

CBR Forum

Annual Report

1998 - 1999

*The Community Based Rehabilitation
Forum for persons with disabilities*

Annual Report for the year 1998-1999

The Community Based Rehabilitation Forum for persons with disabilities (CBR Forum) is happy to place this brief report before all concerned with the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The infant is growing into a healthy, strong child. The message of Community Based Rehabilitation as the method for wider coverage is catching up. But there is need for greater clarity and understanding of the concept and how to implement the programmes efficiently and effectively.

Dr. C. M. Francis

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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.

A word on the Forum

The ***CBR Forum for persons with disabilities*** is sponsored by Misereor and is a Program Unit of Caritas India, its legal holder. It was formed in 1996. It has 3 Institutional members and can have a maximum of 9 other members. Its Executive Committee of 5 Members is formed from amongst its members. The ***Forum*** has entered its third year in 1999. It meets thrice a year usually in July, November and March. During the period 01 April 98 to 31 March 99 the ***Forum*** met on 3 occasions in July 98, November 98 and March 99. During the year Mrs. Rehmuth Fazalbhoy tendered her resignation as member of the ***Forum*** as personal commitments made it difficult for her to set aside time for the activities of the Forum. In March 1999 there was a change of guard. Three members of the ***Forum*** who completed their term ceased to be members of the Forum and will be replaced by new members.

Executive Committee of the Forum

The members of the Executive Committee upto 09 March 1999 were:

01. Dr. Ulrich Dornberg
02. Fr. Ivan Joseph
03. Most. Rev. Peter Remigius
04. Dr. Maya Thomas
05. Dr. C. M. Francis

The new Executive Committee will be finalised at the next meeting of the Forum.

Staff of the Forum Secretariat

01. Mr. Nicholas Guia Rebelo, Programme Manager
02. Ms. R. Padma, Secretary

03. Mr. Y. Mahesh Kumar, Helper.

The thrust and focus of the Forum will be Community Based Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Community Based Rehabilitation

Project applicants who submitted Institution Based Programmes for persons with disabilities were invited to consider commencing CBR programmes. In addition, project partners of the other Fora, FVTF and NEG, were invited to participate in a CBR Workshop that was organized by the CBR Forum. The **CBR Forum** hopes, in this manner, to promote wider coverage of services to persons with disabilities.

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

Activities of the Members of the Forum

During the past year various members of the Forum were involved in various ways in the process of creating awareness of the situation, magnitude of the problem and the needs of persons with disabilities, as also their rights and potentials.

- **Mr. Javed Abidi**, Executive Director of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), is primarily involved in advocacy. NCPEDP networks with Government, NGOs, Corporate Sector, People with Disabilities, Media etc. in order to create awareness and bring about attitudinal change to promote employment for people with disabilities. He is also involved with the Disabled Rights Group (DRG). This also is an advocacy organization, a sort of a watchdog fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- **Mr. C. Antony Samy** represented ILO Geneva in the team which evaluated the CBR Project in Namibia. On behalf of CAPART, he evaluated 2 CBR Projects.
- **Dr. Maya Thomas** was invited by Rehabilitation International, Asia Pacific Region, Hong Kong to conduct a workshop on sustainability of CBR Projects. A similar workshop for a longer duration was conducted in China in Wuhan province at the invitation of the WHO Collaborating Centre in Rehabilitation, University of Tongji Hospital, Wuhan.
- **Dr. C. M. Francis** was invited by Rehabilitation International, Asia Pacific Region, Hong Kong to give a talk on “Training for CBR”. He also participated in the RCI Bridge Course at *Sree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind* and in the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Disability of *Action Aid*. He gave the key note address to *SLF* on the theme “How to assist a child with disability better”.

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

Processing of Projects

With regard to the processing of projects, the Secretariat was involved in the desk study of projects, allocation of projects for assessment by experts, processing of projects approved for funding and project monitoring.

The ***CBR Forum*** started taking in projects for assessment and funding on 03 February 1997. Since then ***one hundred and forty three*** projects were received by the Forum.

Ninety one of the above projects have been registered by the Forum. Of these registered projects, ***forty eight*** have been rejected, ***twenty three*** have been approved for funding and ***twenty*** are still being processed. ***One*** of the above projects has been completed.

Fifty two projects were not registered either because they did not fall within the objectives of the Forum or because clarifications had to be given by the project applicant. Of these, ***forty three*** have been rejected and ***nine*** are being processed.

A bird's eye-view of projects and funding

Details of Registered Projects				
Year	Registered	Approved for funding	Funds allocated	Projects Completed
1996 - 1997	30	01	100,000.00	01
1997 - 1998	28	02	43,20,808.00	00
1998 - 1999	33	12	110,66,621.00	00

State-wise view of approved projects and details of funds allocated

Number of projects approved in each state

Details of state-wise allocation of funds

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

Needs and Resources Analysis

There is urgent need to promote and provide comprehensive and effective measures for the prevention of disabilities, the development of the physical, mental and social capabilities of all persons with disabilities to meet the goals of full participation and equalization of opportunities. They have special needs. In order to evolve a policy towards accomplishing the goal, it is necessary to have valid and relevant information regarding the needs to be met and resources available.

To have effective intervention in the field of rehabilitation, we need reliable information regarding the incidence and prevalence of disabilities, the persons with disabilities and their families, the social and economic impact of the disabilities and the facilities available in the country to tackle the problems.

To start with, the *CBR Forum* is taking steps to arrange for sample surveys in Uttar Pradesh & Bihar and in Kerala & Maharashtra. A comparative analysis has to be made of the Northern (Uttar Pradesh / Bihar) and Southern Sector (Kerala / Maharashtra). Positive recommendations are to be made to CBR Forum. Based on this experience, the *CBR Forum* could then determine if a Needs and Resources Analysis of the other parts of the country should be done.

The Forum will promote appropriate training programmes in CBR.

Training of Project Holders in CBR

A CBR Workshop for Project Holders was held on 16 and 17 October 1998. There were 23 Participants. Topics covered were : Project Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Financial Management. Dr. C. M. Francis animated the sessions on Project Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation while Mr. M. Kandasami and Mr. Durai Rangawamy animated the sessions on Financial Management.

The **CBR Forum** also contacted its project holders and those of FVTF, NEG, Caritas India and IGSSS enquiring if they would be interested in short term and long term workshops / training programmes. There were 36 respondents, 24 have expressed the desire to participate in a *Workshop on CBR (2 days duration)* while 32 have stated that they would like to participate in *Training Programme in CBR (1 week duration)* and 15 have expressed the need for the *Training Programme for CBR Workers (6 months duration)*.

The **CBR Forum** will chalk out plans for short term and long term training programmes for the above project partners.

Training of Project Partners : Future currents

During the coming year the CBR Forum will conduct training programmes for is project partners.

These training sessions will include :

- ⇒ Input on the policies of the three Fora
- ⇒ Input sessions by experts on relevant topics
- ⇒ Planning / Scheduling / Monitoring of programmes / Accounting / Reporting
- ⇒ Drawing up of a plan of action.

The Forum will support measures for the prevention of disabilities.

Pulse Polio Programme

Project partners were invited by the *CBR Forum* to promote the prevention of disabilities through the promotion of the Pulse Polio Programme in their respective areas of work. project partners wrote back to us stating that they were involved in the promotion of the Pulse Polio Programme in their area of operation. From information received Children were vaccinated in the respondents area of activity.

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

Meeting of the three Fora

A one day meeting of the representatives of the Three Fora :
Functional Vocational Training Forum, National Education

Group and Community Based Rehabilitation Forum, the Legal Holders, MISEREOR and CBCI in Delhi on 07 November 1998. It served as an opportunity for the partners involved to acquaint themselves with the workings of the various Fora, to address issues together and to plan for better collaboration .

At the MISEREOR Fora Meeting in New Delhi it was decided that the Secretaries and Programme Manager of the Three Fora meet thrice a year to review the activities of the Fora and plan collaborative ventures. The first such meeting was held in Bangalore on 21 January 1999. Various possibilities of collaboration were reviewed and an Annual Plan of Action for 1999 was drawn up.

Collaborative ventures will include :

- ⇒ Sharing of information with the other Fora
- ⇒ Promotion of the objectives of the other Fora

Meetings of Consultants of the three Fora

The CBR Forum will conduct region wise meetings of its consultants during the coming year. The objectives of these meetings are :

01. To initiate new Consultants to the expectations of the CBR Forum.
02. To learn from the experiences of Consultants who have assessed projects.

It is believed that such combined meetings will also serve to promote the objectives and activities of the three Fora.

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.

Gender sensitivity

Often-times women with disabilities are neglected. The Forum has made a preferential option to actively promote the rehabilitation of women with disabilities. Project partners and Experts who were assessing projects were invited to be sensitive to the needs of women with disabilities and to ensure that these needs are cared for in the various programmes.

Balance Sheet as on 31 March 1999

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 1999							
Amount Previous Year	Liabilities	Schedule	Amount Current Year	Amount Previous Year	Assets	Schedule	Amount Current Year
2,63,202.50	Capital Fund	I	2,63,602.50	2,04,202.50	Fixed Assets	IV	2,04,602.50
51,180.28	Depreciation Reserve Fund	II	94,726.54	1,10,180.28	Deposits and Advances	V	1,53,726.54
1,789.10	Project Fund	III	47,006.55	1,789.10	Closing Balance : Cash at Bank	VI	47,006.55
3,16,171.88	Total		4,05,335.59	3,16,171.88	Total		4,05,335.59

Receipts and Payments as on 31 March 1999

Project No. : CBR-98-07			
Receipts and Payments as on 31 st March 1999			
Receipts 01 Apr 1998 to 31 Mar 1999	Amount	Payments 01 Apr 1998 to 31 Mar 1999	Amount
To Opening Balance :		By Programme Expenses :	
Opening Cash	0.00	Orientation and Consultation :	
Opening Bank	1,789.10	Regional Orientation Programmes	24,297.50
To Current Receipts :		Consultation	84,714.82
Caritas India Imprest Account	7,10,000.00	Consultation Team	1,86,299.80
Bank Interest	2,095.56	Secretariat	3,71,565.99
		By Closing Balance :	
		Closing Cash	0.00
		Closing Bank : State Bank of Mysore	47,006.55
TOTAL	7,13,884.66	TOTAL	7,13,884.66

