3.0 AFGHANISTAN (modern)


Afghan Medical Journal, Kabul. 1956 - #.

AFGHANISTAN. Transitional Government; Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (2003) The Comprehensive National Disability Policy in Afghanistan. Kabul. 40 pp. Final draft, submitted to the Minister of Martyrs and Disabled. Policy document in English, providing a broad framework based on euro-american notions of democracy, human rights, stakeholder participation, accessibility, inclusiveness, and concepts borrowed from similar documents in other countries. A major aim is that, as various government ministries plan and begin implementation of reconstruction and development, the needs of disabled people should be included in those plans at the earliest opportunity.


AMAN, Qamar (1991) Dari: Kitlak bozichahah barai atfal 6 maha - 7 sola [Pattern Book for Toys for Children 6 months to 7 years], Peshawar: IRC Kodakistan Education Program. 35 pp. For IRC's Kodakistan ("place of children" = kindergarten) early education and learning through play program. Toys from simple and primary materials, with illustrations.


BOUSQUET C (1990) Presentation of the UNHCR survey of Iodine Deficiency Disorders among Afghan


Report and assessment of three programs for children with disabilities in Afghanistan and Pakistan being supported by Save the Children Sweden.

Broad program guidelines drawn up in May 1989 by representatives of the major UN bodies having an interest in disability, focusing primarily on the situation of Afghans living in Pakistan.


Detailed, intelligent report based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys for UNICEF, c. 2000, and bibliog. of 103 items. pp 78-80, overview of disabled children. Other disability-relevant material appears on pp. 41 & 43 (goitre, IDD, mental impairment), 52-53 (extensive chronic malnutrition), 60 (mine and UXO damage), 73-74 (traumatic experiences).


CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] (1999) Progress towards poliomyelitis eradication -


Four booklets (c. 100 pp.) produced, representing efforts to formulate and codify the sign language used among deaf people in Kabul, with a basis in American Sign Language.


Reviews psychological problems among Afghan refugee children.

Reviews several years' psychiatric work among Afghan refugees.

Briefly describes the beginnings of a scheme for home-based training of people with mental disabilities in Kabul.


DUPREE, Louis (1973/1980) Afghanistan. Princeton NJ: Princeton UP. xxiv + 778. See reference to blindness (pp. 73, 116, 118, 335-36); saint and shrine beliefs (104, 109); the traditions of childhood and child rearing (192-197); games and play (209-214), medicinal plants (672-73).


FREE WELFARE Society for Afghan Disabled. Quarterly Reports, Peshawar.

FISCHER, Ludolph (1968) Afghanistan: Eine geographisch-medizinische Landeskunde, A Geo-medical Monograph (English section, pp. 67-139, transl. JA Hellen & IF Hellen). Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag Berlin. With maps. Describes medical facilities and conditions to 1968. See: Beliefs, traditions and folk medicine (pp. 84-85); hospitals and public health services (86-94), including 'mother and child' services (91-92); trachoma and leprosy (114-16); poliomyelitis, said to be "imported in the 1950s and has spread fast since then" (121); goitre and iodine deficiency, and epilepsy (128).

FISCHER L (1974) Volksmedizin in Afghanistan. Afghanistan J. 1 (3) 51-64. (See also FISCHER, 1943)


Analysis of several years' data accumulated at the SGAA Clinic in Peshawar.


HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (#) [Annual Reports on Work with Disabled Afghans]
Over a period of at least 20 years, reports from this source, based initially in Quetta, and working both with refugees and inside Afghanistan, have contained data and some analysis, particularly on physical impairments, from professionals accustomed to working in difficult situations.

Afghan anthropologist on family structures and traditional patterns of child-rearing that have undergone little change over centuries.

Approx. 1100 pp. in 40 sections.
*Dari, Pushto*: Various sections of the WHO CBR Training Manual.


Discusses some war trauma, both physical and psychological, and the varieties of reconstructive surgery by Dr Iqbal.

Total of 15,533 people were seen, among whom were 763 with war-related injuries/disabilities and 1791
with non-war related injuries/disabilities. Categories are tabulated.


In a booklet on six common diseases, pp. 1-4 are on polio.


IRC (1989) *Dari: Boziha barai atfal kodakistan* [Children's Games for Pre-School] (1989) Compiled by Mother & Child Centre ECETP students. Peshawar: IRC Mother & Child Centre. 12 sets (c. 60 pp.). These and similar IRC booklets are relevant for work with families with children who are developmentally delayed, from whatever type of impairment.


Notes that "more people had been disabled by poliomyelitis than by landmines". (Age and sex enter the equation. Polio viruses have had longer to work on the population, as compared with landmines. Men, moving about freely, were much more likely to encounter landmines than women, who were mostly confined to moving about in particular places).

Concerning children's play, with details of games. [Pushto version may be available]

Leprosy in Afghanistan. J. Amer. Med. Asscn 152: [1362]


Humanitarian agencies often provide services in emergencies that evolve into highly complex longer-term situations, where population groups have sharply differing access to survival / reconstruction resources. Article discusses ethical issues arising, based on the support by Intl Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to a hospital at Ghazni, Afghanistan.


Dari: transl. by Hamidullah Simab, Peshawar: CDAP.
Pushto: Peshawar: CDAP.
Practical manual based on a decade's experience of teaching children and training teachers in Pakistan, with activities, examples and illustrations suitable to the Asian Islamic context.


The consultancy provided an opportunity to initiate a collection of materials on disability in Afghanistan.


MILES M (2002) The blind Afghan child and young man. *J. Religion, Disab. & Health* 6 (2/3) 43-49. 'Fictional interviews' show a young Muslim, Abdul Ghani, blind from birth, talking of his life in a remote Afghan village and later in town. As a child, he came to learn about his home and village with the assistance of his family, learnt to farm a small patch of land, and eventually gained skills as a bicycle repairer, running a small business with a physically disabled partner. Revised and updated from radio scripts first broadcast in 1986.


NEUENSCHWANDER, Elizabeth (1990) Project IG and Training for Afghan Women and Disabled Men January to December 1989, Quetta: UNHCR/CRS. 22 pp. p.2: "[Disabled] men also ask the teacher to have patience with them, because before they were looking after goats and sheep and so [to] sew with machines is completely new to them."


Reports work of Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Disabled, Peshawar, in community- and centre-based rehab. for people in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region injured by land mines (and other war-related causes).

ROUAULT DE LA VIGNE, A (1960) Notes d'un psychiatre en Afghanistan. L'Hygiène Mentale, 278-.
[NB Variations appear in citations using the name of this author. The present form and spelling has been verified from the following items, and self-citation of one of the author's papers.]

Case notes on seven people suffering from lathyism seen during one year at Kabul, with discussion.


Detailed training course material developed and tested over several years with community workers in
refugee villages.


Report on the Apprenticeship Scheme for Young Afghan Refugees. Out of 621 placed apprentices, 178 were disabled. For some of these "a new trade of Memorising the Holy Quran has been introduced..."


SERVE (2001) [Regional Sign Language Dictionary] 2nd edn. [Jalalabad] Upgrading is in progress for a third edition, jointly with other agencies, to produce an expanded Afghan Sign Language Dictionary. See:
http://www.serveafghanistan.org/deaf/deaf_act.html


SIMPSON, Robert A (2002) North West Frontier. Mission in Afghanistan. Med. J. Australia 177: 633-637. Includes note on lathyrism in Wakhan corridor, North East of Afghanistan. Doing basic health checks in villages, "we found that many locals complained of muscle stiffness, with examination revealing very obvious lower-limb clonus, consistent with lathyrism. Obviously, the condition was endemic. Most of the locals knew of the association between patak [lathyrus sativus, also known as chickling pea, grass pea and kesan dahl] and lathyrism but continued to eat it out of economic necessity." (See ARYA et al, 1988; ROUAULT DE LA VIGNE & AHMAD, 1953; and in historical section: MCCARRISON; MACKENZIE; SHAH; KIRK; STEEL et al)


Discusses the realities and problems of home life for more than 1,000 Afghans and Pakistanis with spinal cord injury, after discharge from the ICRC/PRC Paraplegic Centre.

Includes a small amount of data and discussion on disability (pp. 3, 27-28), mostly physical disability. Notes (p. 12) the particular difficulty of determining individuals' age. (This has some relevance to the perception of mental retardation).

Attitude measurements in Afghan cultures, based on brief visits to centres and interviews with high school students who were shown photos of people with or without crutches, with facial scarring, and with a label saying "This person is deaf".


UBAIDI, Zarghoona (1991) *Dari*: Problem hai malooliat. [Problems of Disability] (Based on part of WERNER, D. Disabled Village Children, q.v.) Kabul: ILO. (37 pp.)


Disability services and prospects under the UN umbrella at October 1990 are reviewed on pp. 81-82, and also under Health (pp. 69-80), Vocational Rehab. (pp. 88-89) and Disadvantaged Groups (pp. 90-91).

Plan and description of a children's developmental play centre, with rationale and designs.


