Capacity building for occupational therapy in Vietnam: an Indo-Vietnam collaboration for knowledge transfer to support contextually relevant occupational therapy education and practice

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Background

• Vietnam: 14th-most-populous country in the world

• Rising need for rehabilitation
  • 7.8% of people with disabilities (National Census on Housing and Population, 2016)
  • 30% of population with mental illness (Vietnam Institution for Mental Health, 2016)

• Acute shortage of rehabilitation professionals

• MCNV: Five-year grant (2015-2020) for OT training in Vietnam from United States Agency for International Development

• OT in India: Oldest and largest in Asia
  • MAHE, India – OT education provider since 24 years
Project Outline

Phase I: Needs Assessment
- Survey
- Focused discussion with stakeholders

Phase II: Strategic planning and Implementation
- Steering committee for OT
- Building collaborations
- Three-track plan
Phase I
Survey: 10 - 17 Jan, 2016

- Consultant (MAHE, India) & MCNV
- Interviews with rehabilitation professionals
- Nine centers visited
  - Hospitals, rehabilitation centers
  - Universities
  - Vietnam Rehabilitation Association
Phase I

Survey Findings

• Limited quantum, quality and sustainability of services
• Medical model dominating health care
• Dependent on
  • International OT volunteers
  • PT/community workers
• Challenges to initiating OT education
  • Meeting minimum criteria prescribed by government
  • Teaching faculty unavailable to start program
  • Limited infrastructure and resources
Phase I
Focused Discussion with Stakeholders:
18 January, 2016 at Danang, Vietnam

- Challenges to OT education further discussed

- Lack of takers for the new program
  - High school
  - Diploma in Rehabilitation/Physiotherapy
  - Concerns over future employment

- OT curriculum of other countries may not be suitable to Vietnam context
Phase II: Strategic Planning & Implementation

Steering committee established

MCNV signs MoUs with

- Ministry of Education and Training
- Ministry of Health
- Hai Duong Medical Technical University (HMTU)
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP)
- MAHE
# Phase II

## Three-track plan for capacity building: 5 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educators</th>
<th>Practitioners</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Training outside Vietnam</td>
<td>• Training in Vietnam</td>
<td>• Professional network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support commencement of prospective BOT program</td>
<td>• Provide clinical services</td>
<td>• Policy making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support fieldwork for prospective BOT program</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Phase II

Three-track plan: OT Educators

• Five students admitted through credit transfer into the second year of the BOT program at MAHE
  • 3 from HMTU, North Vietnam
  • 2 from UMP, South Vietnam
• Immersion program
  • Intensive English language training
  • Mentoring
• Currently in third year of the program
• Will complete Masters by 2022
Phase II

Three-track plan: OT Practitioners

Integrated into the currently available rehabilitation degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
<th>Clinical training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Classrooms</td>
<td>• Syllabus</td>
<td>• Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Two ADL labs</td>
<td>• Study material</td>
<td>• Guidelines &amp; objectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MANIPAL
ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MCNVX
# Phase II

## Student Profile at the Two Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Type of Training</th>
<th>Age (Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time*</td>
<td>Part-time**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMP</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMTU</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students who have completed high school

** Students with Diploma in Rehabilitation/Physiotherapy
## Phase II

### Three track plan: Advocacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional network</th>
<th>Policy making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| o Understand OT practice globally  
  • Develop national and international collaborations  
  • Participated in international conferences | o Action plan for OT profession in Vietnam is being drafted  
  • Competency standards  
  • Recognition |
| o Networking workshop | o MCNV provides  
  • Recommendations  
  • Technical support |
| o Facebook platform for OT professionals in Vietnam | |
Workshop attended by all stakeholders including collaborators, students, clinical supervisors and educators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Tailor-made curriculum</td>
<td>• Language and translations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pilot-run of BOT curriculum</td>
<td>• Fieldwork supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stakeholder commitment</td>
<td>• Differing university processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support from government</td>
<td>• Complex coordination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Highlights: A Significant Milestone

• Unique international cooperation for commencing OT education

• Curriculum adapted for the Vietnamese context

• Integration of pedagogic process to support learning

• Stakeholder-driven

• An impetus for OT in Vietnam

• Model for new OT programs in developing countries
Knowledge Transfer for Contextual Relevance

OT in Vietnam

Innovative

Indigenous

Independence
Conclusion: Contextually relevant process & outcomes
Acknowledgements