

Training: Equipping Low Vision Clients with Skills and Confidence

Functional vision may be improved with training. Many people can learn to make better use of their low vision and can function efficiently with only small amounts of visual information. Objects and print can be recognised when they are blurred or when only parts of them can be seen. Visual functioning plays a very significant role in promoting independent living in people with low vision. Whether the disability is mild, moderate, severe or profound, if people with low vision are given proper training in visual skills, they more often than not show an improved performance in their day to day activities and move closer to leading an independent life.

Essentially, there are two types of training:

- **Effective use of residual vision** by teaching the client visual skills such as eccentric viewing, tracking, scanning and pursuit movements. There are many exercises and training programmes available for clients

- **Use of prescribed devices** especially telescopes and magnifiers.

The final advice and prescription need to conform to the client's needs, and should be culturally appropriate, affordable and accessible.

How to Access Resources for Low Vision Devices

One of the major impediments to providing low vision services has been the high cost of low vision devices available on the market. The Low Vision Resource Centre of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind now supplies low vision devices and assessment materials at affordable cost to developing countries. The new Centre has catalysed development of low vision programmes in many countries and is likely to have an even greater impact in the future. The LVDs and the assessment materials and equipment listed in the Recommended Standard List (page 8) are available from the VISION 2020 Low Vision Resource Centre of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind. The catalogue is on www.hksb.org.hk

Reference

1. Asia Pacific Low Vision Workshop. Report of a Workshop. Hong Kong, 28-30 May, 2001. WHO/PBL02.87. Available online at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO_PBL_02.87.pdf



The Low Vision Resource Centre

The Hong Kong Society for the Blind,
2/F, Headquarters Building, East Wing,
248 Nam Cheong Street,
ShamShuiPo,
Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Telephone: 00 852 2778 8332 ext 383
Fax: 00 852 2788 0040
www.hksb.org.hk
Email: drd@hksb.org.hk

Low Vision Courses

Information about Low Vision courses can be found in the publications section of the VISION 2020 website.
www.V2020.org

Abstract

The development of the LV Prasad-Functional Vision Questionnaire: a measure of functional vision performance of visually impaired children

VK Gothwal J E Lovie-Kitchin
R Nutheti

PURPOSE: To develop a reliable and valid questionnaire (the LV Prasad-Functional Vision Questionnaire, LVP-FVQ) to assess self-reported functional vision problems of visually impaired school children. **METHODS:** The LVP-FVQ consisting of 19 items was administered verbally to 78 visually impaired Indian school children aged 8 to 18 years. Responses for each item were rated on a 5-point scale. A Rasch analysis of the ordinal difficulty ratings was used to estimate interval measures of perceived visual ability for functional vision performance. **RESULTS:** Content validity of the LVP-FVQ was shown by the good separation index (3.75) and high reliability scores (0.93) for the item parameters. Construct validity was shown with good model fit statistics. Criterion validity of the LVP-FVQ was shown by good discrimination among subjects who answered "seeing much worse" versus "as well as"; "seeing much worse" versus "as well as/a little worse" and "seeing much worse" versus "a little worse," compared with their normal-

sighted friends. The task that required the least visual ability was "walking alone in the corridor at school"; the task that required the most was "reading a textbook at arm's length." The estimated person measures of visual ability were linear with logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution (logMAR) acuity and the binocular high contrast distance visual acuity accounted for 32.6% of the variability in the person measure. **CONCLUSIONS:** The LVP-FVQ is a reliable, valid, and simple questionnaire that can be used to measure functional vision in visually impaired children in developing countries such as India.

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News from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight

World Sight Day 2003 proved to be the most successful so far. Governments, Ministers of Health and key decision makers showed their support for VISION 2020 and the media coverage was extensive. A full report of all the events that took place is available on the redesigned VISION 2020 website.

The VISION 2020 website which was launched in March is fully accessible to low vision visitors and has new information and links. Partners and supporters of VISION 2020 are encouraged to visit the website and submit articles and comments for inclusion. For more information about VISION 2020: The Right to Sight please visit <http://www.v2020.org> or email info@v2020.org