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# Hearing loss rehabilitation centre opens

**THE** first rehabilitation centre in Egypt has opened to promote the well being of people with hearing loss.

The main purpose of opening such a centre is to provide rehabilitation for children with implants, to enable them to reach their full potential.

This requires intensive therapy with auditory and language skills, with the goal of mainstreaming children into society.

With specialist therapists, the centre arranges music and art classes to initiate a holistic educational experience for the children.

Additionally, the centre provides family with counseling, coaching parents to enable implementation of therapy goals at home.

The MED-EL company, which opened the centre, offers free rehabilitation in the first three months for all patients with cochlear ear implants.

Dr Hossam Abdel Ghaffar, official spokesman of Ministry of Health, praised the high-quality classrooms, meeting rooms, and play areas for the children following his tour of the centre.

Successful social integration of patients with cochlear ear implants is solely dependent on the quality of rehabilitation available, as well as the dedication of the family to the treatment plan," Dr Abdel Ghaffar said.

Dr Hochmair, Chief Executive Officer



**DR Hossam Abdel Ghaffar opens the first rehabilitation centre for children with hearing loss.**

of Med-El, said that hearing impairment is a danger threatening more than 13.6 million Egyptians and Arabs.

Ignoring the issue would lead to an

immense cost burden on the countries in the long run..

Speaking at a press conference held in Cairo last week, he said the centre had

the capacity to treat 300 children per year. The training sessions are held in groups and individually, to ensure the children are receiving specialist attention and care.

Trainers are recruited according to their academic and practical experience, from specific universities.

Tamer Al Shahat, General Manager of the company, stressed the importance of specialisation in rehabilitation centres. "We will ensure the highest success rate of rehabilitation therapy with evaluations of the children every three months.

Medical professionals will analyse the performance of the child to ensure that there is continuous development, till they guarantee that the child can successfully integrate into society," he said.

The centre will be the most accessible, offering treatment at 50 per cent less cost than other centres in Egypt.

Over the next year, we plan on opening two more centres in Alexandria and Upper Egypt, to reach as many patients as possible in the country."

The care centre will accept children with MED-EL implants who have completed three to six months governmental rehabilitation sessions, to offer them an additional six months free of charge.

Moreover, it will accept children who have not previously received rehabilitation sessions from other hospitals after implantation.