

Report

“Teaching about epilepsy in primary school”

Chilean League against Epilepsy
IBE Promising Strategies

In collaboration with the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), the Chilean League against Epilepsy -non-profit organization devoted to improve the quality of life of people with epilepsy and their families- carried out the project “**Teaching about epilepsy in primary school**” during 2009 and 2010.

The project’s goal is to teach through a video’s presentation which shows Juanito’s history: a child with epilepsy who has to confront the diagnosis at school, with the physician, the family and friends.

This project was designed considering the following difficulties:

- Misleading information about epilepsy, myths, prejudices and stigma in school.
- Low social participation of people with epilepsy.
- Based on the aforementioned, a negative impact on the quality of life of people with epilepsy.

The goal is **to teach primary school students about epilepsy through the use of a video which is appropriate for their level**. Also, this goal is extended to teach young people of high school, in this way becoming an educational resource across our scholar system.

The achievement of this goal also attains the following objectives:

- To measure the training in at least 1000 children through a pre and post test.
- To gradually increase the coverage of the video by distributing it. This way is estimated to achieve coverage of more than 5000 children.

Underneath this strategy the aim is **to increase the knowledge through education and to improve the acceptance and social attitudes about epilepsy so that it diminishes its stigma in people and in Institutions**.

The project gives the following benefits:

- Direct beneficiaries: Children and adolescents with or without epilepsy, who are in primary or high school.
- Indirect beneficiaries: Scholar community, people with epilepsy and their families.

Developed methodological procedures:

The project development has been carried out by stages, stressing some of its activities:

- Production of educational video by collaborative work of a team of experts in epilepsy and technical professionals with experience in audiovisual material for children.
- Distribution and presentation of the video through visits to public and private educational establishments and by giving them complementary information designed for this project.
- Pre and post test to measure knowledge's level.
- To design strategies and to contact the authorities of the Ministry of Education in order to motivate in the future a great distribution of our educational material (video).
- Final report analysis and outcome.

Global outcomes:

The performed experience during the years of 2009 and 2010 allows us to specify the following outcomes:

- In July 2010 it was possible to measure the training up to a total of 1.111 schoolchildren.
- Our second goal, which is to increase the coverage to 5000 children, is actually in process, establishing some contacts with authorities of the Ministries and other important characters, to get their help in this project. This way we can estimate that this goal will satisfactorily go beyond.
- The 1.111 cases belong to schoolchildren who watched "The Juanito's history" video and completely answered the pre and post test.
- Regarding the distribution of sex, 41% of the cases correspond to female sex and 59% of the rest to male sex.
- According to type of educational establishment, 6% belongs to private establishments, without state's contribution; 27% belongs to public schools, financed by the state and

67% belongs to mixed educational establishments, of shared financing, this means, state subsidy and private contribution.

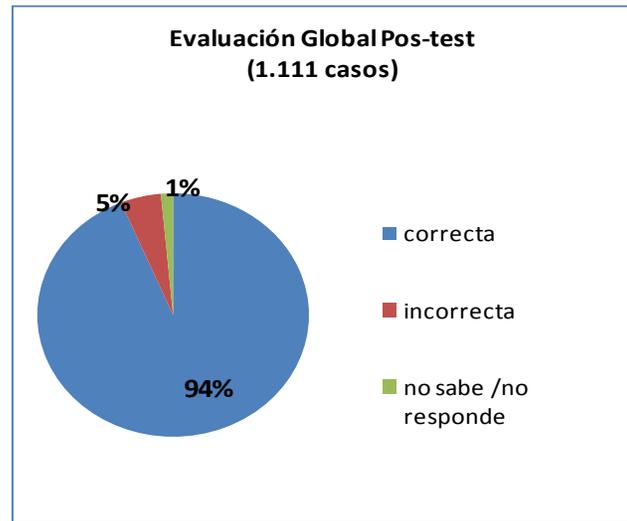
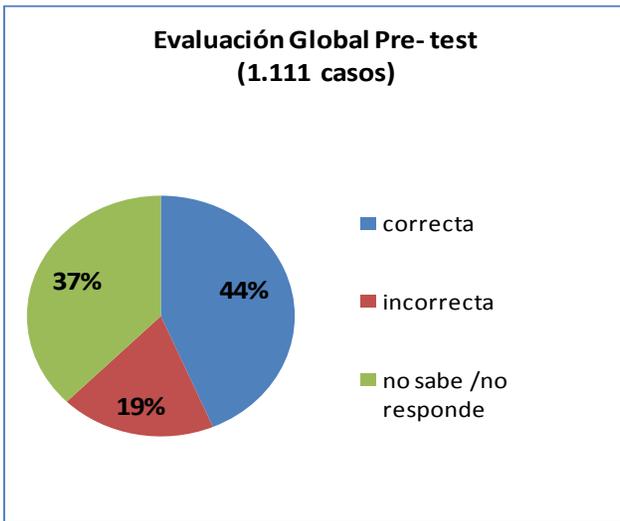
- Regarding educational level, 36% belongs to primary school children (3rd and 4th grade); 54% belongs to 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade and 10% belongs to high school (9 to 12 years of studies).
- The ages distribution of the cases can be described as follows:

Age group	N°	%
7 a 10 años	548	49%
11 a 14 años	456	41%
15 a 19 años	107	10%
TOTAL	1111	100%

- The experiences showed a high approval of the video not only by children but also by adolescents. The video was also required to be showed for other type of population such as teachers, parents, guardians, colleges' students, etc.
- It is worth highlighting that it was perceived significant changes about knowledge in schoolchildren whose knowledge were measured by a pre and post tests.
- The percentage of correct answers in the pre test is up to 44%. After the video the post test shows correct answers up to 94%.

- The following tables show the global outcome of pre and post tests:

Test – knowledge about epilepsy	PRE-TEST		POST-TEST	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Correct answers	4843	44%	10409	94%
Wrong answers	2097	19%	540	5%
Does not know- Does not answer	4170	38%	161	1%
TOTAL	11110	100%	11110	100%



- It is expected to have a positive attitudes change, so that it diminishes the myths and stigma and increase the knowledge and acceptance. According to this, it is important to point out that these outcomes are not measurable. However it is perceived a progressive and more open attitude in the scholar system and of different people that are related to education.
- The message – anyone can have epilepsy – is an effective one that raises awareness and improves the attitude towards people with epilepsy.