

Emerging Physiotherapy Regulation Sri Lanka

Sanjeewa Tunpattu

BSc,DipPT,Cer.LSPwD(Japan),Cer.THP,MSLSP

Sri Lanka Society of Physiotherapy



World Confederation
for Physical Therapy



Objectives

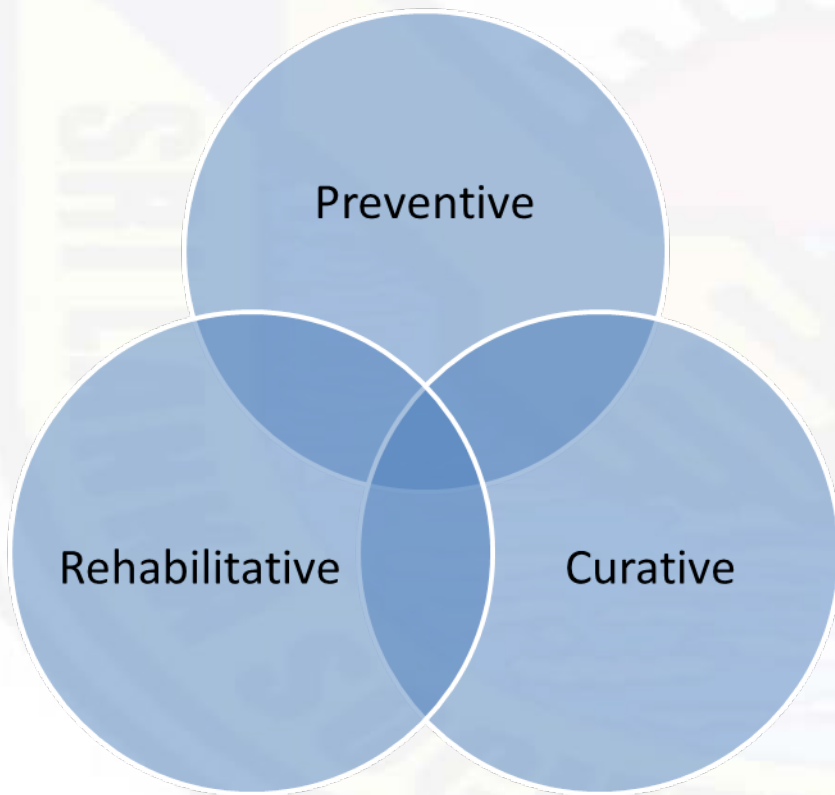
- To introduce:
 - Health system in Sri Lanka
 - Physiotherapy profession in Sri Lanka
 - Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy
 - Way forward for an independent regulatory system for Physiotherapy

Health System in Sri Lanka

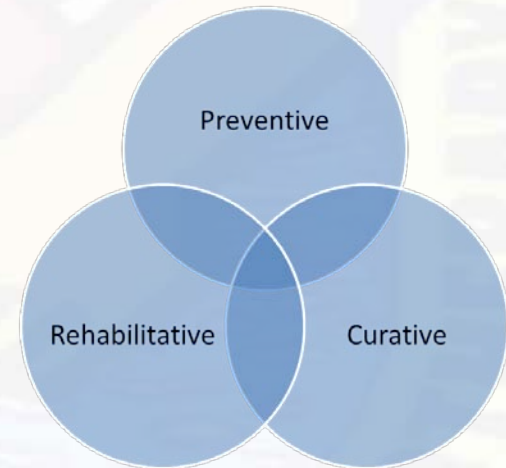
- several systems of medicine exist together
 - Allopathic
 - Ayurvedic
 - Unani
 - Traditional
 - Others...
- State and Private sector

Health System in Sri Lanka

State Sector



Private Sector



Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- Commenced in 1950 by PTs from UK
- Sri Lankan PT students Trained overseas (UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand)

(Fernando 1987)

Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- About 500 PTs
- Work in;
 - State Hospitals
 - Private Hospitals
 - NGOs
 - Sport Institutions
 - Others

Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka Education

- **Diploma in Physiotherapy (2 years)**
 - 1957
 - School of Physiotherapy, Ministry of Health
 - Curriculum approved by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy UK

Physiotherapy Education in Sri Lanka

- **BSc Physiotherapy (4 years)**
 - **2006**
 1. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya.
 2. Faculty of Medicine , University of Colombo
 - **2012**
 3. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University

Physiotherapy Education in Sri Lanka

(For Diploma holders)

- **BSc (Physiotherapy) (2 years top up degree)**
 - 2014
 - Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
- **Lateral Entry to the BSc Physiotherapy**
 - 2014
 - University of Colombo
 - General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University

Professional Organizations for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- **Sri Lanka Society of Physiotherapy (SLSP)**
- 1980
- Professional Body
- Member of the WCPT since 2003



- **Government Physiotherapist's Association (GPA)**

- Trade Union
- 1957

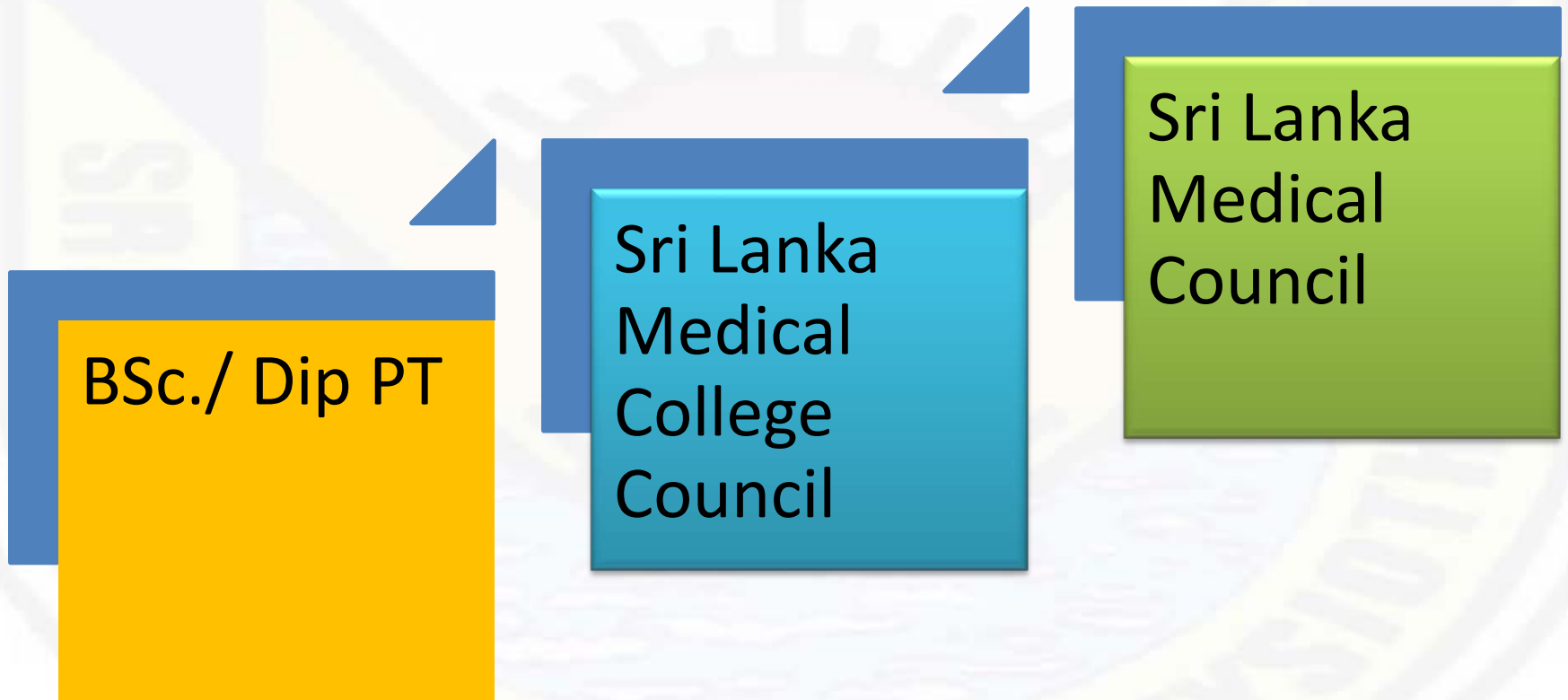


Government
Physiotherapists'
Association

History of Physiotherapy Regulation in Sri Lanka

- Not available till 1987.
- Membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy UK (1950 – 1996)
- CSP UK registration stopped from 1996

Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka



Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- The **Ceylon Medical Council** (CMC) was established by the Medical Council Ordinance Act No. 24 of **1924**.
- The **Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC)** was established by the Medical (Amendment) Act No. 40 of **1998**

Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- **Purpose of SLMC**
- “protecting health care seekers by ensuring the maintenance of academic and professional standards, discipline and ethical practice by health professionals who are registered with it.”
- **Council of SLMC**
- representation from medical faculties of the state universities as well as from professionals in the state and private sector.

Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- The Medical (Amendment) Act No. 30 of 1987 makes provision for the registration of **Para-medical Assistants**.
- radiographers, medical laboratory technologists, **physiotherapists**, occupational therapists, electrocardiograph recordists, audiologists, clinical physiologists, speech therapists, chiropodists, dieticians, ophthalmic auxiliaries and clinical psychologists.

Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- The Medical (Amendment) Act No. 40 of 1998 makes provision to register as **professions supplementary to medicine**
- radiographers, medical laboratory technologists, **physiotherapists** and occupational therapists

Limitations of current regulatory system

- Boards of MCC and SLMC do not include any PT professional.
- Inappropriate evaluation of the entry level qualifications at MCC.
- No system for re-evaluate the skills / competencies.
- Inappropriate measures to prevent the counterfeit practice.

Way forward

- Year 2000 – Proposal for an Independent regulatory body for Physiotherapy profession in Sri Lanka
- Year 2003 - WCPT membership



World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

Way forward

- Upgrading the entry level education of the PT profession -2006
 - BSc PT programs
- Upgrading the level education of the practicing PTs with Dip PT - 2013/14
 - Lateral entry to the BSc PT programs
 - BSc PT (external) program

Way forward

- Development of the Code of Ethics for PTs - 2014



Way Forward

intermediate actions

- Proposed to SLMCC and SLMC to include representatives from SLSP.
- Proposed to SLMCC and SLMC to conduct an examination to assess the knowledge and skills of applicants of unknown entry level educational programs.
- Conduct evaluation of Sri Lankan entry level educational programs as appropriate.

Way Forward

intermediate actions

- Request an established international regulatory body to provide support SLSP to implement the regulatory system (SLPC)
 - E.g.. Provision an affiliation to SLSP/SLPC

The logo of the Sri Lanka Society of Physiotherapy is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top is a yellow lion rampant. Below it is a central figure of a person with arms outstretched, set against a blue background with white clouds. The shield is bordered by a yellow band containing the text 'SRI LANKKA SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY' in blue capital letters. The entire logo is set against a light blue background.

THANK

YOU