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

OD: +10.00 + 2.25 X 087
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