

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIMARY EAR AND HEARING CARE TRAINING RESOURCE

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Report of the INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PRIMARY EAR AND HEARING CARE – Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 March 1998.

Download from; http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/activities/en/capetown_final_report.pdf

This workshop was convened to address this situation and to develop strategies, applicable in the Primary Care field of practice, to teach core knowledge, simple skills, affordable treatment protocols and guidelines for referral to basic health care workers. By involvement in the workshop of key personnel from both Primary Care and Specialist areas – including Health Management, Disability, ENT and Audiology – it was hoped to develop recommendations for training in a system of Primary Ear and Hearing Care that is not only simple enough to understand but practical enough to be uniformly applied throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

International Workshop

In March, 1998, an International Workshop on Primary Ear and Hearing Care was held in Cape Town, South Africa. Participants from 19 countries attended, the majority from Southern and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The beginning of the report on the proceedings explained the need for the Workshop:

The main recommendations addressed were prevalence of ear disease, impact of the disability, prevention and treatment, early identification, development of a training module for Primary Ear and Hearing Care, essential facilities at primary level and support for a referral system.

Requests to the World Health Organization

The Workshop requested WHO to:

- Extend primary ear and hearing care into all regions that need it
- Devise global level guidelines with training packages and materials that can be adapted to regional and national needs, linking primary ear and hearing care with strategies for prevention
- Encourage guidelines to be a component of each national plan for prevention.

Training Resource for Primary Ear and Hearing Care

In 2001, using many of the Workshop recommendations, WHO began developing an outcomes based Training Resource for Primary Ear and Hearing Care in developing countries. The Resource was planned as a generic training programme for use by any country that needed it. The Resource initially consisted of a Student's Workbook and Trainer's Manual with accompanying teaching aids in the form of posters.

An education consultant was appointed to develop the Resource together with a small advisory committee of experts from various countries worldwide and included ENT specialists, an audiologist and an education advisor.

The Delphi technique was used to reach consensus on content and receive information and suggestions to facilitate planning and development of the Resource. In the technique, contributors

Primary Ear and Hearing Care Training Resource

STUDENT'S WORKBOOK

Intermediate Level



Photos: Ron Brouillette, Andrew Smith & Piet van Hasselt

with relevant knowledge and skills exchange information and comments via email, but without knowing what others said. The content is refined through several rounds. Thus, group problem solving occurs whilst avoiding the costs of organising a meeting. The education consultant acted as the co-ordinator of this process.

At each stage of development, three rounds of questionnaires were sent out to the advisory committee as well as 44 experts from 22 countries involved in Primary Ear and Hearing Care issues in both the developing and developed world. The input from these contributors showed the need for more than one level of training, in order to provide adequate Primary Ear and Hearing Care from the most remote rural areas to urban situations.

The advisory committee decided on the development of a 3-tiered training programme that would consist of:

Basic	Level 1
Intermediate	Level 2
Advanced	Level 3

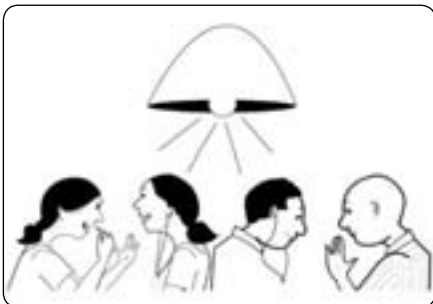
Primary Ear and Hearing Care Training Resource:

Once the Intermediate level was completed (1st Draft) it was field tested in both Southern India and in Nigeria. Based on the input from these workshops the Training Resource was adapted and finalised.

Level 1: PRIMARY EAR AND HEARING CARE TRAINING RESOURCE: BASIC LEVEL

This level of training resource:

- Contains the relevant knowledge and skills content
- Explains the need for ear hygiene
- Explains how to prevent common ear and hearing disorders
- Explains when to refer patients to the clinic or hospital
- Explains reasons for hearing impairment
- Explains how to encourage communication with the hard of hearing and deaf people
- Explains the management and possible solutions available for the deaf and hard of hearing.



Drawing: Nancy Raj

This Resource can be used for interactive and culturally appropriate training of village health workers, teachers, parents and other members of the community.

The level of Training Resource focuses on community involvement and raising awareness, and covers basic measures for prevention and management. Some of the most effective ways of reducing the number of ear and hearing disorders are begun at the primary level by trained workers, such as village health workers or community-based rehabilitation (CBR)

workers. The village health care worker could explain the issues discussed in this Resource to the people in their community. The Resource could also be discussed and used in clinics, schools and local societies. Simple drawings are used to explain issues such as provision of antenatal care for pregnant women.

Level 2: PRIMARY EAR AND HEARING CARE TRAINING RESOURCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

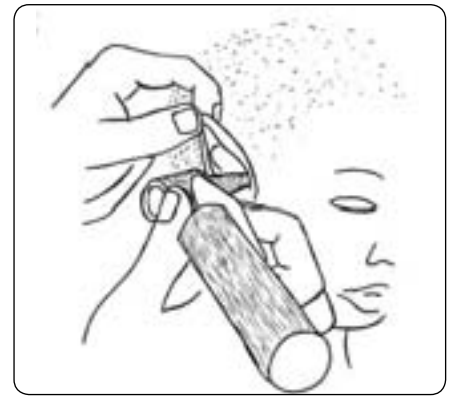
- **Module 1:** Structure and function of the ear
- **Module 2:** Hearing impairment and deafness: causes and prevention
- **Module 3:** The outer ear: examine, treat, refer
- **Module 4:** The ear canal: examine, diagnose and clean
- **Module 5:** The middle ear: examine, diagnose and treat
- **Module 6:** Assessing hearing and counselling
- **Module 7:** Hearing aids

This level of the Training Resource focuses on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of common ear diseases and hearing impairment. The Training Resource emphasises information that will enable primary ear and hearing workers to help parents, care givers, teachers, employers and community members to relate to a person who is hard of hearing.

Diagrams and photographs are used to clarify the structure, abnormalities and common disorders of the ear and hearing and to explain the equipment needed for treatment and management of hearing loss.

The Trainer's Manual contains the necessary knowledge and skills needed by the primary ear and hearing care worker. It also recommends interactive training and shows the trainer when to use the teaching aids provided.

The Student's Workbook contains the necessary knowledge and skills the student needs to understand and apply as a primary ear and hearing care worker.



Drawing: Piet van Hasselt

Each student is required to complete the interactive exercises throughout his or her training – see Activity 1. By doing so each will show their understanding of primary ear and hearing care.

Level 3: PRIMARY EAR AND HEARING CARE TRAINING RESOURCE: ADVANCED LEVEL

- **Module 1:** Epidemiology – causes – types of hearing impairment – prevention
- **Module 2:** Examination of the ear
- **Module 3:** Hearing
- **Module 4:** Ear conditions – diagnosis and treatment
- **Module 5:** Ear operations
- **Module 6:** Noise-induced hearing impairment and hearing conservation
- **Module 7:** Aural rehabilitation and education
- **Module 8:** Hearing Aids

Activity 1:

Write down some of the things you may notice or that you should look for if you think a child cannot hear properly.

Discuss them with your group

This level of training is aimed at the health care worker who has some training and experience in ear disease and hearing impairment. Prevalence, causes and prevention of deafness are discussed as well as medical and surgical treatment.

Information for the patient has been included.

The causes, effects and prevention of noise-induced hearing loss are addressed.

A module on aural rehabilitation includes education of deaf/hard of hearing and the disability of deaf blindness.

The module on hearing aids includes the need for hearing aids, care and maintenance and a section on hearing aid fault-finding.

Launch of Primary Ear and Hearing Care Training Resource

In order to publicise the Resource and to identify ways that it can be implemented in different countries, a virtual global launch through the WHO-HQ internet is planned with associated media events. The global virtual launch will be followed by strategy implementation workshops in appropriate venues in Asia and Africa, either for single, large countries or groups of small or medium-sized countries.

Objectives of the Global Launch

- To highlight the global and regional burdens of ear and hearing disorders
- Demonstrate that interventions at the primary level are likely to be the most cost-effective way of preventing the largest burden of hearing loss

- Explain the need to provide primary ear and hearing care training in order to increase the capacity of countries to provide PEHC
- Explain how the PEHC Training Resource can provide developing countries with appropriate resources for training PEHC and PHC workers for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of common ear diseases and hearing impairment.

Outputs of the Global Launch

- Increased awareness of the burden of ear and hearing disorders, the possibility of cost-effective interventions at primary level of health care, and the need for expanded training of primary health workers in this field
- Demonstration that the WHO Primary Ear and Hearing Care Training Resource can be adapted and provide appropriate training in PEHC in any developing country where it would be needed.

Objectives of the Country Workshops

- Familiarise the participants with the Training Resource
- Determine how the Resource should be adapted and implemented in their country.

Outputs of the Workshops

1. A plan for adaptation and implementation of the WHO Primary

Ear and Hearing Care Training Resource and inclusion in current country training programmes, including identification of needs.

2. A strategy for encouraging and enabling government and health authorities to implement the Resource.
3. A mechanism for feedback and evaluation of the implementation of the Resource.
4. Identification of contacts for feedback and evaluation purposes.

Outcomes of the Workshops

1. Implementation of the WHO Training Resources in current training programmes of the participating country.
2. Primary health workers successfully trained in PEHC using the Resource.
3. Evaluation of the implementation of the launch in participating countries.

It is intended that the Resource will stimulate awareness and enable developing countries to give greater priority to ear and hearing disorders, and thereby make a major contribution to reducing their burden in the developing world.

Further information is available from the following website:

www.who.int/pbd/deafness/en





Journals available FREE to Developing Countries

- *Community Ear and Hearing Health*
- *Developing Mental Health*
- *Community Dermatology*
- *Repair and Reconstruction*

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