

WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Executive Summary:

Working with Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities is 8-day training programme (with a possibility to be delivered online through 20 one-hour online sessions) equipping healthcare professionals to provide basic guidance to carers and families who have little or no knowledge of developmental disabilities.

MAITS's course will equip trainees with:

- An overview of childhood disabilities and their causes and impact
- An understanding of how to undertake how to use daily activities to promote health, development and well-being
- The skills to be able to use the MAITS Guide for Parents and work effectively and respectfully with children with disabilities and their caregivers

Why MAITS's Programme is so important

Our programme is aligned with our strategic aim to significantly improve quality of life of the people with special needs through providing access to trained health care and education professionals. MAITS will achieve this by enhancing the skills, expertise and knowledge of local caregivers providing sustainable high quality, low cost healthcare services for the people with neurodevelopmental disorders.

The **Disability and health factsheet, released by WHO in 2018¹, stated that people with disability report seeking more health care than people without disability and have greater unmet needs. A recent survey of people with serious mental disorders, showed that between 35% and 50% of people in developed countries, and between 76% and 85% in developing countries, received no treatment in the year prior to the study.**

Affordability of health services and transportation are two main reasons why people with disability do not receive needed health care in low-income countries. The lack of appropriate services for people with disability is a significant barrier to health care. A research in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states of India found that after the cost, the lack of services in the area was the second most significant barrier to using health facilities.

Basic Information:

Our training programme is aimed at people .e.g. therapists and clinicians who have experience of working with children with disabilities, enabling them to provide appropriate support to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD) in activities of daily living and to guide others on how to do the same. It will also provide a strong foundation for practitioners wanting to use the MAITS Guide for Parents.

The training programme is divided into two parts:

1. Introduction to child development and disabilities

¹ World Health Organisation (2018). *Disability and health*. [website] WHO, Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>.

2. How to work with children with developmental disabilities

Training package:

The training package for the Master trainers can be found [here](#).

The guide for parents and carers can be found [here](#).

Aims of MAITS Programme:

The Programme will provide trainees with the following:

Knowledge

- An overview of childhood disabilities and their causes and impact
- An understanding of disability within a social context

Attitude

- Respect for people with disabilities
- Appreciation of the functional approach to promoting development and the importance of working with carers

Skills

To be able to:

- Identify child's functional strengths and needs
- Interview caregivers to set and review goals
- Identify appropriate sections of the MAITS Parent Guide to use with caregivers
- Handle the child appropriately
- Communicate appropriately with the child and caregivers
- Provide effective training and support to caregivers

Delivery of the programme:

MAITS's Award Winning Trainers:

MAITS maintains a register of over 145 leading Master trainers who globally volunteer their expertise in countries as diverse as Rwanda and Tamil Nadu. MAITS's team of expert volunteer professionals, ranging from physiotherapists, occupational therapists, special needs teachers, work within partnership with locally established NGOs in-country. Our trainers both develop and/or deliver extensive training programmes and our and will offer their time and services to interested organisations in need of support.

Our Trainers are recipient of BOND Volunteer Award ([read more](#)) and Prime Minister's Award ([read more](#)).

Trainees:

This training is designed for a range of healthcare professionals and therapists with some level of knowledge about neurodevelopmental disorders. These professionals will be employed by a local

healthcare institute (CP Lanka, Sri Lanka and Satya Special School, India). The organisations as well as all the therapists participating in the training programme are registered with MAITS.

There are 18 therapists from CP Lanka and 12 from Satya Special School participating in the programme.

The training:

The training will comprise of:

- 20 online sessions conducted by 3 experts therapists registered with MAITS.
- Commitment by the trainees to complete their homework at the end of each session
- Commitment by the trainees to provide completed survey forms
- Commitment by the training supervisor from the host organisation to collect all M&E documents and submit to MAITS in timely manner
- Host organisation to maintain trainee attendance at each session
- MAITS will provide hardcopies and soft copies of training manuals
- It is compulsory for the trainees to attend every training session in order to receive a completion certificate.
- The host organisation will submit trainee assessment forms every three months for the first 12 months on the training.
- MAITS will organise a visit by the trainers to the host organisation to deliver the final modules and complete the training course.
- The host organisation shall submit case studies to MAITS every 3 months for the first 24 months.

Impact of the Training:

In year 2020 – 2021, our aim is to train at least 80 health care professionals (therapists and clinicians) at 8 different organisations in Asia and Africa to create a pool of Master Trainers. These trained professionals will commit to further train 5 caregivers each (community health workers and parents) who will reach out to at least 4000 families with children with special needs in the first year of training and continue to roll out in the following years.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

MAITS will evaluate the outcome of the training every quarter in the first year. Our team with the support of expert clinicians has developed a range of pre and post training data collection tools which will enable us to gather the qualitative and quantitative feedback from the trainees and the beneficiaries. The analysis of this data will enable MAITS to measure the impact of the training and identify the need to review and update the training content if required.

MAITS also offers the provision to translate the feedback forms into the local language to collect responses from families with disabled children in underprivileged settings and build case studies for our partners and trainers.

Management:

MAITS will coordinate the training, manage all data collection, compliance, monitoring and evaluation and fund the training programme from start till the end.

Timeline:

Delivery of training will start in August 2020.

THEORY OF CHANGE

