

Low vision and education

Asia

Africa

Industrialized (USA)

Latin America

Current situation & challenges on LV & visual rehabilitation in children: Asia

- More understanding on visual maturation has made possible to rehabilitate these children even with multiple developmental delay.
- Only very few institutes offer this
- No existing network of referral on this
- No registry on this disability



Current situation & challenges in integrated education in Asia

- Implementation of the programme is fairly good throughout India
- Monitoring the quality of education?
- All ophthalmologists are not aware of the existing facility
- No data available on the % who avail this facility





Low vision & education in Africa

Current situation

Challenges

Current situation on low vision in Africa

- Improved hugely in last 10 years
- Mostly at CEHTF
- Low vision devices available through HKSB
- Training opportunities in a few settings
- A few programmes have demonstrated success
 - Provide some important lessons learned



Current situation of integrated education in Africa

- Some successful models
- Some countries have adopted supportive policies
- Some settings have created links between eye care and education



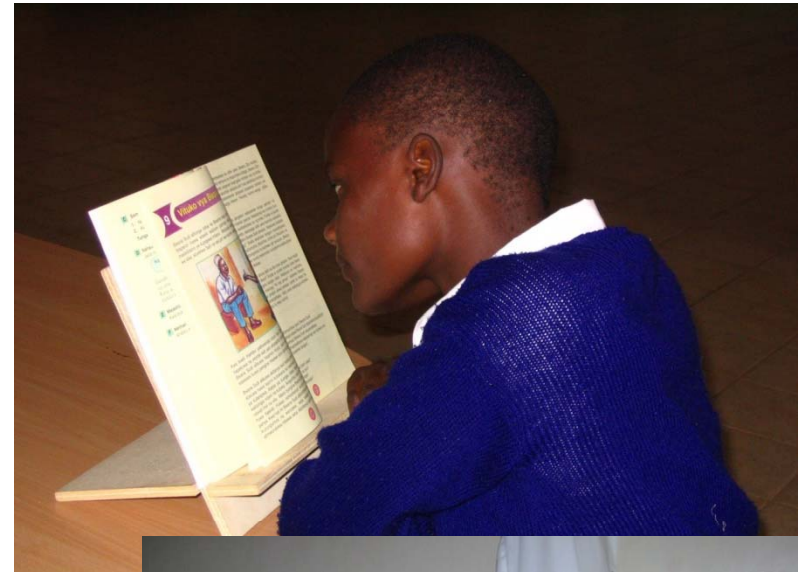
Challenges in integrated education in Africa



- Most settings: link between health and education very weak
- Many countries have no policies regarding admission to schools for the blind
- Poor understanding of the educational needs of children with low vision
- Many organizations working at cross-purposes
- Very little planning (national or regional)

Challenges in low vision care in Africa

- Poor follow up
- Skills in low vision care limited (few refractionists/optometrists)
- Counselling of parents inadequate
- Teachers unaware of needs of low vision children
- Limited “scale up” of successes
- Funding generally limited (short term only)



Low Vision and Education Current Situation--USA

“The surgery
itself should
be considered
nothing more
than an initial
hurdle...”



Challenges: USA



- Aggressive management
 - Timely surgery
 - Optical correction
 - Amblyopia tx
- Education

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Challenges: USA

- Anatomic success but poor visual outcome due to amblyopia
- Significant social, family, and financial issues can be strong negative prognostic indicators



Low vision/education in Latin America: Current situation

- PAHO, NGOs, IAPB, PAAO collaboration
- Established Regional LV working group
(IAPB-LA LV committee)
- LV training initiatives

Low vision/education – Challenges

- Availability of low vision services for children in urban/rural areas
- To develop a curricula to different professionals involved
- To define minimum indicators to monitor and evaluate programs
- To establish a link to pediatric eye care facilities and establish referral systems
- To assure early identification of children with low vision
- To build up capacity of pediatric eye care services
- Affordable glasses /low vision devices
- Government support - sustainability