

Ref. No : **FOR / ANR / 1.11 / Anr98**

CBR Forum
Annual Report
1997 - 1998



VISION :

The vision of CBR Forum is that people with disabilities have equal opportunities leading to improved quality of life and fully participate in a society that respects their rights and dignity.

MISSION :

The mission of CBR Forum is to play a proactive and promotional role in Community Based Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in India, ensuring wide coverage with focus on the disadvantaged groups such as the poor, women and people living in rural areas and urban slums.

As the financial year draws to a close it is time, once again, to sit back and take stock of what has been so as to plan effectively for what ought to be. It is with this in mind that the following report has been prepared.

A word on the Forum

The Forum is sponsored by Misereor. It was formed in 1996. It has 3 institutional members and can have a maximum of 9 other members. An Executive Committee of 5 members was formed from amongst the members. The legal holder is Caritas India. The Forum has entered its second year in 1997 and continued its activities in an enhanced manner.

Members of the Forum

01. *Ms. Kamla Bhasin*
02. *Sr. Dr. Agnesita A.C.*
03. *Dr. Maya Thomas*
04. *Mrs. Rehmud S. Fazalbhoy*
05. *Most Rev. Cecil De Sa*
06. *Dr. Ulrich Dornberg*
07. *Fr. Ivan Joseph*
08. *Mr. Javed Abidi*
09. *Mr. C. Antony Samy*
10. *Mr. Joe D'Souza*
11. *C. M. Francis, Convenor*

Executive Committee of the Forum

01. *Dr. Maya Thomas*
02. *Most Rev. Cecil De Sa*
03. *Dr. Ulrich Dornberg*
04. *Fr. Ivan Joseph*
05. *Dr. C. M. Francis, Convenor*

Staff of the Forum Secretariat

01. *Mr. Nicholas Guia Rebelo, Programme Manager*
02. *Ms. R. Padma, Secretary*
03. *Mr. Y. Mahesh Kumar, Helper.*

Information dissemination

During the year 1997 - 1998 the Forum continued to send information to voluntary organizations selected from the CAPART and Ministry of Welfare Directories, other Voluntary Organizations and Dioceses informing them of the role of the CBR Forum and the necessity of CBR for persons with disabilities.

Project applicants were apprised of the fact that

- *CBR Projects,*
- *Projects which had a larger component of CBR and*
- *Projects where the objectives are to move towards CBR would be entertained for support by the Forum. Purely Institution Based Rehabilitation proposals would not be entertained.*

A brochure was prepared for information dissemination.

**The thrust
and focus
of the Forum
will be
Community Based
Rehabilitation
of Persons
with
Disabilities.**

**The Forum
will take steps
to create awareness
of the situation,
magnitude
of the problem
and the needs of
persons with
disabilities,
as also
their rights
and
potentials.**

Awareness

In its attempts to create awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities, the Forum helped in the preparation and distribution of copies of the "Caritas India Quarterly" January 1997 issue on CBR. This enabled people interested and involved in Community Development to understand the issues and problems in disabilities.

The Forum also collected translations (Kannada, Tamil and Telugu) of the Disability Act and distributed the same.

The Forum will encourage and support appropriate organizations, programmes and projects for CBR. The Forum does not directly implement programmes and projects for CBR.

Promotion of CBR

The Forum met with 23 Organizations of the Southern Region and 20 Organizations of the Northern Region to familiarize them with the concept of CBR of persons with disability and the mode of planning out a CBR Programme. Theoretical input was supplemented with a field visit.

A “Project Planner” was later developed by the Forum in order to enable project applicants to plan more realistically for the effective rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Proactive Role

Dr. Francis was invited to talk to a group working with Schizophrenia patients at Chennai on the possibilities of CBR for mentally ill persons.

Dr. Francis was also invited to acquaint various Non Government Organizations hailing mostly from Bangalore with the type of training programmes that CBR Personnel would require.

A process of data collection and analysis of the needs of persons with disabilities and the resources available around the country has been initiated. Various National Institutes, Organizations and Individuals have been contacted.

The Forum has a pro-active, promotional role in CBR, focusing on issues, opportunities and problems in the field of disabilities.

*The Forum
will promote
appropriate
training programmes
in CBR.*

*The Forum
will support
measures for
the prevention
of disabilities.*

As the Forum believed that it was essential to promote appropriate training programmes in CBR, it developed a separate questionnaire for the assessment of such programmes.

In addition Project Applicants were invited to plan for the training of their staff in order to ensure the effectivity of the CBR Programme.

Various organizations and project applicants were invited to include plans for the prevention of disabilities in their CBR Programme.

Networking

The Forum continued to build up its data base of organizations working in CBR of persons with disabilities. To date 1,516 organizations have been contacted of which 150 responded and 66 of these were listed as organizations working for the CBR of persons with disabilities.

Some of the members and staff of the Forum attended and participated in informal networks of organizations working with persons with disabilities. Dr. C. M. Francis participated in a seminar organized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and Mr. Nicholas Guia Rebelo in the Indo Japanese Symposium on Employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Dr. Maya Thomas helped in organizing the Symposium.

A meeting was organized of the 3 Fora, sponsored by Misereor : National Educational Group, Functional Vocational Training Forum and CBR Forum together with representatives of Caritas India and IGSSS. This was an opportunity for all participants to learn more about the other groups. A decision was taken to meet once a year for an exchange of ideas.

**The Forum
will be involved
in
networking,
advocacy,
innovation
and
research
in issues in
CBR**

The emphasis will be on rural areas, urban slums and regions where rehabilitative services are not available or are inadequate. There will be emphasis on special needs of girls and women in the field of CBR.

Meetings of Experts

Two meetings of 34 Experts were organized, one in Bangalore on 10 June 1997 and the other in Agra on 02 November 1997.

The objective of these meetings was to acquaint the Experts with the Vision, Mission, History, Purpose, Objectives and Role of the CBR Forum and the Forum's expectations from the Experts.

Time was spent to analyse the instruments that would be used in the assessment of projects.

Assessment and Funding of Projects

The Forum started receiving project proposals only from January 1997. Since then the Forum has received 79 project proposals of which 49 were received during 1997 - 1998. While 01 project proposal was approved for funding in 1996 - 1997, during the current year 10 have been approved for funding, 34 are being processed and 34 have been rejected.

Details of project proposals 1997 - 1998	
Number of proposals received during the year	49
Number of proposals assessed by experts	20
Number of proposals approved for funding	10

It is our hope that more and more persons with disabilities would be helped by Community Based Rehabilitation to develop to their full potential, with improved quality of life. Let us join hands to achieve this goal.

It happened this year

1997 -1998

- April 97 : Process of Needs and Resources Analysis commenced.
- 10 June 97 : Meeting of 17 Experts of Southern Region.
- 11-12 June 97 : Meeting of the Forum.
- 28-29 June 97 : Workshop for 23 Project Holders of Southern Region.
- 30-31 Aug. 97 : Workshop for 20 Project Holders of Northern Region.
- 14-15 Sept. 97 : Visit of Petra Feil of the Evaluation Unit of Misereor.
- 02 Nov. 97 : Meeting of 17 Experts of Northern Region.
- 03-04 Nov. 97 : Meeting of the Forum.
- 08-09 Dec. 97 : Participated in the Indo Japanese Symposium on Employment Opportunities for people with disabilities.
- 08-09 Dec. 97 : Participated in the R.C.I. seminar : "Linkages between RCI & International Organizations to work out strategies for rehabilitation of disabled"
- 20 Jan. 98 : Meeting of the 3 Fora sponsored by Misereor : NEG, FVTF and CBR Forum with representatives of Caritas India and IGSSS.
- 13-14 Mar. 98 : Meeting of the Forum.