



~Figure out from the data~

Physical therapy in Papua New Guinea

JICA Papua New Guinea
PR
JICA Volunteers
「Humanity」
JICA Volunteer's Story
for tomorrow

SAITO Takashi

Term: 2018/10/23~2020/10/22
Place: West new Britain Province KIMBE
Assigned organization: KIMBE Provincial Hospital/WNBPHA
Field: Physical therapy
Home: Tokyo, Japan



I'm a Physical therapist by profession with a clinical experience of about 15 years in Japan. Participating in the JICA Volunteer Program had been one of my goals since childhood therefore, I was determined to join the program in my late 30s'.



1. Summary of activities at assigned organization

I was assigned to the Physical Therapy department of the Hospital in which I treated both in- and out-patients working alongside local counterparts. In addition, I also conducted clinical research with my counterparts.



Physical therapy room
Kimbe Provincial Hospital

2. Needs and Challenges in assigned organization

Needs : Development of Physical therapy in PNG

Challenges : Scarceness of information regarding current situation of Physical therapy in PNG

PNG has many health issues such as maternal health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, traffic accidents and others. Physical therapists have to deal with patients with many kinds of diseases and disabilities.

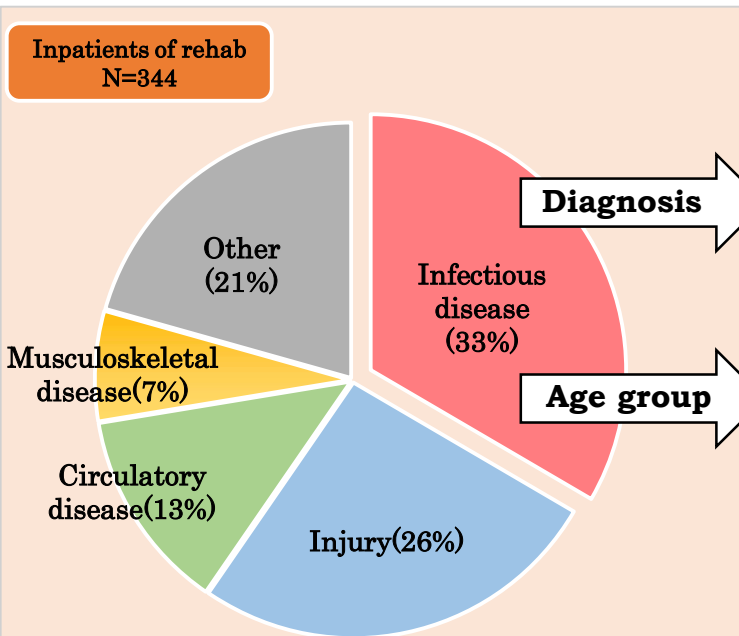
Vital information regarding current situation of Physical therapy service in PNG is scarce. This information or statistics are vital to understand current situation and to develop the Physical therapy service in PNG.



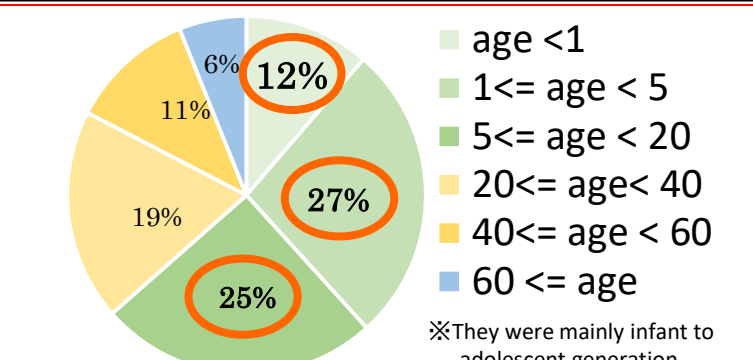
A child with fracture



A patients with respiratory problem



- Tuberculous meningitis 58%
- Tuberculous Other parts of the body 17%
- Respiratory Tuberculous meningitis 15%
- Others 10%



3. Tackling the Challenges

I and my counterparts implemented a clinical study to bridge the gap. Specifically, we reviewed patients' charts of past two years retrospectively and gathered patients' information, such as age, sex, diagnosis, to clarify their characteristics. We revealed that infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis related disease, and orthopedic diseases, e.g. injury and fracture, are very common among physical therapy patients.

This result imply that professional education and international cooperation of physical therapy for patients with these conditions are needed. During the period of my volunteer activity, I was honored to make a presentation about this research in the PNG Medical Symposium. Moreover, our research was published in the PNG medical journal.



Presentation
in the PNG Medical Symposium, 2019



PNG Medical Symposium, 2019

Interaction with local people

I had many good opportunities to mingle with local people. For example, I attended the Mass in a local church with my landlord family. And also, I was invited to year-end party and enjoyed it with my counterparts. During my activities, I sometime went to remote area with my doctors as an out-reach medical activity. I was astonished there because of totally different and unique surroundings of the local village. It is my invaluable experience for me to talk with a village leader and to play with kids there.



National holiday



Kids in a rural village



Beautiful sky in PNG

5. Feedback from Counterpart(Mr. Angelberth Bai)

I, as the current Officer In Charge of the Physiotherapy Department of Kimbe Hospital would like to express my great acknowledgement to Mr. SAITO Takashi, JICA volunteer Physiotherapist for the wonderful work he did while with us. We deeply appreciate his service to our needy patients and clients. We thank him for sharing work loads together and working as a team in the hospital. Mr. Saito is very hard working and attends to his patients at all times. The treatment he prescribed to his patients were very beneficial and most of his patients were treated and successfully regained their physical impairments and discharged home independently.

He set up our patients' statistics database and we are now able to have e-copies of our patients' statistics. He assisted me to create a new assessment form for our patients and now we are using it in the wards and also during our home base care and rehabilitation programs.

He did a retrospective survey in the hospital about the importance of physiotherapy and how beneficial to patients. His study paper was approved by the hospital scientific committee for conducting his study. He later presented his study outcome during our clinical grand round meeting and he was selected by the PNG medical symposium and he presented his study outcome at the main PNG medical symposium held in Port Moresby in September, 2019.

Tenk yu tru,
Papua New Genia.



My counterpart
(colleague)