The development of a cat-II level orthopaedic pedorthist (in orthopaedic shoes) curriculum in Southeast Asia

Development question

The development of a cat-II level orthopaedic pedorthist (in orthopaedic shoes) curriculum in Southeast Asia. A collaboration project between Fontys University, Eindhoven, The Netherlands and the VIETCOT (Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopedic Technologists), Hanoi, Vietnam and two Dutch NGO’s: the Netherlands Leprosy Relief and the Liliane Foundation.

Southeast Asia lacks skilled staff and (training) facilities to provide essential aid for people with foot related mobility problems, caused by serious foot deformities, foot trauma and diseases such as diabetes and leprosy. In rural areas in Asia, these conditions are even worse.

Two Dutch NGO’s, Netherlands Leprosy Relief and Liliane Foundation, focus on solving foot related mobility problems in children and adults and funded the creation of a regional training facility in Pedorthics at VIETCOT, Hanoi, Vietnam. This ISPO cat–II awarded Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists perceived an orthopaedic shoe technologist course as a completion of its training portfolio.

The Dutch Fontys University of Applied Sciences (department of orthopaedic engineering / shoe technology) in collaboration with the VIETCOT designed and implemented the training facility with an 18-month curriculum to solve the identified training gap. This curriculum has been piloted in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 and continues to date.

Objective

Based on the need assessment, the course aim was agreed as: Training entrepreneurial shoe technologists who are competent in designing and producing mobility solutions (orthopaedic shoes and artefacts) and in addition willing pursue lifelong learning.

Results

An international curriculum to educate orthopaedic shoe technologists, pedorthists, competent in artisanal and modern shoemaking. The first two cohorts of students have successfully graduated.

After completing the course the students’ professional outcomes met the standards of international experts. The course will be submitted for accreditation by IVO.

Source of funding

This project was made financially possible by a Grant of the Dutch National Postcode Lottery. For more information: http://theseshoesaremadeforwalking.org/en/

Author information

F. Holtkamp, Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Department of Allied Health Professions, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Email: f.holtkamp@fontys.nl Cell phone: +31651942732