

Teaching Materials and Services

International course on rehabilitation and prevention of impairment & disability in leprosy, Nepal

From 28 October to 18 November 1996 we conducted the first International Course on Rehabilitation & POID in leprosy at our Green Pastures Training Centre in Pokhara. Twenty experienced professionals from six countries contributed to the course as teachers and facilitators. The contributions made by NSL and the Gastmann-Wichers Stichting to enable respectively Dr Margreet Hogeweg and Dr Wim Brandsma to be teachers on the course, is gratefully acknowledged. The sixteen participants from Nepal and India represented no less than nine nationalities. Their professions varied from medical doctors to social scientists and rehabilitation workers. The multidisciplinary nature of the participant group fulfilled an important aim of the course. As one participant said during the closing ceremony: 'One of the main things I learned during this course is that rehabilitation is team work!'

The curriculum was based on the concepts of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps, published by the WHO in 1980. Following an overview of relevant anatomy and (patho)physiology, the course addressed treatment and prevention of impairments, prevention of disabilities and handicaps (the social consequences of impairment or disability), and rehabilitation of people with disability or handicap. This included teaching and practice on nerve function assessment, impairment grading, eye, hand and foot examination, disability assessment, psychological assessment and socioeconomic assessment. Recording, reporting and monitoring and evaluation of POID activities was also covered, using the ILEP guidelines. The teaching programme aimed at knowledge as well as skill acquisition. Half of the available time (56 hours) was therefore spent in practical sessions in the Training Centre, Green Pastures Hospital or Socio-Economic Services Programme.

Throughout the course the participants worked in multidisciplinary groups on a plan for an RPOID programme for their own area of work. These assignments, together with the results of a written exam formed the basis of the course examination. Feedback from participants and facilitators was very positive, indicating that the course met a real need in training in the field of rehabilitation. It was therefore decided to run the RPOID course again in 1997.

Venue: the Green Pastures Training Centre in Pokhara, Nepal

Tentative dates: 10 November–12 December 1997 (5 weeks)

Expected course fees (including board & lodging and field trip): NRs 27,500 (~\$500)

Target group: Doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, managers of RPOID programmes, and senior hospital staff and senior leprosy control staff responsible for RPOID activities. Experience in leprosy work will be an advantage, but is not essential.

Teaching/learning methods: Lectures, group discussion, group assignments, individual assignments, practical work in small groups, problem-based learning, self study, presentations, and simulation exercises. The course is in English.

Further information: The Training Officer, GPTC, P.O. Box 28, Pokhara 33701, Nepal. Tel: 977 61 20342. Fax 977 61 20430; and e-mail: lp@inf.wlink.com.np.

Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG)

The Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG) is an international development agency established in 1977 to promote primary health care (PHC) in developing countries.

PHC aims to make health care accessible to everyone. Strategies for PHC include preventative care, community participation, intersectoral co-operation and an equitable distribution of resources.

AHRTAG actively contributes to the PHC effort to improve local health care by:

facilitating the exchange of information and experience by international government and non-government organizations working in health and development;
publishing practical manuals, international newsletters, bibliographics and resource lists;
disseminating such information through its extensive international network of collaborators and partner organizations; and
contributing to local institutional development through technical support and training.

AHRTAG has special interests in AIDS, disability and community-based rehabilitation, diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, urban health, primary health care management, and training and health education. It provides a consultancy service to international and nongovernment organizations on information systems and resource centre development

Resource Centre publications

AHRTAG's Resource Centre produces a series of resource lists and directories which are available free or at low cost, including:

Directory of Primary Health Care Resources in and for the Middle East—listing of resources in Arabic and/or adapted for use in the Middle East;

Primary Health Care in Developing Countries—a guide to resources and information in the UK; and

Primary Health Care Courses Directory—long and short courses relating to PHC in the UK.

AHRTAG has also produced a compendium of 'Free and low cost international newsletters and recommended journals on subscription in English. Further enquiries: AHRTAG, Farringdon Point, 29–35 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3JB, UK. Tel: 44 171 242 0606. Fax: 44 171 242 0041.

Teaching Aids at Low Cost (UK), TALC

TALC continues to produce and distribute a wide range of teaching and learning materials at low cost. The 1977 catalogue (27 pages) contains information on books, slides and accessories, videos and flannelgraphs, mostly intended for use in developing countries and the tropics. The main headings include: medicine; women's health/obstetrics; community health; nutrition and child growth; AIDS education and communication; child health, health care services/management; education and communication; disability, appropriate technology, child-to-child publications, health and pharmacy libraries.

To people working in leprosy, the section on disability given below may be particularly relevant:

Alternative Limb Making: AHRTAG—The manufacture and fitting of low-cost below the knee prostheses. Details of innovative products. Provides technical information and advice. £2.75.

Disabled Village Children: D. Werner—A guide for community health workers, rehabilitation workers and families. A very comprehensive book. English, £9.80 or Spanish, £7.50.

Essential Action to Minimise Disability in Leprosy Patients: J. M. Watson—Written for general medical staff who treat a few leprosy patients. £1.00.

Essentials of Leprosy: J. M. H. Pearson—4th edition. 48 pages which review briefly epidemiology, clinical features, diagnosis, complications, treatment, rehabilitation and control of leprosy. Free.

Hearing and Communication Disorders: S. Wirz & S. Winyard—An invaluable book for community based rehabilitation workers and their trainers. £4.00.

How to Make Simple Disability Aids: AHRTAG—Many illustrations. Minimum text. A revision for Simple Aids for Daily Living. £2.50.

Personal Transport for Disabled People: AHRTAG—Designs from all over the world to encourage the local manufacture of wheelchairs, trolleys and tricycles. £2.00.

Techniques for the Care of Leprosy Patients: J Harris—A 30 page workbook with checklists of 30 important tasks relating to patient care. Free.

We Can Play and Move: AHRTAG—From parent to expert, this book will help disabled children learn to move by playing with others. Well illustrated. £2.50.

Further information and catalogue: TALC, P.O. Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TX, UK. Tel: 44 1727 853869. Fax: 44 1727 846852.

Recent advances in leprosy, K. K. Koticha, Bombay, India

In October 1990, Dr Koticha's 'Concise Text' on leprosy was published in Bombay and received a wide circulation. It was certainly concise, but also extremely comprehensive and informative, including a formidable collection of no less than 961 references on all aspects of this disease. Now Dr Koticha has produced another publication (paperback, 272 pages), as a Supplement to the original, carrying 582 references spanning the years 1990–1996. These are accompanied in each case by a summary and comments, with expert help from the following: Dr K. Prabhakaran, Carville, USA; Dr U. Sengupta, JALMA, India; Dr V. M. Katoch, JALMA, India; Dr C. K. Job, St Thomas' Hospital and Leprosy Centre, India; Dr B. K. Girdhar, JALMA, India; Dr R. C. Hastings, Carville, USA; and Dr M. D. Gupta, CJIL Field Unit, Avadi, India. This is a tour de force which deserves wide distribution not only in India but elsewhere.

Price: Rs 275 in India, Nepal and Bangladesh only. Elsewhere US\$15.00 or UK £10.00, or equivalent, inclusive of packing and postage. Further enquiries: Dr K. K. Koticha, 901 Nand Park, Lokmanya Nagar, 11, Thane-West, India 400 606.

Centre for International Child Health; Teaching Programme 1997–98

This Centre in London offers a number of research degrees and attachments, including MSc in Community Disability Studies (12 months), Diploma Course for Teachers and Planners of Community-Based Rehabilitation in Developing Countries (9 months), short courses for health workers intending to work overseas and management skills for project leaders in developing countries. The CICH resource centre is open between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday and visitors are welcome. Apart from a collection of teaching and learning material on country and subject matters, computerized information is also available on community-based rehabilitation. The entire range of materials produced by Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC) can be studied. *Further information:* Continuing Education Office, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH. Telephone and Fax: +44 171 829 8692. Email: cont.edu@ich.ucl.ac.uk.