

**WELFARE SERVICES ERNAKULAM
DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME
23rd and 24th Aug 2011**

- Documented by C. Mahesh, Advocacy Coordinator, CBR Forum

Objectives:

- To develop a common understanding among the DPO and Partner NGOs on 'Disability and Human Rights'
- To follow-up on the previous six months plans of the DPOs and their federation in the project area of WSE and the 8 partner NGOs from Kerala
- To strengthen the collaboration between local self-government, Govt. Officials Partner NGOs/ DPOs Members
- To develop the common advocacy plans and to have and another plan for the next six months.
- To develop the common advocacy plans for the next 6 months

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

1. Enhanced awareness on Human Rights, Entitlements, Policies and Programmes among 11 CBR Personnel, 51 DPO leaders/ members, 18 parents of persons with disabilities
2. 11 Human Rights issues affecting the lives of PWDs acted upon by DPOs
3. 05 linkages developed with other DPOs/ Peoples organizations at Panchayat/ Block/ Dist level
4. 03 systemic changes brought about by DPO advocacy actions – achieved by the partner NGOs/ DPOs in the last 6 months (Medicine for Mentally ill persons; educational scholarships for CWDs; IGP grants for DPOs approved by Panchayat)
5. 03 DAPs conducted at partner level independently/ 3 DAPs planned independently
6. 01 DAPs covered by media/ 03 DAPs planned independently

Participants:

DPOs/ Partner NGOs of CBR Forum from Kerala:

Over 62 SHG leaders from 24 SHGs of persons with Disabilities from three Panchayaths namely Thuravoor, Mookkannur and Ayyampuzha of Angamaly Block, 7 Coordinators and DPO Federation leaders of partner NGOs of CBR forum, Mr. Bijoy, ADD India, WSE CBR team, Dr. Paul Kaiprambatt ,The vicar; Fr. Paul Cherupilly – Asst. Director, WSE

The invitees from Govt. Department and PRI included:

Mrs. Mary Antony (Block Panchayat President - Angamaly Block) , President of Mookkannur (Mr. Paul P Joseph), Thuravoor (Mr. M P Martin – Vice President), and Ayyampuzha (Mr. Biju Kavunga) Grama Panchayaths; Dr. Jaya, Medical Officer – Angamaly Community Health Centre; Mrs. Mini, Asst. Executive Engineer, Public Works Department – Angamaly Block, Block Resource Teacher – Angamaly Block; Disability Activist – Adv. Saji Madaserry from HRLN

From CBR Forum: Mr. Mahesh, Advocacy Coordinator, CBR Forum

List of CBR Forum Partners from Kerala who participated include:

1. WSE – Ms. Celine Paul (CBR Coord), Ms. Jessy, Ms. Philomina, Ms. Cicily (CBR Worker); Mr. Shaiju, Ms. Shanta Varghese, Secretary, Angamali Block
2. Samridhy – Mr. Sony (New CBR Coord),
3. Shreyas – Ms. Anoop (CBR Coord)
4. Bodhana – Mr. Kiran(CBR Coord)
5. Nirmala Sadhan – Sr. Rani Jose (CBR Coord)
6. Vosard – Mr. Chakochoan, Mr. Joseph
7. NIDS – Sr. Pauline

Day 1: 23rd Aug 2011

Venue: St. Joseph Parish Hall, Karayamparambu

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Registration

10:30 – 12:30 p.m. – Welcome, Interaction with Govt. Officials

The first day of the Disability Advocacy Programme started at 10.30 am with a prayer song by DPO leaders. Mr. Jinto, DPO Federation leader welcomed the distinguished guests and participants. Fr. Paul , Asst. Director of WSE gave a brief introduction to the programme. In his speech he appreciated the federation leaders for the organizing this programme. Dr. Paul Kaiprambatt , the vicar formally inaugurated the meeting. Mr. Mahesh, Advocacy Coordinator of CBR Forum mentioned in brief about the objective of the programme. He emphasized the importance of addressing/ removing the barriers that prevent the participation of persons with disabilities in society; the right of all and persons with disabilities to live with dignity; the importance of access to water and sanitation for persons with disabilities; the role of DPOs in bringing about the change; the importance of alliance building with Govt. Officials; PRI members and other resource agencies in the State.



This was followed by an interface programme where the DPO members interacted with Govt. Officials, PRI members – they included: Mrs. Mary Antony (Block Panchayat President - Angamaly Block) , President of Mookkannur (Mr. Paul P Joseph), Thuravoor (Mr. M P Martin – Vice President), and Ayyampuzha (Mr. Biju Kavunga) Grama Panchayaths; Dr. Jaya, Medical Officer – Angamaly Community Health Centre; Mrs. Mini, Asst. Executive Engineer, Public Works Department – Angamaly Block, Block Resource Teacher – Angamaly Block; Disability Activist – Adv. Saji Madaserry from HRLN

The important issues raised by federation leaders are mentioned below:

1. No medicine for Mentally Ill persons through DMH programme at Ernakulam Dist.

Response: Dr. Jaya, CHC: Would raise the issue of persons with mental illness before respected departmental authorities. She also mentioned that the respective authorities of health department should take initiatives for the purchase of Govt. approved psychiatric medicines and distribute through PHCs.

2. Public buildings are not accessible for persons with Disabilities.

Response: Mrs. Mini, PWD Dept.: This is the first time that I am attending such a meeting. I will give attention in creating accessibility in public buildings in future.

3. No proper jobs for PWDs under MNREGA.

Response: Mr. Paul P Joseph, Panchayat President: Please prepare the list of PWDs who are willing to work under NREGA and submit before panchayath committee.

4. Some banks are not willing to grant loans for PWDs.

Response: If banks are unwilling, there would be no other option but to take a collective legal action against the banks for not granting loans.

5. No security for girls and women with Disabilities at home and society.

Response: In general the invitees expressed that this is a new issues and that something more concrete needs to be planned

6. No proper facilities at schools for CWDs (such as classes in ground floor for children who are unable to climb steps, toilets, etc)

Response: The Panchayat President assured that he would personally interact the concerned school authorities and ensure that the class room is relocated in the ground floor.

Some of the key points mentioned by the invites are listed below:

1. The Block Panchayath President, Angamaly Block Panchayath mentioned that Rs. Seven lakh was allocated for the scholarship of CWDs.
2. Mookkannur Panchayat President informed that they had convened special Grama for persons with disabilities at an accessible place.
3. Funds have been allocated for Pakalveedu (Day care centre) for PWDs.
4. Thuravoor Panchayath President had told the three main suggestions of Gramma Sabha: Medicine for Mentally ill persons; educational scholarships for CWDs; IGP grants for DPOs are considered by Panchayath committee and amount has been approved.
5. Security of children and PWDs: There was an active discussion about the security of children and PWDs at home, school and society. The participants agreed that creating awareness about this issue would be the best way to control this issue. It was mentioned that DPO Federation should act as a vigilant group / taskforce in highlighting such issues

12:30 – 01:30 p.m. – Lunch

01:30 – 04:30 p.m. – Panchayat Wise Group Discussion and Presentation:

Identifying issues and developing a detailed advocacy action plan for the coming 6-months

3 Panchayat wise groups were formed. Based on the morning discussions 6 issues for Advocacy Actions in the next 6-months were identified by the group. They are:

1. No suitable jobs for PWDs under NREGA
2. No accessibility in Public buildings
3. No special toilets, ramps, and other facilities for CWDs at schools
4. No home based education for all needy CWDs
5. No security for girls and women with Disabilities at home and society
6. Some Banks are not providing loans for PWDs and their groups



Mr. Mahesh elaborated the method of developing Advocacy Actions that are SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound.

Each group identified 2 of the above issues and developed a detailed Advocacy Action Plans that they would implement in the coming 6-months. The detailed action plan is mentioned below:

Detailed Advocacy SMART Action Plans for the coming 6-months – Sep11 - Mar12

Issue	Activity	How	When	Who	Target
No suitable jobs for PWDs under NREGA (Presented by all the Three panchayaths)	Submit request to Panchayath Secretary	Prepare the list of PWDs who need jobs under NREGA and specify the work they can do	Before 22/9/2011	Federation Leaders	50 PWDs will get jobs under NREGA
	Submit request to Dist. Collector	Prepare the list of PWDs who need jobs under NREGA and specify the work they can do	Before 7/10/11	„	
	Conduct a Rally	Mobilize all PWDs of 08 Grama panchayaths of Angamaly Block.	3/12/2011	Federation Leaders	
No accessibility in Public buildings (Presented by Mookkannur Panchayath)	Submit request to Panchayath Secretary	Identify the Public building that needs to be accessible for PWDs Discuss this in the DPO meetings Prepare a memorandum	Before 28/9/11	Federation Leaders	02 buildings are accessible
	Submit request to Dist. Collector	Prepare a memorandum	Before 15/10/11	Federation Leaders.	
	Submit request to PWD Dept. Minister	Prepare a memorandum	Before 3/12/2011	Federation Leaders	

Issue	Activity	How	When	Who	Target
No special toilets, ramps, and other facilities for CWDs at schools (Presented by Thuravoor Panchayath)	Submit the request to school manager and Head Master (mention the Kerala Rule of Free & Compulsory education of children)	Written request	Before 20/9/11	Federation Leaders	02 schools
	Submit request to Ward member, Panchayath president, panchayth secretary	Written request	Before 30/11/2011	Federation Leaders	
	Submit request to State Disability Commissioner	Prepare the list of needy children	Before 3/12/11	Federation leaders	

Issue	Activity	How	When	Who	Target
No home based education for all needy CWDs	Submit request to Ward member, Panchayath president , panchayth secretary	Prepare the list of needy children	Before 30/11/2011	Federation Leaders	10 CWDs in home based education
	Submit request to Education depatment	Written request	Before 30/11/2011	Federation Leaders	
No security for girls and women with Disabilities at home and society	Organise a workshop on 'Security and Protection of Women with Disabilities against violence/ abuse'	<p>Identify the issues related to violence/ abuse against Women with Disabilities</p> <p>Identify organisations/ Resource Persons working on violence against Women and invite them for the workshop</p> <p>Involve Legal experts and Police as Resource persons</p>	Before 30/12/ 2011	NGO Partners and Federation Leaders	1 Workshop conducted, 50 Women with disabilities participate

Issue	Activity	How	When	Who	Target
Some Banks are not providing loans to PWDs and their groups (as presented by Ayyampuzha Panchayath)	Sensitize the Bank Manager	Identify the particular issue of three panchayaths.	Before 30/9/11	Federation Leaders	07 SHG groups
	Conduct a meeting of Bank Managers, SHG leaders who repaid IGP loans, Needy PWDs		Before 20/10/11		

04:30 p.m. – Close of session

Day 2: 24th Aug 2011

Venue: WSE Office

1. Presentation of progress made by the DPO – DPO leaders from Partner NGOs:

- a. VOSARD
- b. Shreyas
- c. NIDS

2. Interaction with Govt. Officials:

- a. World Champion in Sports - Adv. Joby Mathew
- b. KSHFC – Mr. Vijaya Kumar
- c. Social Welfare – CDPO Ernakulam – Ms. Sainaba



3. Presentation by Partners:

- a. Nirmala Sadhan
- b. Samridhy
- c. Bodhana
- d. WSE

4. Developing strategy for forming the Kerala State Federation of PWDs – Session facilitated by Mahesh – discussed on the following questions:

- a. Is there is State Level Federation of PWDs in Kerala?
- b. Do we need to form one?
- c. What is the Goal of the Federation?
- d. Who will lead? How will it be formed? By When?

The conclusions the participants unanimously arrived at the following conclusions:

- a. There are no State Level Federations of PWDs in Kerala
- b. We need to form a State Level Federation
- c. The Federation needs to be a Federation of PWDs/ DPOs
- d. PWDs should lead the Federation
- e. There should be equal representation of women with disabilities in the Federation and in leadership roles
- f. The Federation should be represent cross-disability
- g. The Federation should highlight and lobby for the issues of persons with disabilities – especially the poor and from rural areas
- h. The partner NGOs of CBR Forum from Kerala have agreed to assist Mr. Anil – DPO Leader from NIDS (Mobile No: 8086832041) and Ms. Rosy – DPO Leader from WSE (Mobile No: 9496822406) – to develop the charter of for the Kerala State Federation of Persons with Disabilities, come up with a plan for the next 3 months in taking forward the above discussions

5. Identifying issues for the coming 6 months

- a. Front office in Panchayat - make it accessible
- b. Access in school – classroom, learning materials, toilet etc.
- c. NREGA - 50 Jobs for Persons with Disabilities
- d. Develop Bank Linkages for DPOs/ Federations and individual Persons with Disabilities to access Loans
- e. Workshop/ seminar on issues of Women with Disabilities (Violence/ Abuse)
- f. Lobby with PRI for utilization of 3% fund for Persons with Disabilities
- g. State level federation - Charter, Vision, Mission –
- h. Assist Anil – DPO Leader from NIDS (Mobile No: 8086832041) and Rosy – DPO Leader from WSE (Mobile No: 9496822406) – to develop the charter of for the Kerala State Federation of Persons with Disabilities

6. Highlights of New Bill on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Mr. Mahesh made a brief mention of the key points in the New Bill and he will email the PowerPoint presentation of the New Bill to all the Partner NGOs

7. Highlights of The Right of Children To Free and Compulsory Education Kerala Rules 2010 - Mr. Mahesh made a brief mention of the key points in the Kerala Rules and he will email the same to all the Partner NGOs

8. Date of the Next DAP at WSE – 8th and 9th of Feb 2012

Annexures:

1. Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP) at WSE – Agenda
2. Welfare Services Ernakulam - DAP Report - Jan to Sep 2011

**Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP) at WSE
23rd and 24th August 2011
Agenda**

Day 1		23rd August 2011
1	10.00 am	Registration
2	10.30 am	Prayer
3	10.35 am	Welcome – Mr. Jinto Joseph – DPO Leader
4	10.40 am	Introductory Speech – Fr. Paul Cherupilly, AD, WSE
5	10.45 am	Sharing Objective – Mr. Mahesh, CBR Forum
6	10.50 am	Interaction with PRI Members and Govt. Officials <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Panchayat Presidents from 3 Panchayats (Thuravavoor, Mookannur and Ayampuzha) 2. Block Panchayat President 3. Medical Officer – Angamaly Block – Ms. Mini 4. SSA – BRC 5. HRLN – District Representative – Ms. Saji Madasherry
7	01.00 pm	Lunch
8	02.00 pm	Presentation of progress made by the DPO – DPO leaders from Partner NGOs
9	03.30 pm	Identifying issues for the coming 6 months – Panchayat wise group discussion and presentation
10	04.40 pm	Vote of Thanks – Ms. Santa Varghese – DPO Leader
Day 2		24th August 2011
1	10.00 am	Key Learning from Day 1
2	10.15 am	Presentation by Partners: VOSARD, Shreyas, NIDS
3	11.30 am	Tea
4	11.00 am	Interaction with Govt. Officials: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Champion in Sports - Joby Mathew 2. KSHFC – Vijaya Kumar 3. Social Welfare – CDPO Angamaly - Sainaba
5	12.30 pm	Lunch
6	10.15 am	Presentation by Partners: Nirmala Sadhan, Samridhy, Bodhana, WSE
7	01.15 pm	Plans for the Next Six Months
8	02.15 am	Developing strategy for forming the Kerala State Federation of PWDs
9	02.30 pm	New Bill The Right of Children To Free and Compulsory Education Kerala Rules 2010
10	03.30 pm	Date of next DAP – 8 th & 9 th Feb 2011 Vote of Thanks Close of session

Annexure 2

Welfare Services Ernakulam - DAP Report - Jan to Sep 2011

Planned activities	Achievements	Outcomes
Should work on census (Feb. 2011) create awareness among teachers, DPOs, PRI (Panchayat Raj Institution) members, school awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted an interactive session with Dist. Census Officer • Conducted awareness programmes for DPOs and Teachers. • Conducted street play Awareness programmes in 12 places of Ernakulam Dist. • Conducted Mike announcements all over District. 	Ensured all PWDs in the project area and District are counted in census 2011.
Distribute the leaflets on Census to all in our field areas and neighboring places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000 leaflets were distributed 	Ensured all PWDs in the project area and District are counted in census 2011.
Regarding New Law consultation contact commissioner disabilities TVM and SNAC (Bala Vikas Bhavan TVM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send 150 post card to Central Social Justice & Empowerment ministry to convene consultation meeting at state and Dist.levels. • Submitted memorandum to PM, Social welfare Minister, State Disability Commissioner etc. for consultation meeting. 	The Federation President and CBR Coordinator attended State Consultation meeting.
Demand for the translation of draft law in simple Malayalam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted memorandum to the respected personnel. • Follow ups for the translation - HRLN 	Malayalam Drafts of new law was circulated to federations Conducted Block level consultation meetings
DPO leaders from across Kerala should participate/get involve in the state level consultation for the New law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted a list of 03 DPO leaders for attending State level Consultation meeting 	02 members were attended in the programme
Implementation of the outcome of the Special Gram Sabha.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed RTI to Dist. Panchayath Deputy Director to know the details of Special Grama sabhas at Ernakulam Dist. • Follow ups of special grama Sabhas of three panchayaths. 	Ensured 03 panchayaths had implemented the suggestion of Special Gramma Sabhas. (Thuravoor, Mookkannur, Ayyampuzha)

Planned activities	Achievements	Outcomes
DPO leaders from across the state of Kerala should have State Level Consultation for the formation of DPO State level networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives were taken by NGO for the formation of State level networks. 	
NREGS employments contact Mr. Pavan in case you need some help and guideline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted complaint to Panchayath Committee(Mookkannur) for Matron Job under NREGA 	Matron job is allowed for that particular person.
Follow-up to utilize the planned/ unplanned fund of panchayat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used RTI to know fund utilization of panchayaths 	Ensured at least 3% funds are spent for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities.
Lobby for Housing for unmarried persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Initiatives from NGO 	
Lobby for accessing loans from PMEGP/ KHWDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted 07 applications for IGP loan & grant to KHWDC 	Banks wanted security for Bank loan. Therefore PWDs are not willing to take loans.
Enrolment of CWDs in the new academic year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivated parents & teachers for the enrollment.(03 programmes) 	06 children were newly enrolled in schools in the last year
Other achievements of Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted sports & cultural competition – Glitters -2011. • Attended Dist. and State level Paralympic competition • 02 Children get home level SSA support • Lobby for ensured deserving PWDs are included in Poverty alleviation programmes. 	