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Introduction

Human resource development is one of the three pillars of 'VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight'. Many people involved in community eye health are also teachers – and some have never had any training on how to teach effectively. For these reasons, the *Community Eye Health Journal* published a series of articles on teaching and learning. A number of readers have asked for additional copies of the articles and this booklet, providing updated and additional material, is the result. As was the case with the original series, it aims to stimulate readers to become more effective teachers. It touches on a number of important topics related to teaching and learning in (we hope) a systematic and practical way. However, this can only be a beginning as education is a very broad field and readers are referred to the material in the reference section for further information.

Our understanding of what must be done to prevent blindness and promote eye health has advanced considerably in recent years. The challenge ahead is to introduce these methods to the field as quickly as possible. Training is an essential activity in the spread of new knowledge and skills to eye health workers. It can take place in a variety of ways, through initial training of field workers or as part of the continuing education of existing field staff. Training can also involve attendance at short sessions, longer training through intensive workshops, on-the-job supervised practice or distance learning through newsletters, manuals, recorded cassettes and web-sites.

To provide an introduction to planning, developing and implementation of effective training, the diagram below provides a summarised approach.

