

SRI LANKA

Country Report of Sri Lanka

Collaboration Based on Partnership Among Related Fields (Education, Healthcare, Medical Care, Welfare) for Appropriate Service Provision to Individuals.

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Introduction

Sri Lanka is an island that consists of multinational, multi religious and multi cultural people. In ancient time our country was honored as the pearl of Indian Ocean. The percentage of the population can be categorized as follows. The majority of Sinhalese is about 74%, Tamils, about 18%, and the rest the minor group, Muslims and Burgers about 8%.

The main religion of our country is Buddhism and the religious can be mentioned as Hindu, Islam and Christianity. Because of this there are a multicultural patterns and multi attitudes can be seen in the social structure.

History proves our trend to education from the past. The education commenced from the Buddhism temples and then to “Guru gethara”, the headmaster house has expanded to the present school system – At the present this system has been established as government schools, Privet schools, special schools and as private schools with the expansion of various social concept.

History proves that various missionary groups also had maintained education programs in our country in the past. By inquiring the history it reveals that they are the pioneers who start institutes for the people who have the special needs. Those days they were named as “Madam”. Various special steps can be seen when looking back to the journey of the institute for the people of having special needs.

Initialization

- Provide education by subordinate special schools. The attention was paid for welfare and education of them.

eg:- The School for the visually and hearing impaired pupils at Ratmalana (1912).

- Today, integration education and inclusion education has been added to the education process. The institutions that commenced under the Portuguese, Dutch and English colonial periods mostly performed the process of nursing and adopting pupils of this type. But with the start of special schools much attention was paid for education.

The establishment of the special schools was increased with the idea of giving them education moving beyond from the concept of nursing them.

The details and the data are given in the following table regarding the special schools. (government subordinate schools) which are implementing at present in Sri Lanka.

Assisted Schools

Province	No of Schools	No of Teachers	No of Students
Western Pro	10	167	1258
North C. Pro	02	30	221
Eastern Pro	04	93	483
No. W. Pro	02	48	409
North C. Pro	01	17	91
Sabaragamuwa	02	18	176
Uwa	03	35	248
Total	25	429	3086

Source - Ministry of Education - Sri Lanka 2005

In Sri Lanka enrollment of pupils that are having special needs to the general ----- taken place under the new concept of integration in 1960. Under this concept the priority was privileged to have education visually impaired pupils and to the mentally retarded pupils with the improvement of concepts. In between seventy and eighty decades this operation were expanded.

The system of education in Sri Lanka consists of Sinhala medium schools, Tamil medium and a hand full of English medium schools. Whatever the medium is there are lot of international and national pollicies which has attached to the system of education in this country. By this time there are lot of principals of education and bills have been established to expose every child to social and educational equality.

- The regulations were imposed to admit all children between age 6-14 to the school system.
1961 – National Educational Commission
- According to the convention of children education – Education for all in Sri Lanka
1990 – Convention of child rights
- The conference held in Spanish with the participants of 92 countries introduced the inclusive education policy.
1994 – Salamanka Statement (Salamanka)
- Legislation regulation for compulsory education –
It is compulsory to provide education for all between age group – (5-14)
1997 – Special Gazette Announcement

At present, the opportunity has given to the pupils of heavily special needs to enter the education process in each school such as National schools and provincial schools in our country.

Provincial Data

Provincial Schools			
No: of School		Teachers	Students
W.P	91	137	2000
C.P	218	220	4035
N.P	63	63	800
E.P	7	7	3000
N.W.P	214	217	2207
N.C.P	72	76	1300
S.P	74	74	1400
U.P	31	35	4000
Total	770	829	18742

National School

Province	Schools	Teachers	Students
W.P	14	33	785
C.P	15	16	1600
N.P	11	16	300
E.P	4	4	103
N.W.P	9	12	300
N.C.P	6	6	100
Sa.P	11	23	328
U.P	12	14	400
Total	82	124	3916

At present, there are about 257411 pupils who require special educational needs in schools under about 1382 teachers has been revealed according to the data of Mio.E – 2005

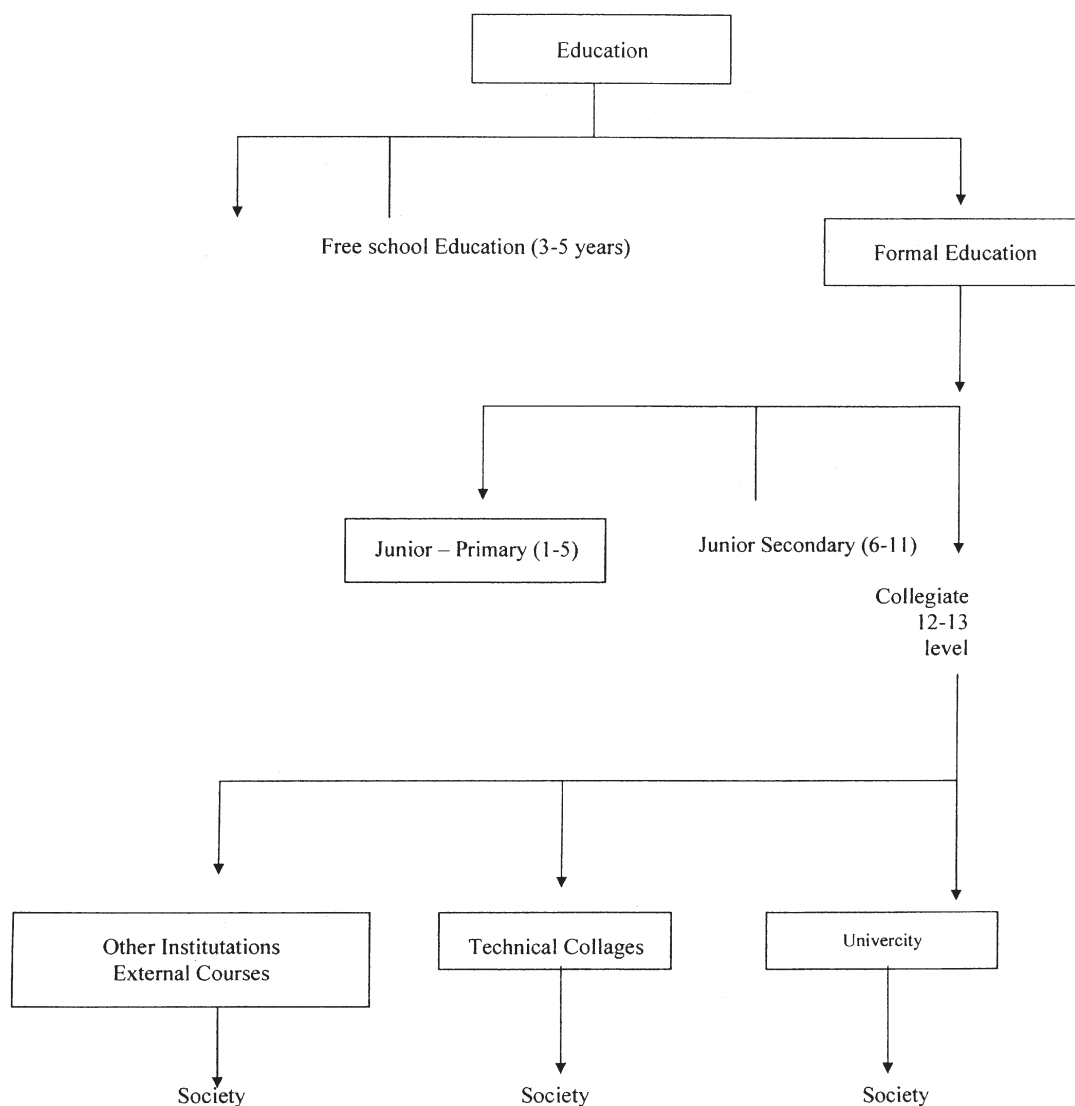
But the researches have revealed that the number of students who want any special need is about 45% out of the total population of Sri Lanka.

It is very essential the contribution of health, medical and welfare services when facilitating the persons with special needs.

The Literate is like a sharpened roof one's life to live in the society as a good citizen. In the society he comments his own idea, build up the interpersonal relationship with others. The education effects basically and in great deal for his economic and social development as well as to be a social – sensitive citizen.

We have heard that the only difference between the man and animal is the education. So, man is a unique animal of the living being. He governs the physical and biological environment around him as he wishes. He is having his own strength and the method for some process of education offers all these things to the next generation and contributes the development of the society.

Process of Education

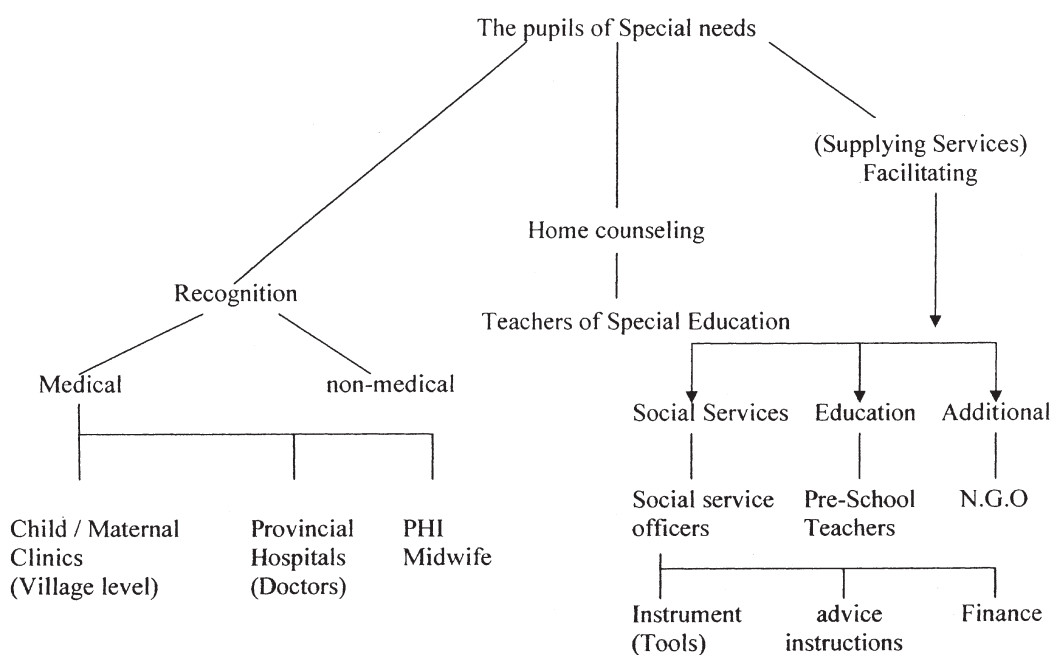


The first interference for the disabled pupil can be seen from their stage of free child development. The department of education provides the services as chancellery or by reaching their homes pupils who recognized under climax checking or any other way.

Implementing preschools can be seen in many provinces in our country for there pupils. The special trained teachers N.I.E contributes these schools except these data collecting various types of data about these pupils and facilitating is being done at present. In Sri Lanka one of the officers from the section is being served in each secretarial decisions.

A Pre-child develop officer is attached to each divisional education office and provides their service for the disabled children and in other many ways – Their task is to guide them to the medical checkups to the clinics, for the treatment and to special education units – They arrange awareness programs for the parents of these pupils too.

Recognition and Facilitating



The child moves to the formal education after the pre school education. The ministry of education allocates monetary funds for this. Also the ministry of education provides school uniforms, textbooks, monetary funds for quality input for all the pupils meals for some pupils in rural schools.

Mostly the government been the human resources and physical resources to the teachers learning process in the schools. The government bares a considerable expense for printing textbooks to the visually handicapped pupils under the Brail system. Considering the “equality” in education it is a must to have the same opportunities for the disabilities in entering the government schools and special schools as well as the normal pupils. For this purpose the necessity of “pre-interference.”

The chance of entering the schools has given to the pupils of aged 4 years and nine months based on the necessity of pre-interference. Stressing this requirement these pupils get the opportunity to follow the same curriculum with the other pupils as well. Most of the time changes can be seen in the curriculum for the betterment of the visually handicapped pupils. And also, the government has given them the chance of sitting for the enemy common examinations with other pupils. The government sponsors most of the training session, workshops, seminars and camps for the teachers who can facilitate the disabilities. The other non-governmental organization also contributes for they’re training session. For example the following institutes also contributes this.

- Plan International Institute
- World Vision
- SIDA
- UNICEF

It is visible that the social justice and social relationships (International) are creating for the persons with special need with the improvement of education.

The Autism Center, commenced on 2005, for the autistic children at Mahalaga Teaching Collage can be mentioned as a result of integration the field of education and other fields. The Department of health services contributed for this task.

The survives are being supplied for the pupils who are having special needs under the programs such as annual clinics for pupils. (Dental, eye clinic) immunizing programs, and through various awareness programs.

Eg. The immunization for rubella for all types of medical clinics implementing in schools been become to it's supreme level in the country today. The permanent dental clinics, implementing in schools are progressed as the best health programs in various parts of the island. Except this, the clinics implementing is the hospitals in provincial levels can be introduced as a truthful service.



Specially the service is being done for the visually impaired and hearing impaired pupils by the clinics is praise worthy. In these clinics they supply not only the medical advice but also the

instruments like (spectacles) eye-glasses, hearing aid etc.

The trend to expose them to these clinics has been increased gradually with the connection of the school. And it is a very successful process.

eg. The assistance given by the “Visual Foundation” is very remarkable in either province as well as in Kandy.

A considerable number of operations are being done per a day for the pupils having cataracts and squint in this hospital.

In provincial levels the Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Inspectors render a great service to each and every school. The tests are being conducted for these selected pupils and they are forwarded to the oncoming programs. These Health Programs are been done regularly.

Free medical facilities have been supplied for the pupils who need psychotherapy, Speech therapy and many other services in hospital levels.

The seminars are the awareness programs regarding the disabled. People are being conducted mainly by the field of education and field of Health services. The contribution of the N.G.O is also remarkable in this field.

Welfare

Though the welfare prevails it's the government basic responsibility many non-governmental organizations, associations and teams are also contribute the field of welfare. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Bureau, The Department of Child care and probation. The Department of Social services and “Shia Foundation also perform many duties towards the social welfare. The present government has proposed to give an allowance of Rs. 3000/- for each in the community of disables from the previous budget. In addition to the monitory aid given by the Department of Social Services they have taken steps to supply other necessary instruments as, spectacles, wheel chairs, sewing machines etc.

The present government has declared it as their responsibility of fulfilling various needs of the pupils under the Child Bureau. It is worthy to mention here the service rendering by the government & health condition of the people.

The government's assistance to celebrate the special days of the disabled and to motivate them in education, social and in the field of health is appreciable.

This is a special fact that should be mentioned regarding the street children. At present they have supplied with permanent hostels and school education enhancing their social states.

Celebration the International Days for the Children with disabilities.

The government sector and the earlier mentioned Non governmental Organizations contribute a lot to celebrate the special International days such as The International Day of white walking stick and a wrist watch (Brail medium) are offered. The talking watch, which is commonly used at present, is too included in the aids.

In our country lot of associations have established for the welfare of the people who need special attention. eg: All Island deaf children's parents' association.

These associations perform various tasks independently and also under the government sponsorship these tasks are consist of the evaluation of the aesthetic skills camps for showing the sport skills, programs for literary etc. From these tasks the disabled pupils also earn a social validity respect and acceptance like others. Simultaneously the socialization takes place in them. Welfare programs for the pupils with special needs can be seen in several provinces in the island. (The Board for rehabilitating disabled pupils has been implementing since 1987 in the North Western Province) In Matara district and some other provinces also have set up such associations by this time giving bursary is the main process and many other welfare activities are being performed.

Communication

Communication is the most powerful factor achieving one's goals. In our country a considerable service has performed for the betterment of the hearing impaired person. National Committee is one of them and it implements workshops in Sinhala people for the rest of them. Current news is given through News to them. The news is presented with the general news. The government sector and the private sector support for this news telecast. Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation telecast News under the private sectors sponsorship.

Professional Welfare

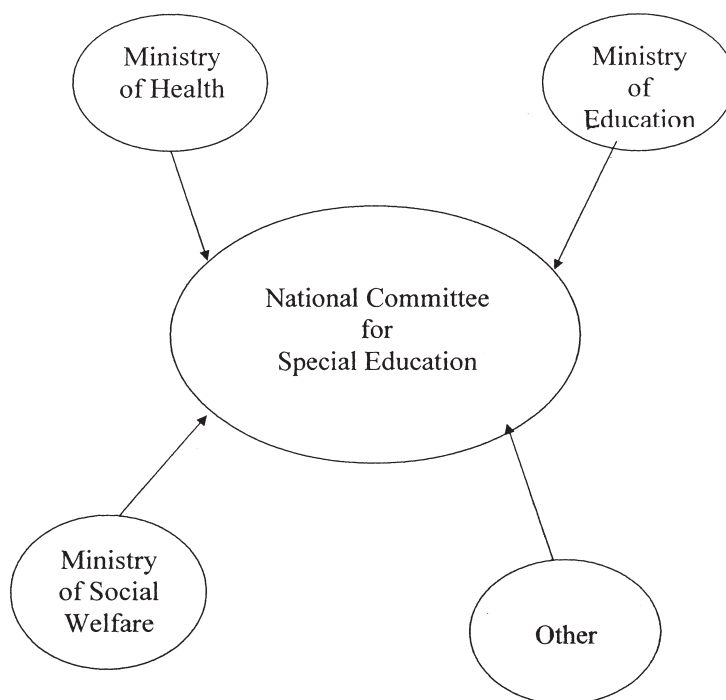
It is necessary to engage in a job to fulfil the life of the person with special need. It paves the way for his own welfare and the development of the country. In connection with this a large number of job oriented programs are being implemented. At the end of the pupils vocational training given by the Department for Social Services pupils are provided with tool kits relevant for the professional sheet they were trained for (Seeduwa Vocational Training Center) so, the disabled have gained an

opportunity to obtained the employment both in the government sector and the private sector. In our country, a policy decision has made to recruit 3% (three percent) from the disabled while filling the vacancies in the public sector and the private sector.

The opportunity had been given to visually impaired graduate teachers in 2004-2005 when enrolling the teachers under the government employment program for graduates. In Sri Lanka various welfare programs are being implemented in some provinces by the Community Based Rehabilitation Programs too. Mostly, these programs create opportunities for the persons with special needs to be socialized.

National Committee for Special Education, This committee has established with the patronage of Ministry of education. The Ministry of education, Health and Social services represent this committee except there various associations, private special schools, representatives of the non governmental organizations, Sri Lanka Association for visually handicapped and the Association for serving Deaf. Regarding Special education needs various proposals in decision making, getting approval and for implementing are submitted to the Minister of education. The examinations, Health, proposals for professional problems, and administrative activities of the persons with special needs are being performed by this persons the task of building up the interrelationship among the field of education, Health, Medical and Welfare when implementing various programs for the persons with special needs.

National Committee for Special Education



- Secretary to the Ministry
- Director of Special Education Line Ministry
- Asst. Director of Special Education (Province)
- Principle (Special School)
- Lectures (Training colleges/colleges of Education)
- Teachers for Special Education
- H-Doctors

Challenges and the issues that are to be faced for the persons with special needs – even now.

The problem in participating for educational and vocational training for all the disabled community. The enrollment for training is being done under various criteria.

The difference in attitudes or disagreements in the performance of multi fields.

The lack of vocational training programs using modern technical equipment and scarcity of such equipment.

The society gains positive attitudes very slowly (The slowness of gaining positive attitudes in the Society)

The difficulty in accessing a profession even though the adequate training had gained.

Suggestions

- Utilization of modern technical methods and introduction of such technical equipment make them advance.
- Introducing new professions and methods of life style, related to modern technology.
- By evaluating the talents of the special persons and introduce them to the general public. Improve the positive attitude and disabled through this education.

Future Ambitions

Many a talent and visible among the persons with special needs. They are very from person to person. It is our duty to recognize these variations and their talents and to utilize them for the development of the society. Then only, social justice would take place for their lives.

Hence, the main intend is to establish a 'National Institute' for the community of disabilities. And it is intended to get the active participation from not only the Ministry of Education, Health and Social services, but also from the other ministries.

How should be the inter field harmony

