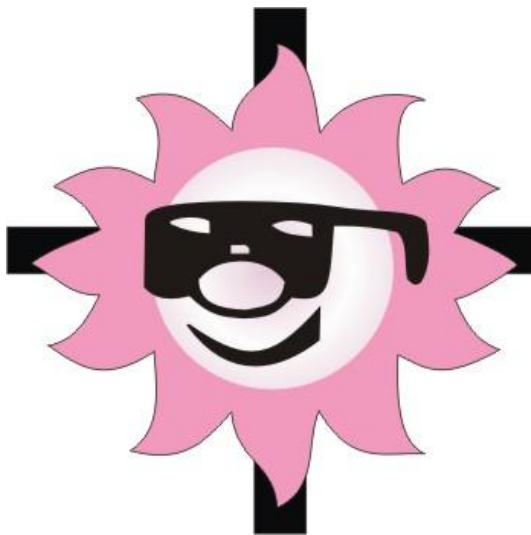


LOW-COST TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT

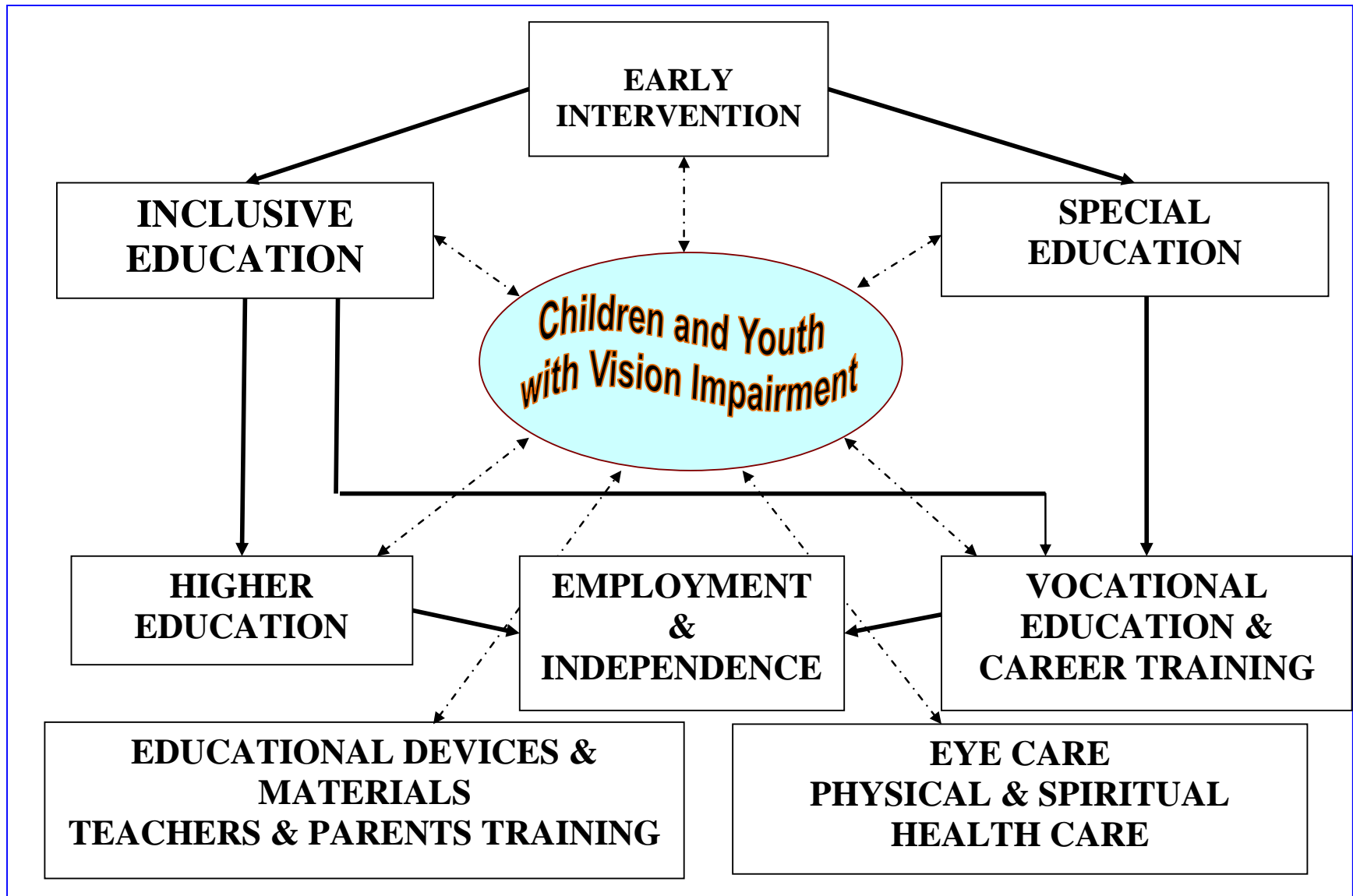
Sr. Le Thi Van Nga



**NHAT HONG
CENTER FOR THE BLIND
& VISUALLY IMPAIRED
VIETNAM**

www.happysuncenter.org

SERVICE PROGRAMMES



***“To be blind is not miserable;
not to be able to bear blindness, that is miserable.”***

- John Milton, 17th century blind poet

SERVICES FOR YOUNG PwVI

- In 2014, 262 children and young PwVI participated in project activities, including:
 - Early Intervention: 48
 - Special Education: 76
 - Inclusive Education: 101
 - Higher Education: 21
 - Vocational Education: 13
- From 2012 to 2014, 390 young PwVI received direct services.
- The project produced:



- Braille books: 1.709 copies
- Large-print books: 82 copies
- Tactile books: 104 copies
- Audio books: 1.136 copies
- Teaching devices: 135 pcs
- Educational software: 6

PROBLEMS TARGETED

Many visually impaired children in Vietnam do not have access to the mainstream education system or other educational options, such as vocational training or information and communication technology (ICT). Thus, they remain dependent on their social network, such as their families and/or society as a whole.

One reason for this exclusion is that the visually impaired often do not have the possibility to have adaptive educational materials and devices at hand, mainly due to lack of financial resources.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

With the use of ICT, such as adaptive software and embossers that produce Braille, and other devices, the project provides visually impaired young persons with educational and technical services.



These children learn to develop their computer and communication skills and use ICT to learn other subjects at school and in daily living.

The project is cost effective and can be revised easily to accommodate changes in the general education programmes. Rather than making or purchasing specific devices for the blind, which would be expensive, the project chose to use regular computers, phones, tablets, etc. and instead created specific software and apps, all of which are freely available for download.



List of Vietnamese software & apps for PwVI developed or translated:

- Joyful learning for pre-schoolers
- Basic maths & mental calculation
- Learning history with joy
- Document Writing
- Picture dictionary
- Keyboard training and dictation
- Color identification
- Vietnamese money identification
- Visual training
- Other software and apps

ICT TRAINING

The project also do training for ICT teachers and class teachers.



Workshop to introduce new soft-wares



LOW-COST TECHNOLOGY DEVICES



Lightbox & flash cards



Geometry teaching device



Vacuum packing



Semi-automatic water filling

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

- Budget for ICT: **\$ 15,000** in 2015
\$20,500 in 2016
\$30,500 in 2017
- 300 young PwVI receive services from 2015-2017:
 - Early Intervention: 50
 - Special Education: 80
 - Inclusive Education: 120
 - Higher Education: 30
 - Vocational Education: 50



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- The ICT curriculum will be finished
- More low-cost devices and software will be developed
- Applications for Android and Apple devices
- Training for ICT teachers
- Training on ICT for young PwVI



More Young PwVI will have opportunity to access education and employment, to be inclusive into society