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- A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of white lines and small circles on a blue gradient background, resembling a circuit board or neural network.
- **REHABILITATION OF SPECIAL CHILDREN**

• WHAT IS REHABILITATION?

- This Report defines rehabilitation as “a set of measures that assist individuals who experience, or are likely to experience, disability to achieve and maintain optimal functioning in interaction with their environments”. A distinction is sometimes made between habilitation, which aims to help those who acquire disabilities congenitally or early in life to develop maximal functioning; and rehabilitation, where those who have experienced a loss in function are assisted to regain maximal functioning (2). In this chapter the term “rehabilitation” covers both types of intervention. Although the concept of rehabilitation is broad, not everything to do with disability can be included in the term. Rehabilitation targets improvements in individual functioning – say, by improving a person’s ability to eat and drink independently. Rehabilitation also includes making changes to the individual’s environment – for example, by installing a toilet handrail. But barrier removal initiatives at societal level, such as fitting a ramp to a public building, are not considered rehabilitation in this Report. Rehabilitation reduces the impact of a broad range of health conditions. Typically rehabilitation occurs for a specific period of time, but can involve single or multiple interventions delivered by an individual or a team of rehabilitation workers, and can be needed from the acute or initial phase immediately following recognition of a health condition through to post-acute and maintenance phases. Rehabilitation involves identification of a person’s problems and needs, relating the problems to relevant factors of the person and the environment, defining rehabilitation goals, planning and implementing the measures, and assessing the effects (see figure below). Educating people with disabilities is essential for developing knowledge and skills for self-help, care, management, and decision-making. People with disabilities and their families experience better health and functioning when they are partners in rehabilitation.



TYPES OF REHABILITATION

- Management and care continue to replace the traditional-services. Shivers & Fait (1985) emphasises that rehabilitation involves medical, mental, social, vocational and economic aspects. The author explains that the mental aspect has to do with educating individual through special education where by mental fitness activities will be given to the affected person for example eye- hand coordination activities. Social aspect can be done through planning programmes where by the person is equipped to relate adequately with others. Vocational aspect has to do with training in a competitive skill. Economic aspect is related to essentials for employment of individual either self or government employment. All aspects of that will lead to the employment of person with special needs. This is because opportunities are made accessible to the individual who cannot initially or easily gain access to the available opportunities., (1989) further elaborates the medical aspect in four ways:
- **1 . Medical Based Rehabilitation:** Early intervention is crucial. Rehabilitation should ideally start in the intensive care unit. At this point, rehabilitation is generally preventive in nature. Prevention of pressure scores and orientation are very important right from the beginning. Frequently, rehabilitation activities initiated in the Intensive care unit (ICU) can reduce complications and sometimes the length of hospitalisation.
- **2 Day treatment day rehabilitation:** Day rehabilitation provides intensive rehabilitation in a structured setting during the day and allows the person with problems to return home to his or her family at night. The treatment team is often made up of a variety of rehabilitation professionals.. Outpatient facilities rehabilitation: Following acute rehabilitation or sub-acute rehabilitation, a person with a physical dysfunction may continue to receive outpatient treatment in specific areas for example, speech pathology to continue to work on speech of the patient. Often, this treatment can also be provided in the home by a Home-health agency.
- **3:Transitional living programmes:** Transitional living programmes provide housing for persons with special needs, with the goal of regaining the ability to live as independent as possible. Sometimes, programmes will have different levels, depending on the level of need of the individual. In addition to physical, occupational, speech and recreation therapists, these programmes usually need skills therapists who assist the person with a physical dysfunction acquires skills and learn compensatory techniques so that they can live in any independent settings.

IMPORTANCE OF REHABILITATION PROCESS

- Rehabilitation may adopt various forms in handling the individual with physical dysfunctions. These areas may include treatment, education and employment. Treatment may be in the area of therapeutic activities by different professionals such as: physical, occupational and speech therapists (Carte, Nigg & Hinshaw (1996). Rehabilitation facilitates more participation in workplace activities in the following ways:
- 1. It also allows more people with disabilities to achieve gainful employment opportunities.
- 2. Stage of recovery: Developmental levels and goals will vary with the nature of the illness or injury. Moreover, people would not have the same progress results from the several therapies they would be undergoing.
- It helps in developing economic status and employment opportunities that can enhance their daily living.
- It enables the individual learn to adjust to be socially mature and face the realities of life.
- It minimises the effects of handicaps so that the individual can function well in his or her level.
- The rehabilitation process requires lots of courage in addition to solving other problems
- Be it an actual accident or possibly an issue, the process may indeed concentrate on its goal that might assist the person body get through to the normal functions in the ultimate outcome such as: provision of adequate treatment and education for person special needs based on their unique needs.
- It maintains self realisation for better human relationships. It assists handicapped individual have clear perception of the problems and arrive at a realistic adjustment

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

- It is clear that if the outcome of rehabilitation is poor, it can impose device that has limited use and is inconvenient to the user. Rehabilitation must be addressed by the coordinated involvement of various medical and paramedical disciplines.
- 1. The rehabilitation process can be difficult to undergo by persons of lower class background due to financial implications.
- 2. Problems posed by shortage of facilities, equipments and personnel may have negative impact on rehabilitation activities.
- 3. Rehabilitation activities that involve the selection of an appropriate surgical technique to be employed may be expensive.
- 4. The rehabilitation duration period if it takes a longer period it will delay the client from participation with their peers.
- 5. Lack of proper diagnosing of problems create problem of which type of rehabilitation is appropriate for the individual.
- 6. The patient requires regular and continuous care requirement, maintenance and adjustment to accommodate changes to lifestyle demands or body dimensions.
- 7. Changes of professionals may be a problem by not knowing the onset of the problems.
- 8. Where the patient is the primary purchaser of the devices for treatment, the requirement for ongoing costs to maintain the same standard may be a problem

CONCLUSION

- Rehabilitation is quite vital to people who have undergone different conditions affecting either physical or mental state of a person. They could even be confined in such facilities either voluntarily or not, as long as the main goal would be recovery. This can actually be achieved with the help of professionals with different skills and techniques from the programmes rendered by the Rehabilitation Centers available in the community. Efforts to educate the public about persons with special learning needs is still lacking behind. There is no specific policy on rehabilitation process. A describable way of enlightenment should be adopted for successful identification and treatments, of persons with special needs, since individual with various problems are of different types. Referral of special need person for treatment, education and employment purpose should be made to appropriate places such as hospital, school and government parastatals. There should be provision of special equipments and facilities for effective rehabilitation. The fact that many people have less knowledge about care and treatment of the handicapped. Given proper rehabilitation to special need persons should not be denied upon.