

Evaluation Shubi training at Patandi TTC in October 2009



Date: December 21st, 2009

Volunteers present at this training:

Salum Abdulrazak, Cynthia van Hest, Wilma Hogenbirk, Kassim Kaoneka, Alida S. Kauki, Renee Kwakkel, Paulina Mgonja, Cor Pouw, Wil van der Valk-Romeijn, Bilali.

Present board members:

Harald Haalboom (chairman), Diane van Diemen (secretary), Martijn Toll (treasurer), Cynthia van Hest, Suzanne Jansen-Spit, Cor Pouw

Shubi Foundation organised a training at Patandi TTC from 18 till 30 October 2009. One important goal is to inform and give training about the possibilities for improvement of education for hearing impaired children in Tanzania.

A group evaluation by course participants is done at Patandi TTC at the last day of the course. See "Group evaluation October training 2009_Patandi".

No written group evaluation is performed by the Tanzanian Shubi tutors. This report is a composition of individual tutor evaluations after completion of the course. It will be mailed to all tutors, Mr. Magoha, the Ministry and posted on the Shubi website.

Group size of course participants

Shubi received a list of course participants 2 weeks before the start of the training. 40 diploma students of Patandi TTC were participating. 18 of them were diploma 1 students and 22 were diploma 2 students.

The Shubi tutors decided to compose 4 groups; two groups with diploma 1 and two groups with diploma 2 students. The number of participants didn't exceed the names on the list.

Suggestion for improvement

- All diploma 1 and 2 students will be allowed as participants in future trainings. The number has to be known before the training starts, so that enough training materials can be provided.

Content of the training and Shubi team of volunteers

- Tanzanian Sign Language: Every day started with a practical plenary session by Bilali.
- Communication by Renee and Wilma
- Pure tone audiometry by Salum, Kassim, Paulina, Alida, Wil
- Tympanometry, speech audiometry, Free Field testing, use of registration files, use of simulation program) and hearing aid fitting by Wil
- Earmould manufacturing by Cor and Bilali.

Teaching together is very interesting and challenging for both Dutch and Tanzanian Shubi tutors. Wilma, Paulina and Alida joined Shubi for the first time. One day before the start of the training, all tutors discussed about the program. All students participated in 3 blocks of parallel sessions and in this way the subjects were taught to all of them. Alida is tutor at Patandi. Saskia Tien, our volunteer who passed away in April 2009, was recalled.

The balance between number of course participants and Shubi tutors was good in all groups. Bilali proved again that he is able to give clear practical instructions, although he is deaf and his spoken language skills are poor. He can use Tanzanian sign language and written English. Patandi students learn sign language and do see job possibilities for deaf people. Wilma and Renee gave communication lessons and the two ladies joined some of these lessons.

Hearing examination is introduced for the first time. For that reason Wil was responsible. Mr. Kaoneka and Mr Abdulrazak got some lessons from her to be able to teach others in the future.

These two men were able to give audiometry lessons on their own and Paulina and Alida received instructions to be able to teach others later.

Cor and Bilali cooperated successfully as tutor in earmould manufacturing.

Cynthia van Hest took care for organisational aspects and Cor Pouw arranged technical support. He acted as the key figure in the team because of his huge experience for Shubi Foundation.

Theoretical knowledge is available in Tanzania.

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The practical exercises, provision of manuals and use of equipment (audiometer, tympanometer) were valued as positive by the students. Some lessons integrated information from both audiometry and communication. The use of registration files led to interesting discussions and less errors in keeping client files. Dutch tutors introduced different roles of a tutor in training which was new, felt strange for students but resulted in success in discussions in the groups.

Suggestions for improvement

- *therefore it is useful to formulate clear goals for a 2 week training by Shubi at Patandi TTC in future. This should result in a textbook which contains lessons for all topics of the training. In this way new volunteers will have a framework.*
- *communication trainers prefer to teach the same content to all groups on one day.*
- *integration of different topics is useful at some moments during the course.*
- *during the course the need for information about 'punishment and positive reinforcement' became clear and should be added in manuals.*

Provision of support to hearing impaired children in the area

25 children from a unit for the deaf at Patandi and in Arusha have been examined. During the course also adults appeared. It was then agreed to focus on children and only on adults who were students or employees at Patandi TTC or the units of the deaf. Some hearing aids were provided to children. The use of the registration files was part of the training. We hope to improve monitoring the course of the hearing impairment and the use of hearing aids. The files have been left at Patandi. Alida got the responsibility to keep the records. Students got the chance to experience working with deaf children by teaching them and examining them. They learned to give each other feedback. This practical aspect is valued positive. It led to discussions and sometimes to changes in personal views about care and education.

Suggestions for improvement:

- a copy or scan of the registration files that have been made during the training is taken home for the purpose of monitoring, discussion and improve support to the hearing impaired children.
- registration of donated hearing aids is important as well as a follow up of problems in use and solutions

Organisational aspects

Technical preparation started 1 day before the start of the course when the whole team was present. Technical support (Cor) and organisational support (Cynthia) was available. Clear arrangements were made with the principal, Mr. Magoha, before the course started. Patandi TTC offered a good hospitality and gave all the support which was needed to perform this training.

The course participants were divided in two 1st year and two 2nd year diploma groups. Each student could attend lessons in all categories. Every day started with a plenary session of 15 minutes of sign instruction. Every day consisted of 3 blocks of lessons of about 2 hours each, which was fine.

Students were happy with the practical workshops, the use of real teaching materials (audiometer, hearing aids, e.g.) and the good cooperation between participants (students) and Shubi tutors (facilitators). Unfortunately many power failures occurred, but fortunately Shubi was self supporting by the use of a generator and solar energy. Communication lessons required a laptop, a beamer and a video player also available by Shubi. Some students suggest to prolong the course to 3-4 weeks, to add information about speech and to continue teaching about tympanometry.

Diploma 2 students got their second Shubi training. In communication lessons and audiometry they received a more advanced program in comparison with the diploma 1 students. During hearing examination the focus for diploma 2 students was on learning how to examine and for diploma 1 students on observation.

The idea of 'train-the-trainers' is used. Mr Kaoneka and Mr Abdulrazak learned about use of registration files and tympanometry at the moment that students did self study.

Paulina and Alida were new and learned alternately about complicated audiometry, communication and simulation program audtutor (software). At the end of the training they took over a lesson in the basic practice of audiometry.

2 out of 5 Tanzanian tutors didn't teach all days of this course, which was disappointing.

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7 students performed above average.

Suggestions for improvement

- *old solar panels at the roof of the diagnostic rooms need to be replaced.*
- *video interaction coaching requires a video recorder and player*
- *the use of simulation program 'audtutor' requires the use of a laptop*
- *a CD-player is necessary to do speech audiometry for hearing examination and evaluation of hearing aid fitting*
- *the registration files will be completed with aspects of communication, ear inspection and earmould characteristics.*
- *new hearing aids have to be sponsored*
- *the use of the hearing aids has to be monitored with use of the registration files (use of battery chargers, regular cleaning e.g.)*

Certification

There were clear agreements about attendance and dedication of students. Almost all of the 40 students received a certificate. One excellent student did not receive a certificate, because of a lack of attendance (not her fault). The tutors kept a registration file about excellent functioning. After discussion about functioning on all different topics a general remark was noted. The list of names of the 7 best performing students is attached in a mail to the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Manuals

The manuals about audiometry have been modified by Wil in a way that the content could be taught more effectively. A registration file was designed.

The manual about earmould manufacturing has been adapted by Cor because of a change in the production process. Communication was taught with many copied pages and the book "Helping children who are deaf.

Suggestions for improvement:

- *A Swahili summary of each chapter would be a useful addition*
- *copies can be made in a smart way, reducing the number of pages*
- *a working group can take care of the revision of the different manuals*
- *the manual about tympanometry is developed and provided tot students but needs to be changed*
- *the registration file should be improved to get more information about the client.*

General remarks from Dutch and Tanzanian Shubi volunteers

- *It is evident that most of the ex-diploma 2 students are working at secondary schools. The training is focussed on primary education.*
- *The board of Shubi Foundation should write down vision and goals in a document available for volunteer Shubi tutors before they leave to Tanzania*
- *It is important to stay critical about the long term effects of different aspects of the training. Students do not now in advance when they receive a contract as teachers of the deaf and at what location. Therefore not all skills can be trained in the meantime and some knowledge or skills get lost. Especially the use of hearing aids should be monitored daily. And the examination with use of machines should be done often to get reliable results.*
- *It is important to continue cooperation with other organisations who focus on support of hearing impaired children (in Tanzania).*

Future planning of training

All out of three agreed Shubi trainings have been provided in resp. October 2007, 2008 and 2009. And an additional training in communication is performed in February 2009. New arrangements will be made by the board. The board members and volunteers are very satisfied with the cooperation between Dutch and Tanzanian volunteers. We recommend to invite those 5 Tanzanian tutors in future training.

The Shubi board will make new agreements about future training.