

**Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP)  
At GSMT, Yavatmal, Maharashtra  
On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Reported by:** Mr. Jagdish Raut, CBR Coordinator, GSMT and Mr. C. Mahesh, CBR Forum

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**Overall Objective of the programme:**

1. To enhance the understanding of field staff and DPOs on issues around Disability, Discrimination and Human Rights
2. To reflect on the 6 months Advocacy Actions – based on the presentations made by the DPO Leader/s
3. To facilitate public interaction between DPOs, care givers, Govt. Officials, Elected representatives and Resource Agencies in addressing the issues of persons with disabilities and their care givers
4. To share information on the current developments related to ‘Disability and Human Rights’ and on ‘How can they be will be involved?’
5. To identify specific action points and ways of engaging DPOs in the follow-up to ensure appropriate actions are undertaken

**Outcome Indicators:** achieved during the DAP and by the partner NGOs/ DPOs in the last 6 months

1. Enhanced awareness on Principles of CBR and CBR Matrix and Linking the Advocacy Action Points to the CBR Matrix Programmes among 7 CBR Personnel and 30 DPO leaders/ members
2. 17 Human Rights issues affecting the lives of PWDs acted upon by DPOs
3. 0 linkages developed with other DPOs/ Peoples organizations at Panchayat/ Block/ Dist. level
4. 4 systemic changes brought about by DPO advocacy actions - achieved by the partner NGOs/ DPOs in the last 6 months (Disability Pension for intellectual development disabilities; Post Office appoints a person to fill the form; Medicines for persons with mental illness are now available at district level; Information display boards in 30 GPs)
5. 3 DAPs conducted at partner level independently/ 3 DAPs planned independently
6. 1 DAPs covered by media/ 1 DAPs planned independently

<b>Highlights of Day 1: 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012</b>
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**Venue:** Block Resource Center (BRC), Wani, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

**Members Present:**

**From the community**

1. DPO leaders representing 4 cluster of GSMT field area total 28 Members present in this meeting

**CBR Forum Secretariat**

1. Mr. Mahesh, Advocacy Coordinator, CBR Forum

**CBR Forum Partner NGOs and DPO representative**

1. Mr. Jagdish Raut Project coordinator, CBR Project and 4 CBR Workers - Jaya, Satish, Kishor and Tima Devi of Gramin Samassya Mukti Trust, Wani. Dist. Yavatmal
2. Mr. Poonaji Kapase Project coordinator, CBR Project and Mr. Gajanan DPOs leader from Naman Sewa Samiti, Athner, Dist. Baitul (MP)
3. Mr. Sandip Thakre Project coordinator, CBR Project and Mr. Pankaj Bonde DPOs leader, Gramin Adiwasi Samaj Vikas Sansthan, Sausar, Dist. Chindwada (MP)

### Government officials

1. Mr. Kanake – BEO, Wani Block
2. Mr. Sunil Watekar - SSA Block Coordinator
3. Mr. Tiple – Transport Department
4. Mr. Narayan Gode – Leader of Congress Party

### Highlights of the day's session:

1. 11.00 am - Mr. Jagdish, Project Coordinator of GSMT welcomed the gathering, this was followed by Self-Introductions and sharing of expectations by the participants.
2. **Introductory session by Mr. Mahesh:** Background and Purpose of the DAP, highlighted the different kinds of barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, the attitudes among persons with disabilities, family and members of the community, the need to accept disability as part of human diversity, the steps that needs to be undertaken to reduce the barriers, the purpose of forming village level DPOs and federating them, on the need for persons with disabilities/ DPOs to participate in decision making bodies at different levels, the need to look beyond disability certificate and disability pension, how the issues of persons with disabilities can be a part of mainstream development, look at the needs of persons with disabilities who do not make it the village/ block level meetings and on evolving strategies of including them in this process of bring social change.
3. Presentation of "Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months by the DPO Federation Leaders from Madhya Pradesh – Mr. Gajanand, DPO Leader and Mr. Kapse, CBR Coordinator, **Naman Seva Samiti**
  - a. Our federation has 25 village level DPOs
  - b. Organized 'Health camp' at block level during which 29 PWDs were benefited (14 Disability certificate, 6 Railway pass and 9 Aids and appliances)
  - c. 1 PWDs got the benefit under the 3 % poverty reduction scheme
  - d. 3 PWDs got houses under IAY,
  - e. 5 PWDs got Bank loan for IGP
  - f. 1 PWDs is now employed as the Assistant secretary at Gram Panchayat Level
  - g. Persons with intellectual development disabilities were facing a lot of difficulties in getting their Disability Pension, following which the federation have submitted a representation to the Municipality, Gram panchayat and Samaj Kalyan (Social Welfare) Division. Following which a Govt. Order was issued to address this issue.
  - h. The Federation have sent letters to the Education Department for the appointment of trained teachers under SSA at the Block level
  - i. Many persons with disabilities who are illiterate were facing difficulties in submitting the pension withdrawal form. The federation had submitted a written complaint to the Head Post Office, following which a meeting was conducted at panchayat level. Now the Post Office has appointed an agent who will fill the form on behalf of the person with disabilities who are illiterate.
  - j. Accessing referral services at Bhopal - 11 PWDs got their Audiometry tests and 14 PWDs got their IQ test done.
4. Presentation of "Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months by the DPO Federation Leaders from Madhya Pradesh – Mr. Pankaj DPO Leader, GASVS and Mr. Sandeep, CBR Coordinator, **GASVS**
  - a. Following training programmes, there is a greater awareness among PWDs and CBR staff on Human rights, UNCRPD, PWD Act
  - b. DPO Federation formed

- c. We send a letter to the DHO for providing treatment and medicines for persons with Mental illness
  - d. The DPO federation has sent a letter to the Madhya Pradesh Government for better implementation of Government schemes.
  - e. More PWDs are participating in the Grama Sabha
  - f. 5 DPOs have opened bank account in Nationalized Bank in the Taluka headquarters.
  - g. 30 SHGs member aware about the procedure of opening bank account for their groups and the members of the group have started to save.
  - h. DPOs are participating in the Block and District level programme.
  - i. The demand for 3% reservation in development schemes was made by the DPOs, following which 2 PWDs from Gram Panchayat Ghogarikhapa got houses under Indira Awas Yojana and 3 benefitted by disability pension scheme.
  - j. Regarding NREGA scheme - the issue of providing same wages for PWDs as a non-disabled was raised by the DPOs in the Panchayat, following which the Panchayat have decided to provide the same wage to PWDs.
  - k. 5 CWDs took part in extracurricular activities of the school
  - l. The issue related to 'pending disability pension' was resolved by the DPOs through advocacy
  - m. The GP has sanctioned a place for federation meetings
  - n. The audiometric facility was not available at the District Govt. Hospital for persons with hearing impairment. This issue was raised by the DPO following which - 20 children underwent the audiometric test in the same hospitals.
  - o. A memorandum was submitted by the DPO Federation to District and Block hospital in making available the medicines for mentally disabled persons.
5. Following the presentation the participants have **listed the following issues** in the field area
1. Cleanliness in village
  2. Facilities for CWDs not available under SSA such as
    - i. In schools – there are no facilities for toilets
    - ii. No proper roads for children to go to school
    - iii. No ramps in school
  3. Block level certification camp to be organized
  4. Under Total Sanitation Programme – accessible toilets for persons with disabilities
  5. SSA – appointment of Special Teacher in school
  6. Ramps in Govt. building
  7. Non-utilization of 3% schemes in GPs
  8. No Job Cards for PWDs under NREGA
  9. Disability Pension for PWDs where income is less than Rs. 6000/- per annum – village accountant not giving certificate
  10. No support for PWDs in Banks
  11. Include PWDs in BPL list
  12. SGSY for PWDs
  13. Bus pass not available as per needs
  14. Involve parents of CWDs in education committee
  15. Medicines for persons with Mental Illness and Epilepsy
6. **Lunch Break**
7. This was followed by **interaction with Govt. officials** from the Block Level –
- a. Mr. Kanake – BEO, Wani Block
  - b. Mr. Sunil Watekar - SSA Block Coordinator
  - c. Mr. Tiple – Transport Department
  - d. Mr. Narayan Gode – Leader of Congress

8. Highlights of the points mentioned by **Mr. Kanake BEO Wani**: The BEO of Wani informed about the several schemes available for children with disabilities under SSA that are highlighted below:
- Facility for free health check ups and provision of aids and appliances to the children
  - Financial support for major operations
  - Traveling allowances to the candidates those supporting disabled children
  - Training and awareness programmes for parents
  - Education facility through mobile teachers
  - Barrier free environment in school
  - Free educational materials to the disabled children

**Question and Answers session:**

**Questions by participants:**

- There are no ramps in 30 village schools
- The children from Shirpur village have not got scholarship yet
- In village Khandala the excess water from the hand pump getting stagnated inside the school premises causing a lot of inconvenience to the students
- There are no toilets that are accessible to children with disabilities in schools from all the 30 villages.
- There is no mobile teacher available in any of the village.

**Answers by BEO:**

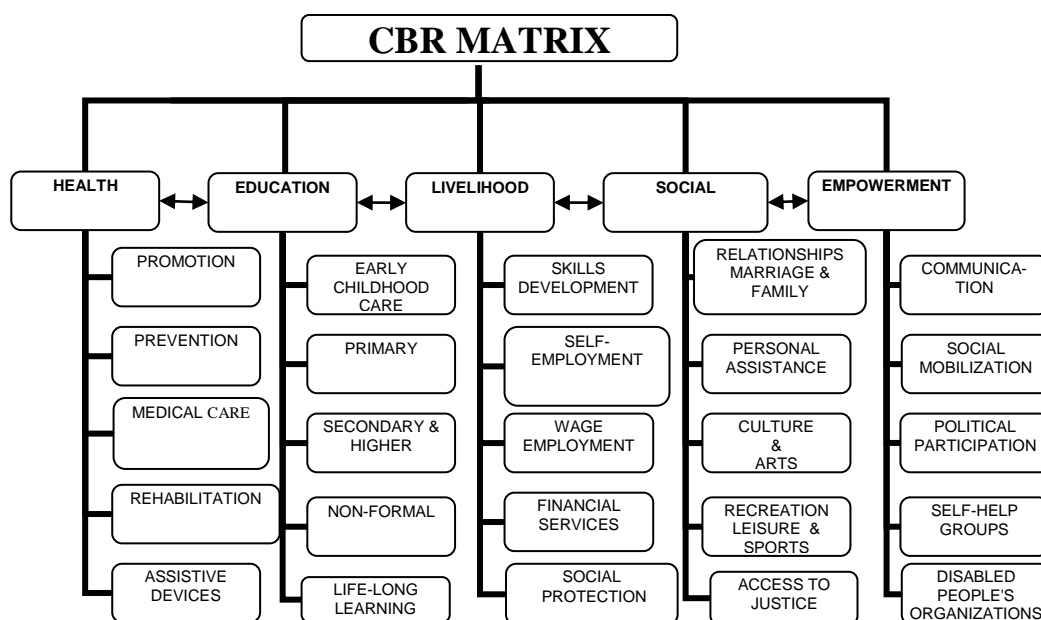
- The initial construction plans of the school did not have ramps; he assured that in the coming 6 months there is plan of building ramps in all schools under SSA.
- He assured that the issues related to scholarship and accumulation of water in school premises will be processed shortly.
- He informed that plans are there under SSA to ensure accessible toilets in all the 30 village schools
- The BEO informed that he had already issued a letter to DEO regarding appointment of mobile teacher for all villages.
- Training and camps has been organized through SSA.
- Monthly Rs. 300/- stipend has been distributed to helper.
- Mentioned about 'Free education' for all PWD till 18 years old is mentioned in the PWD Act
- SSA provides services to CWDs after need base assessment through various survey.

**Decisions taken:**

- The DPOs should submit letter to BEO regarding issues related education through coordination with SMCs (School Management Committee)
- The GSMT shall take initiative and make letter correspondence with BEO in regarding educational issues in villages.
- BEO given his personal mobile contact to all participants and said that any one can contact me in regarding any of the educational issues.

9. Highlights of the **points mentioned by: Mr. Tipale, Manager State transport, Wani**: He mentioned about the several schemes available for disabled person in ST department in which he told about the following points:
- 75 % discount on bus fair to the person having certificate of 40% disability.
  - The person traveling with 100% disabled person should get 50% discount on bus fair.
  - For all aforesaid concessions the candidate should have identity card and certificate for disability.

10. Session by Mr. Mahesh on **Linking the Advocacy Action Points to the CBR Matrix**: Mr. Mahesh, explained about the different Components of a CBR Programme and involved the participants to link each of the issues identified during the day to the respective element in the CBR Matrix. This helped the participants to understand the overall framework of CBR and reflect on the focus of their actions/ interventions.



11. Feed Back and Close of Session – Day 1

**Highlights of Day 2: 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012**

**Venue:** Anandwan, Warora

**Highlights of the day's session:**

1. The participants shared the 'Key Learning's from Day 1' – on what they liked and the areas of improvement

2. Presentation of "Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months by the DPO Federation Leaders from Maharashtra – Mr. Mahadeo Kakde, DPO Leader, GSMT and Mr. Jagdish CBR Coordinator

SNo	Activity	GSMT - Process	GSMT - Result
1	<b>Block level certification camp</b>	Coordination meeting at block level with local panchyat member; letter correspondence to DHO, CS, BDO, SWO; coordination with local political member	Plans to conduct the Block level certification camp in January in place
2	<b>Disability Pension for all eligible PWDs</b>	Coordination meeting at block level with SGNV dept. and local panchyat member, collected the documentation and preparation of eligible person list	25 PWDs got the benefit of Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Schemes (Pension) Decision of pending pension cases taken
3	<b>Appointment of Mobile Teachers under SSA</b>	Coordination meeting at block level with BEO Correspondence Letter to BEO, EO	The process of selection of mobile teacher has started at the District level
4	<b>Medicines for Mental Illness</b>	Meeting with DHO and letter correspondence to DHO for availability of medicine at block level.	Medicines for persons with mental illness are now available at district level
5	<b>Ensuring information available at GP Level</b>	Conduct meeting with DPO at village level Coordination meeting and letter correspondence to GP through DPO in 30 villages	Information display boards about persons with disabilities and relevant schemes and programmes put up in 30 GPs
6	<b>Develop linkages with - Media, Local Political leaders, People's Movement, DPOs</b>	Information and press note present to Print media for publishing of CBR programme activity Actively involve local political leader in CBR programme.	News about actions undertaken under CBR published in local news papers
7	<b>Formation of Block level Federation</b>	Selection of 2 DPO leaders to form the federation Concept of federation shared with all DPO members at village level. Conducted meetings at block level for the formation of federation. Selection of federation member by a following a participatory process.	Formed DPO federation - 'Sangharsh Taluka Viklang Sangh' at Block level with 9 Executive members and 2 DPO leaders from each village who are part of the General Body Training of federation members. Developing the Rules of federation with the members.
8	<b>Celebration of world Disability Day</b>	Planning of World disabled day with DPOs and federation members. Conducting the programme under the banner of the DPO Federation.	Conducted the world disabled day at block level.  200 persons with disabilities actively participated in this programme.  Rs. 20,000/- donation from local community for the programme.

**Status of the follow-up actions during the Meeting with Village level DPO at Zilha Parishad School, Bhalar on 9th Aug 2011**

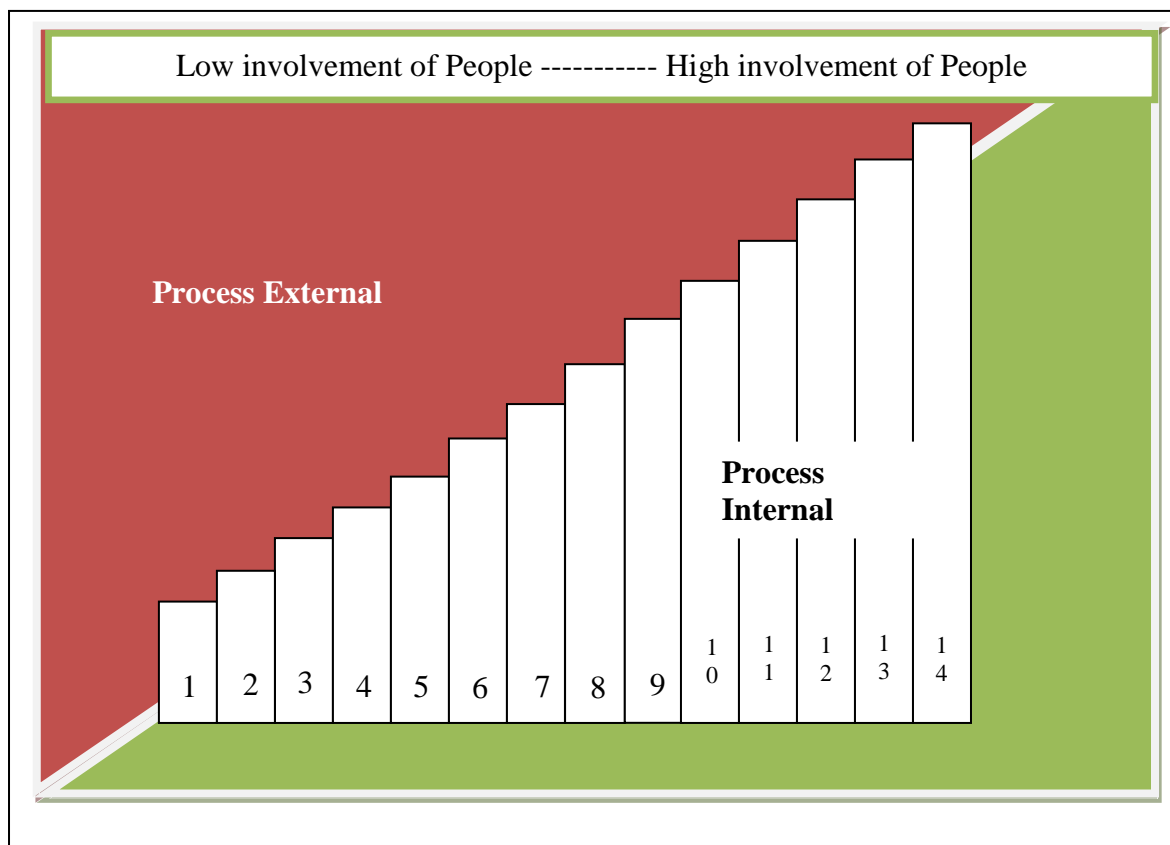
SNo	Action Points identified on 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2011	Responses by GSMT, CBR Coordinator - as on 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2012
1	DPOs appeal to Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) to address the issues of road repair/ village development	Bhalar DPO appealed to western Coalfield Limited (WCL) for repair of road and construction of new toilet for PWDs. WCL have in-turn sent this appeal to their headquarters for further action/ response.
2	For effective lobbying - CBR programme and DPOs develop a baseline data of the numbers of people in need of various services/ schemes/ programmes	Baseline survey conducted through village level DPOs. The finalized list of eligible PWDs for various services/ schemes/ programmes/ IRPs available.
3	Develop case-studies, DPOs lobby with the Govt. Total Sanitation Programme for selecting persons with disabilities who are in need of toilets in their houses	This activity is under process.
4	DPOs lobby with GSMT and other NGOs in accessing individual toilets for its members	DPOs will appeal to GSMT and Govt. department for sanctioning accessible individual toilets for PWDs under the total sanitation programme.
5	Ensuring the voices/ concerns of persons with disabilities are raised by DPOs at village/ block and district levels	At block level we have conduct various activity such as World disabled day, Rally, organizing meeting with concern officials at Block and District level and by submitting written appeal.

**3. Group Discussions: On Group Formation and Strengthening – A Participatory Development Process.**

The participants were grouped into 4 groups and each group was given one 'Task/ Activity'. The members of the group were asked to discuss about the particular 'Task/Activity' and present to the larger group.

**Group Formation and Strengthening – A Participatory Development Process**

Task/ Activity	
1	Establish contact at Village/ Ward level
2	Survey
3	Group Meetings
4	Group Action
5	Capacity building of Group Leaders
6	Inter Group Meeting
7	Issue based action
8	Federation of Groups
9	Strengthening of Groups
10	Issues based action by Federation
11	Registration/ Autonomy of Federation
12	Gradual withdrawal of NGO
13	Promotion of Alliance/ Network
14	....



#### 4. Session Advocacy and Campaigning: facilitated by C. Mahesh

The objective of this session was to enable the participants understand the - Meaning of Advocacy, Types of Advocacy, Strategies for Advocacy and Campaigning and gain the skill to develop the implementation plan for the 'Advocacy Issues'

**Group Discussion:** Based on the 'Advocacy Issues' identified during Day 1 of the DAP, the participants were asked reflect on one of the 'Advocacy issue' and make a presentation by discussing/ responding to the following 14 questions.

1. What is the issue?
2. How it is genuine and mandatory?
3. What do we want in a long run?
4. What do we want immediately?
5. Who is accused?
6. Who is the victim?
7. Who is the supporter?
8. Who is the fence sitter?
9. How do we advocate?
10. What do we do and when?
11. How do we track progress?
12. How do we make necessary changes to the plan?
13. How do we document the process?
14. How do we conclude logically?

### 5. Advocacy Action Plans for Next 6 Month

Area	Action Points
<b>Education</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter to DEO regarding appointment of mobile teacher</li> <li>2. Letter to BEO and DEO for construction of ramp in schools</li> <li>3. Prepare list of eligible students with disabilities for scholarship and submit BEO</li> </ol>
<b>Livelihood</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Correspond and document the various government schemes and on how persons with disabilities can benefit from the same – Examples - PMRY, SGSY, DRDA, NABARD</li> <li>2. Access to Bijbhandwal schemes through SWD and resolving pending cases.</li> <li>3. Getting Job cards for persons with disabilities under NREGA ensuring employment for 50 persons with disabilities</li> </ol>
<b>Health</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with the programmes of Women and Child Development at village level and ensure participation of women with disabilities</li> <li>2. To collect information regarding the various Health programmes at village level.</li> <li>3. Submit a representation note to Village Health Committee on the health issues especially affecting persons with disabilities in the village and copy the same to BDO.</li> <li>4. Submit a representation note to District Health Department for mobile clinics at village level.</li> <li>5. Enhance participation of persons with disabilities in the Block level health check-up camps (prevention and early identification)</li> </ol>
<b>Social</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance participation of children with disabilities in school functions/ events. Eg. Republic day celebrations</li> <li>2. Matrimonial assistance to persons with disabilities</li> <li>3. Coordinate with DLSA (District Legal Services Authority) in conducting legal awareness programmes</li> </ol>
<b>Empowerment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance communication between DPOs and Federation with Departments at GP, Block and District level</li> <li>2. Enhance participation of persons with disabilities in Grama Sabha</li> <li>3. Training of block level federation leaders in building their capacities</li> <li>4. Creating awareness among political leaders/ parties on the issues of persons with disabilities and including the same during the ZP, PS, Nagarpalika election etc.</li> </ol>

### 6. Feedback

- The programme helped in enhancing the involvement of Govt. Officials and has helped in greater coordination
- This programme has helped in identifying the issues of persons with disabilities in the villages and represent the same at block and district level

### 7. Vote of Thanks by Mr. Jagdish Raut CBR Coordinator, GSMT