

## STAFF TRAINING

## EDITORIAL

Much effort and a reasonable amount of money has been spent in training people working on control programs. A variety of courses covering all aspects of Hansen's disease has been offered and a significant number of health personnel throughout the country has participated in these courses.

Despite of that, little has been done in order to assess the results of such trainings. In our opinion, most of them have a insufficient number of hours and the theoretical classes are by far predominant, depriving the practical activities. Participants are also excessively mixed in their backgrounds, what makes the subject to be presented too much complex to some of them and too simple to the others.

The selection of participants is not made in an adequate way in order to progressively train all members of a same team. Consequently the trainee returns to his place

since the remaining members of his team ha not been trained or have little possibility to be trained in the near future.

Frequently the teaching staff of different institutions diverge on concepts to be taught and this can even happens among members of a same institution.

We believe that we need a centralized policy for training and this task should be carried out by the National Division of Sanitary Dermatology (DNDS). The main topics to be reviewed should include the increase in the number of hours of the courses, to stress the importance of pratical activities and organize courses for each professional category. To "speak a same language" should be the motto to all members of the teaching staff and the selection of trainees should be made in a way that in the medium or long turn all members of a same team are fully trained.

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