

Original Papers(None)

Community-Based Medical-Welfare System for Severely Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons in Japan

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Abstract

In 1967, Japan enacted a law and established a medical welfare agency which officially recognized the existence of "Jusyo-shinshin-syogai-ji." This literally means a child who has both a severe physical disability and profound mental retardation. Initially, institutionalization was the primary goal for all these children. However, the hospitals caring for "Jusyo-shinshin-shogai-ji" are now expected to play an important role as the community-based centers for the "normalization" of these children. Services such as a day care center, a rounds clinic in rural areas and short term home stays, among others, have already been instituted. Also, in progress is a volunteer program for supporting home based management for these children and their families. The purpose of this paper is to present a historical perspective of this system which is unique to Japan and to suggest ways for making a better tomorrow in the world.
