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HEALTH EDUCATION OF THE R.F.T. CASES DURING FOLLOW-UP

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Health education is an essential tool of community health. The earliest possible detection of relapse is important both to the individual patient and to the leprosy programme. During the follow-up of R.F.T. cases, the following conditions must be checked-up.

- 1) Skin condition, 2) Flexibility, 3) Strength, 4) Condition of shoes or other protection,
- 5) Presence or absence of wounds, 6) Complaints.

The R.F.T. cases must be explained about exercises which put the joints through their full range of movement several times a day will prevent contractures. Simple excercises particularly for the hands, take only a minute or two a day will be much more helpful to the patient. They must be educated about case of hands, feet and eyes. The patient should know in particular that the drug alone will not reverse deformity, prevent or cure ulceration or cure anaesthesia. We must make every R.F.T. case as a propogandist so that he can explain how he is free from the disease after taking regular schedule course of treatment under multi-drug therapy.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (SALARIES)

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A study of the economic dynamics of a large referral leprosy hospital was done retrospectively over 9 years.

The center started seeing general (NLP) patients only in 1995 and the change in the dynamics is obvious with significant increase in income and a healthier financial situation. Introduction of opthalmology in 2000 will make it even better. The ratio of major expenditure heads has been plotted to give an overview of its distribution.

With the decreasing leprosy work and an existing infrastructure it is prudent to commence general work along with the leprosy work. This helps subsidize the leprosy care, without compromising on quality.

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EVALUATION OF IMPACT OF THREE WEEKS TRAINING PROGRAMME IN POD/ POWD ON ENHANCING COMPETENCIES OF FIELD STAFF AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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LEPRA India has been implementing POD/POWD programme as a focussed activity. In-depth three week training programmes exclusively on POD/POWD have been organized with a view to develop the skills of the paramedical staff in three specific areas - standardized methods for sensory testing to identify NFI in the early stages, identification of MFI by VMT, nerve palpation for identification of early neuritis - and provide appropriate treatment interventions and self care practice by affected persons. The POD / POWD programme was implemented in the projects after imparting this training. The strategy of the programme comprises of screening all living cases and assigning risk grades as per guidelines, providing necessary interventions in accordance to the risk grade and frequent follow up to assess the impact of interventions. Specific documentation procedures have been laid down to monitor the progress of each affected person brought under this programme.

In Adilabad Leprosy Project of LEPRA India, three week training programme was conducted and the POD programmes are implemented since last two years. The team of Physiotherapy Consultants of LEPRA India has evaluated the impact of the training programme, the competencies developed by the staff, the implementation and results of the programme.

The findings of this evaluation about training, competencies and results of the programme implementation are discussed in this paper.

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