

## Planning national level leprosy training for the integration of TBL control into general health services.

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## Challenges

- New staff in GHS with little experience of TBL
- Loss of expertise in leprosy
- Lower priority for leprosy: competing issues
- Some cases of leprosy are simple to manage, but many are quite complex: need for access to information at short notice – “just-in-time” education
- Stigma: related to leprosy and disability

## Resources

- Wide availability of MDT
- Teaching and learning materials
- Medical and nursing schools
- Infrastructure of the general health services
- People with experience in managing leprosy
- Support from government and NGOs
- New technology: Internet, mobile phones

## Planning training at national level

- Basic training:
  - Medical schools, nursing schools, etc.
  - Need for discussion to decide on learning objectives and curriculum
  - Provision of training resources
- In-service training:
  - Determine level of knowledge required
  - On-the-job training vs. training workshops
  - Key role of supervisors and mentors



## Training general health staff

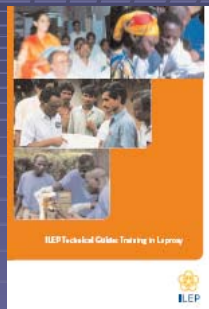
- Workshops
  - Interaction with peers
  - Training is standardized, quality assured
  - Formal curriculum
  - Minimum number of participants needed
  - Fixed time and place
  - Travel and accommodation
  - Time away from work
  - Need for many patients
- On-the-job training (OJT)
  - Less interaction
  - Training fits the need, but quality may vary
  - Curriculum needs planning
  - Each trainee starts when ready
  - Flexible timing
  - Trainer has to travel
  - No time away from work
  - Normal clinic workload

## Structured on-the-job training

- The training content, teaching methods and expected outcomes are planned beforehand and are consistent for all trainees
- A checklist is used to make sure that each trainee learns each task or topic over a period of time
- A learning guide reinforces the lessons being taught
- Use new technology imaginatively

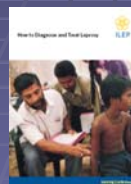
## Teaching and learning materials (1)

- ILEP Technical Guide: Training in Leprosy



## Teaching and learning materials (2)

- ILEP Learning Guides:
  1. How to diagnose and treat leprosy
  2. How to recognise and manage leprosy reactions
  3. How to do a skin smear examination for leprosy



## Teaching and learning materials (3)

- Other texts:
  - Wound care for people affected by leprosy: Hugh Cross
  - Delayed presentation in leprosy
  - Don't treat me like I have leprosy: Tom Frist
  - Essential action to minimise disability in leprosy patients



## Teaching and learning materials (4)

- All of these materials can be downloaded from [www.ilep.org.uk](http://www.ilep.org.uk)
- See also:
  - WHO [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
  - Leprosy Review [www.leprosy-review.org.uk](http://www.leprosy-review.org.uk)
  - IJL [www.leprosyjournal.org](http://www.leprosyjournal.org)
  - Medline, Google, Scholar Google, etc.
  - Email discussion groups (eg Dr Noto)
- Use Internet, email, CD-ROMs, cell phones to get information when it is needed