Ethnic Minorities and Learning Disabilities

**Resources**

**The Silent Minority: Children with Disabilities in Asian Families** 1992 by Robina Shah, £10.95. Available from National Children’s Bureau, 8 Wakely Street, London EC1V 7QE. This book challenges many of the stereotypes held by service providers about parents’ attitudes towards their child’s disability. It explores parents’ awareness of the services available to help them and their perceptions about the effectiveness of these services in meeting their needs. The report emphasises the importance of listening to parents about the help they need and the role they can play in helping their children to develop. The final chapter contains recommendations to improve the provision of services to Asian families with disabled children.

**Improving Practice with People with Learning Disabilities: A Training Manual** 1993 by Aktar Bano, Daryl Crosskill, Rafiq Patel, Lyndsay Rashman, and Robina Shah, £15. Available from CCETSW, Derbyshire House, St Chad’s Street, London WC1H 8AD. Includes a black perspective on normalisation and its implications for black consumers of social services. It explores the interaction of race, gender, sexuality and disability through case studies. It analyses power relationships. It looks at inequalities in the education system. It looks at the role of the professional.

**AWAAZ** video and information booklet for Asian parents of children up to 19 years with any form of physical, mental or sensory disability. The materials, in English and the main Asian languages, are all available from MCCR. The leaflets are available for the cost of postage. Video: English version £12, versions in five Asian languages £10, Trainer’s Guidebook to go with the video £1.50.

**Double Discrimination: issues and services for people with learning difficulties from black and ethnic minority communities**, by Carol Baxter, Kamaljit Poonia, Linda Ward, & Zenobia Nadirshaw, 1990, Kings Fund Centre. Available from BEBC, PO Box 1496, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 3YD. Price: £11.95. Reviews key issues and concepts in current services for people with learning difficulties and questions their appropriateness to a multi-racial society.

**Health and Race: A Starting Point for Managers on Improving Services for Black Populations** by Yasmin Gunaratnam. 1993 King’s Fund Centre. £12 plus 40p p&p. Available from BEBC, PO Box 1496, Poole, Dorset, BH12 3YD. Provides guidance on: race equality standards, policy and strategy for purchasers and providers, and service provision.

**Multi-Faith Directory** 1993 £21.50+£3.50 p&p. Available from Religious Resource Centre, University of Derby, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5GX. A comprehensive guide to Britain’s major religious communities. It gives local, regional and national contact information, with an introduction to each religious community and tradition. Should be of interest to anyone keen to make sure their service to people with learning disabilities meets the requirements of the religious affiliation concerned.

**Asians in Britain**, by Henley, A. A series of booklets which help understanding of religious and cultural backgrounds. The series includes: Caring for Sikhs and their Families, Caring for Hindus and their Families, Caring for Muslims and their Families. From NEC, Brooklands Road, Cambs.

Robina Shah is the race equality officer for Social Welfare with a special interest in learning disabilities at Manchester Council for Community Relations. MCCR provides training and consultancy on disability and service issues affecting the health and social welfare needs of ethnic minority communities. In addition to training and consultancy, Robina has been active in research, policy guidance and publishing.

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