention, early diagnosis, early intervention, educational, vocational training and the right to the work.

It is very important to remind that we can not teach what is unknown and because of that we must be the first one in communicating about this philosophy, because we dedicate to take care for disability people and just by this way we can reach our ideal , which is the total integration of them to this society.

How I can make my philosophy an actuality.

Despite is it very hard to go through this way I think what is important is to BEGIN , because sometimes we thinks we have missed the battle before start fighting .

Although for some people it can be unreachable or maybe to much idealist it is primordial to have always in our mind that it is the base of succeed and is the only way to broke this established PARADIGMS

Outline of an action plan

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Achieve a total integration of the Disability People to the Society.

OBJECTIVES

- To obtain all rights like a person they are into a society , so, they must be recognized like a part of it .
- To promote the social acceptance like a person with special needs . Such as the parents association become a pressure group to obtain our general objective.
- To promote improving services to the persons with special needs, such as research in different areas like treatment , education training and work based in a new vision that is paradigms are broken.
- To promote CB-R programs like the unique way to within them reach in all country.

STRATEGIES

- Promote and organize The National Council of Assistance to the people with special needs
- Promote and support the National parents and friends of persons with special needs association .
- Promote to wide spread the normalization idea through the governmental and private companies support.
- Performs complete studies of offer and demand in health services thus we can see the necessity to improve them.
- Develop the reorganization The Interinstitutional council for the CB-R (CIRBAC) in order to fulfill its aims.

COMMENT ON SERVICES IN JAPAN

During our visit to the services that offer Japan for the people with special needs . I was impressed about Professionalism of the staff who works in treatment, education, training and employ of the people with special needs because this allow the separation between the work and the feelings. This is one of the main problem in my country and is most difficult to solve , because the feelings mix with the work produce overprotect, underestimate and delay in the solution of these special needs.

I impress too with vocational training programs and employment opportunities either in sheltered workshop or open works.

Likewise the life in group home, halfway house and welfare home are very beautiful overcoat for the people with severe mental retardation or autism.

In my country is very difficult in this moment to work in that way because we need improve the structure , education, vocational training etc. But I think that the main is always keep on mind the above mention ideas.

I like so much the parents associations, their organization and the power they have get.

Probably this idea is possible to implement in my country but this is hard work we know it

The first step is to conform the National Parents Association.

I want to comment too some services, like as :

-First lack of program on CB-R , this permit to know from the people directly the adequate solution to their problems, likewise this permit early detection and intervention

this program has a wide coverage , that is , It would decrease the migration of the people and familiar broken.

On the other hand, I want to discuss some ways of treatment, that is the case of the Operant Conditioning, this technique is a training very simple, the child is trained to respond to an stimuli, of course, this is an effective way to teach but I think is not adequate to the daily living.

In the Japanese System of Education has a compulsory education up to 15 years old and I think in cases of people with moderate and severe mental retardation, that age must decrease probably 12 years old . In this age the student could begin his or her vocational training for a better social integration.

COMMENT ON THE TRAINING COURSE

This course for me had some deficiency probably due to the group formation was heterogeneous . I agree with Multidisciplinary team because we see all spectrum of the mental retardation, But I believe necessary that the all of the group have the similar level of knowledge for the better course profit.

I believe too that we do not had the advantage of the multidisciplinary team because in many occasions only we described country problems and we did not give the solutions . I think some lecture and visit was superficial and if the course is for the people that planning programs we needs to know more about that.

I suggest the lecture with audiovisual helps.

THANKS FOR ALL

L