



Need, feasibility and sustainability in two projects of telepathology in developing countries, Africa and South East Asia

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Abstract

For setting medical projects and especially pathology and cytology projects in developing countries, three essentials should be considered:

1. Need
2. Feasibility and
3. Sustainability

Need could be defined by the actual number of investigations in relation to number of patients, number of departments, workload and possibilities for special investigations. It can be also defined by human resources: number of pathologists on service, experience of pathologists and training of technicians in routine work and special investigations.

Need is also depended on the general treatment options, which clinicians can provide to patients.

Feasibility is depending mostly on financial resources either of the institutions themselves or of the patients. It is also depending in case of pathology by access to special chemicals and to information sources. Feasibility is also depending on close cooperation with clinicians: clinical information, radiology, biochemistry, endoscopies and so on.

Sustainability can be provided by collaboration with specialists from abroad such as Telepathology. Also, cooperation with other departments of pathology can help to sustain the project. Participating in continuous domestic and international training programs as well as in participation in international meetings and congresses will provide continuous work for local pathologists.

The authors will show two examples of Telepathology departments in Peramiho, Tanzania, recently settled and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, over 6 years settled their need, feasibility and sustainability.