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Traditional approaches to the habilitation of the cerebral palsied (CP) has focused on the enhancement of their biological development without much emphasis on their socio-cultural development. This is especially true for the severely handicapped group that has been admitted to Care and Attention Homes in which nursing and palliative care are the main modes of treatment. Clients in these centres spend most of their time lying in bed, waiting for caring services and receiving passive forms of treatment. The tragedy is that a great number of them are of normal intelligences despite their severe physical disabilities. In the Care Centre of the Spastics Association, we divert from focusing on the alleviation of the disabilities of the severely disable to making use of their remaining abilities to enjoy life. We endeavour to facilitate these clients' establishing a subculture among themselves. This subculture shares common beliefs and values with the global culture, but with different language, technology, and norms. Within this subculture, clients are encouraged to participate in a wide range of socio-cultural activities in which their physical limitations are accommodated by special rules, regulations, communication means and physical settings. In this study, strategies to enhance the socio-cultural development of severely physically handicapped adults are described and evaluated.



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