

Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP)
WELLSPRINGS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (WSSS)

Mairang, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya

On 26th and 27th September 2011

Documented by: C. Mahesh, CBR Forum and Devieflora Pariong CBR coordinator

Sessions Facilitated by: C. Mahesh, CBR Forum

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

1. Enhanced awareness on Human Rights, Entitlements, Policies and Programmes among 15 CBR Personnel and 70 (to be confirmed) DPO leaders/ members
2. 4 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. 2 systemic changes brought about by DPO advocacy actions – achieved by the partner NGOs/ DPOs in the last 6 months (Govt. of Meghalaya announcement that 15th Sep of every year – grievance day for disabled, SDO Office Mairang has a ramp)
5. 2 DAPs conducted at partner level independently/ 6 DAPs planned independently
6. 1 DAPs covered by media/ 1 DAPs planned independently

List of participants from 11 Partner NGOs in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura:

SINo	Name of Partner NGO	CBR Staff	DPO Representative To be updated
DLI Partner NGOs – West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya			
1	Bethany Society	Mr. Wellbok	
2	Nongstoin Social Service Society	Mr. Gerald	
3	Wellsprings Social Service Society	Ms. Devieflora + 4 CBR Workers	
4	Agency for Sustainable Development Initiatives	Ms. Banrihun	
5	Fatima Sisters	Mr. Herculeanus	

CBR Partner NGOs from Mizoram			
1	Zoram Entu Pawl	Mr. Samuel	
2	Ferrando Integrated Women Development Center	Ms. Muan Puii	
3	Centre for Peace and development	Ms. Mari	
CBR Partner NGOs from Tripura			
1	Voluntary Health Association of Tripura	Mr. Shankar	Ms. Lamra Mug
2	Organization for Rural Survival	Mr. Surendar (CBRW)	Mr. Jishnu Bhushan
3	Blind & Handicapped Association	Mr. Vikaram	Mr. Nepal Datta

Highlights

1. Background of the workshop: Sr. Alicia, Director, WSSS welcomed the participants and shared the objectives of the 2-day DAP. Mr. Mahesh elaborated further on the purpose and expected outcomes of the Disability Advocacy Programme and on the Role of the DPO in lobbying for their Rights in line with Human Rights Principles and UNCRPD. He mentioned that this was a continuation of the programme that was organized by Bethany Society in Shillong. The programme was held in Mairang as this was the closer to the field area and provided greater opportunities for the participation of persons with disabilities from partner NGOs of DLI partners in West Khasi Hills.

2. About the venue: The first day of the DAP was held at Election Hall, Sub-Division Office, Mairang. The SDOs office had provided their hall for the meeting and also constructed 3 wooden ramps to overcome the steps to reach the hall. This displayed the sensitivity and interest of the SDOs office towards the needs of persons with disabilities.



3. Interaction with Govt. Officials (District/ Block)



a. Shri.W.Biam, Block Development Officer, C&RD Block Mairang:

- i. The BDO shared briefly about the BPL census which is now called "Socio Economic Caste Census". This census is supposed to have started from 1 Sept, but now it could be in Oct/ Nov
- ii. In Mairang Block 7 persons are benefiting under IGNOAPS and 10 PWDs under IGNDPS – where they get @Rs. 200/pm
- iii. IAY – 12 PWDs have got housing under this scheme, PWDs who are in BPL list are placed under the 'permanent waiting list' for the next selection
- iv. 50 persons with disabilities have benefited under – SRWP – Special Rural Work Programme
- v. Many persons with disabilities have been left out from BPL list this is a major issues and therefore persons with disabilities have not been able to benefit from any social security schemes
- vi. Disability Camps organized at different locations in collaboration with Health, ICDS, Social Welfare department in the Block to issue Disability Certificate
- vii. 3% job reserved for PWDs

- b. **Dr. L. L.Mawnai, Medical Health Officer CHC Mairang**
- i. CHC/ PHC is not given responsible for issuing DCs (Disability Certificate)
 - ii. CHC cannot provide Disability Certificate because they need training – the Dept. of Health is organizing the said training in the near future
 - iii. Because of NRHM project - CHC/ PHC has good supply of medicines
 - iv. There are 3 Specialist Doctors in the CHC - ENT, Gynecologist and Pediatric.
 - v. ASHA workers and ANM give awareness on different types and causes of deficiency, diseases and disability in the village and sub- centers.
- c. **Smt. I.K War, District Social Welfare Officer – Nongstoin:** The DSWO shared the different Schemes available. She encouraged the PWDs /Parents to get Disability Certificates. She also said that CBRWs are the pillar of her work. The services available are:-
- i. On 16th May 2011- there was a State level Orientation – training in which the Deputy Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya was present
 - ii. We are giving grant an annual grant of Rs. 20,000/- to institutions dealing with women, children, old age and persons with disabilities
 - iii. Uniform Grants, Conveyance Grant, and Scholarship - from class 1 to PG - class 1 to class 10 - Rs. 1000/- per year; for college Rs. 1500/- per year
 - iv. Meghalaya depend on grants for its social security schemes from the Central Govt. therefore it has very little resources, if only the State Govt. can increase its grants to PWDs – things would get better
 - v. Through NGOs we are giving vocational training for PWDs above 18, a stipend of Rs. 500/- per month, after 6m or 1 year – a token relief Rs. 5000/- as seed money is given to continue their vocation. We use the services of WSSS - we have 9 trainees now
 - vi. For educated unemployed youth - registered with employment exchange - Rs. 5000/- per year is given as unemployment allowance; so far we have paid the same to only 3 PWDs, We hope from next year the number of beneficiaries will increase
 - vii. All PWDs and Parents wants to be spoon fed - only 20 of the 80 invited come for the assessment camp; we have people in the community who think “what is the use the coming to the camp”. She appealed to all the participants to ensure people are aware and make the best use of the opportunity as the resources in Meghalaya are limited.

- viii. Meritorious award for PWDs who continue their studies: 5 PWDs benefited under this scheme this year. The PWDs were studying BE – and the award amount is Rs. 1900/-
- ix. A small one time grant of Rs. 2000/- is provided for medical relief – for females above 60 and male above 65
- x. On 3rd Oct we are observing the International Old Age Day
- xi. Block level assessment camp once every year – during which specialist (Orthopaedic, ENT, Psychiatrist, Eye Specialists) assess PWDs and for the speedy delivery of DCs
- xii. In West Khasi Hills, we have only ENT specialist and other specialists have to come from Shillong
- xiii. In West Khasi Hills – there is a lack of coordination - we have multiple camps organized by SSA (only for children in the age group of 6-14 years), DRDA, Social Welfare (for all age group), and Composite Regional Centre (CRC) in Guwahati. Therefore there is a lot of duplication of work – we have raised this issue on the 16th May during the meeting with the Govt. Officials in Secretariat, Shillong. The Commissioner Disabilities has suggested the formation of a 'Disability Assessment/ Certification Committee' with the District Commissioner as the Chair
- xiv. Composite Regional Centre - Guwahati is providing aids and appliances
- xv. We have CWC - Child Welfare Committee - for child in distress - to be transferred to sheltered home, child in need of correction, chairperson from Nongstoin College - total 5 mbr committee
- xvi. We have a scheme for the **protection of Women under Domestic Violence Act 2005** – This Act covers all people - we have registered 7 cases of which 1 is a disabled lady - pregnant and abused - the man has gone away with another person. Women and girls are taken for granted by men. Govt. will provide a legal aid and a lawyer. However in practice it is very difficult and there is no support available.
- xvii. A present we have only 2 MBBS doctor in Nongstoin
- xviii. We do not have lawyes in Nongstoin. We have lawyers coming from Shillong
- xix. Under the Protection of Women under Domestic Violence Act - one lady got Rs. 10,000/- per month as compensation.
- xx. The Police are very helpful and supportive of complaints registered under the Protection of Women under Domestic Violence Act
- xxi. Recently 2 persons with disabilities have availed loan under NHFDC. So far 11 PWDs in the State of Meghalaya have benefited. NHFDC provides loans up to 10 lakh with a subsidized interest of 3-5% interest
- xxii. Persons with disabilities who are creative and achieved in sports, studies, arts have been proposed for National Awards

- xxiii. Govt. has given 'Deendayal scheme' to funds for institutions run for persons with disabilities.
- xxiv. Govt. provides grants for persons with disabilities to study at National institutes

d. Asst. Employment Exchange Officer

- e. **Shri. S. Warbah, SDO, Public Work Department:** The officer said as of now from the department they have received no information regarding the provision for the PWDs
- f. **Soil and Water conservation Department:** The officer said as of now from the department they have received no information regarding the provision for the PWDs
- g. **Shri. W. Nonglang, Branch Manager (Recently Appointed) Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Mairang Branch also nodal agency for NHFDC:** Shared briefly about the National handicapped Finance and Development Corporation which was setup by the Ministry of Social Justice and MCAB. They are the channelizing agency through which PWDs with 40% above disability can avail loan with a very low interest as follows:
 - i. Individual (provided they are above 18 yrs) and group can apply for loans
 - ii. Parents/ spouse/ legal guardian of Mentally Disabled can apply
 - iii. Forms are available in the local branch
 - 1. Loans are provided for
 - 2. For agricultural activities
 - 3. Purchases of vehicle/commercial hire
 - 4. Setting up small industries
 - 5. Technical and educational training

4. Presentation by the DPO leaders from DLI Partner of West Khasi Hills on "Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months"

- a. Nongstoin Social Service Society- NSSS
- b. Agency for Sustainable Development Initiative - AFSDI
- c. Fatima Sisters (Presentation was made by CBR Coordinator – Mr. Herculeanus as DPO leader could not make it to the meet)
- d. Bethany Society Mawkyrwat (Presentation was made by CBR Coordinator – Mr. Wellbok as DPO leader not prepared)
- e. Wellsprings Social Service Society –WSSS

5. Summary of the questions/ suggestion following the interactions are:

- a. Persons with disabilities have to be included under NREGS
- b. Can we do away with the BPL list and so that PWDs can avail the benefits from Block with the Disability Certificate only?
- c. Follow-up with the assurance provided by the Chief Minister - Dr. Mukul Sangma on "waiver of interest on loans provided to persons with disabilities"
- d. Dialogue with Headman to ensure "PWDs are enlisted in the BPL list"
- e. Submit a list of medicines required to Medical Health Officer – CHC Mairang
- f. Training for Doctors in CHC so that they can give Disability certificate to the PWDs.
- g. Lobby to ensure Disability Certificates are issued at CHC level
- h. Follow-up with the formation of - Social-Audit Committee at Block level (Refer Govt. Order - Meghalaya)
- i. Increase the stipend during vocational training from Rs.500/- to Rs. 1000/-
- j. Follow-up of the memorandum submitted to DC and Headman

6. Key success of the "Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months" are:

- a. 15th of Sep of every year has been designated as a day to address the grievances of persons with disabilities by the Govt. of Meghalaya
- b. Submission of memorandum on issues of persons with disabilities to District Collector and Head Man
- c. District Seminar on NHFDC at West Khasi Hills on 20th Aug 2011
- d. Awareness programmes on National Trust
- e. Forming of Parents Association of Persons with Disabilities in Mawkyrwat, West Khasi Hills
- f. Formation of block level DPO
- g. Leadership training for DPOs

7. Feedback/ Suggestion for the next DAP:

- a. All DLI Partners need to join together – to develop and submit a Joint memorandum across the District
- b. We need to invite Govt. representative who can implement and decide – for example - the DC, Disability Commissioner, MLA, Additional Chief Secretary etc.
- c. We need to brief the Officer concerned before the Programme

8. Session on Advocacy:

- a. Difference between Problem and Issues.
- b. How to advocate?
- c. Identify the issues
- d. Setting objectives - Immediate /now and long run/after a period of time

- e. Stake holder analysis/who are the people involved/victims and helpers
- f. Identify partners
- g. Plan Activities/ what and when to do, targets
- h. Monitoring, evaluating and documenting

9. Session on Human Rights Principles and its application in our work:

- a. Dignity, Participation, Inclusion, Accessibility, Non Discrimination, Autonomy and Respect for difference
- b. Following discussion, the participants shared the following practical ways of practicing Human Rights Principle in our work:
 - i. Involving everybody in the meeting and asking opinion.
 - ii. Accessibility - meeting held in access place and helping HI members to understand
 - iii. Non Discrimination - in terms of sex, age gender tribe caste and religion.
 - iv. Equal participation of deaf people
 - v. Speaking in Local Language
 - vi. DPO take their decision to do the task and present
 - vii. Accepting difference or non-judgmental attitude
 - viii. Invite all types of disability to a meeting
 - ix. Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual disability

10. Presentation and discussion on the DAP strategy for 2011-12

11. Discussion on "How to write a memorandum?"

- a. Identify the issues
- b. Memorandum should be precise/ clear/ giving appropriate data
- c. Addressing to the specific concern officials
- d. Forward copy to the higher authority
- e. Have a follow up plan
- f. Timely
- g. Collaborate across networks
- h. The memorandum should be discussed in the DPO meetings
- i. Press release of the Memorandum
- j. Refer to the relevant Policy and Act

12. Updates on current developments:

- a. New Bill on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- b. MPLAD Funds for Persons with Disabilities (Refer Annexure 3)

13. Meeting with Partner NGOs from Tripura:

I had a meeting with the 3 partners from Tripura (BHA, VHAT and ORS) on 26th Sep 2011 (after the 1st Day - DAP at Well Spring Society) at Wells Springs Society Office, Mairang. They informed me that they could not benefit much from the DAP at Well Springs as the language used during the meeting was Khasi and English - hence I suggested that for the next DAP they could join the DAP at

Swabalambi at Guwahati - as the language used is Assamese and Hindi. The partners and DPO leaders from Tripura informed that they are more familiar with Assamese and Hindi. Secondly they informed that they have a direct train from Tripura to Guwahati and this would be more convenient.

14. Advocacy plan for the coming six months

- a. Write a memorandum to the local MLA for inclusion of PWDs in the BPL list
- b. Availability of medicine for MI, epilepsy, rickets in the CHC and PHCs
- c. Availability of specialist doctors in the Block/ District
- d. Appointment of RT/IE in the Block
- e. Work opportunities under NRGES
- f. Setting of ICDS center in villages with 5-10 household
- g. Celebration of World Disabled Day.
- h. Next month external evaluation



15. Date of next DAP in Nongstoin between 5- 10 March 2011

16. Suggestion and Feedback

- a. Learnt how to write a Memorandum
- b. Learnt how to advocate and use the six points
- c. Participants saw video of VI running a shop independently
- d. Sharing of experience and Knowledge from all the participants through presentations
- e. Six month advocacy Plan
- f. Plan for the Next Advocacy Programme
- g. Good relationship between the CBR staff, DPOs and the govt.department
- h. DPO should prepare presentation on what they have done actively.
- i. To conduct Advocacy Programme in every blocks

17. Close of session

List of Annexures:

1. Memorandum to all the Govt. Dept. of Mairang Sub-Division submitted to BDO on 26th Sep 11
2. Programme Schedule of the DAP on 26th and 27th Sep 11
3. MPLAD Fund

DISABLED PEOPLE ORGANIZATION (DPO) - Under Mairang Block

Memorandum to all the Government Department of Mairang Sub-Division

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Disabled People Organization (DPO) we are extremely grateful of your kind heartedness to give us this opportunity to meet you in person and apprise you of some of the important requirement for the development and sustainability for Person with Disabilities (PWDs) of this area. We trust as the youth and dynamic person of development work. We realized that we fall short of expectation, therefore in order to meet these expectations and fulfillment of the aspirations of PWDs of Mairang Community and Rural development Block we urge you to kindly look into and consider the needs of PWDs for better service and live with dignity in the community as follows:-

- 1) In sufficient medicine in the CHC, PHC and Sub-centers.
- 2) No specialist doctors available in the CHC.
- 3) Delayed of book distribution from SSA
- 4) Schools and road should be accessible
- 5) Lack of specially trained teacher in schools
- 6) No resource teacher/IE in the Block
- 7) In some places there is no ICDS school.
- 8) Proper recognition of Disability ID cards by all Government Department.
- 9) To continue Disabled People to be the poorest of the poor since PWDs do not have equal opportunity with others in the society.
- 10) All PWDs should have separate job card.
- 11) Most deserving PWDs should be included in the BPL list.
- 12) Proper implementation of 3% Reservation in every department.
- 13) PWDs should be given more number of days to work in NREGS.
- 14) Provide training in different trades in Vocational Training Centre
- 15) Increasing the Stipend and Scholarships.

Considering the above statement, we on behalf of the Disable People Organization (DPO) Mairang Block looked forward for your kind consideration and necessary action.

Respectfully Submitted

Thanking You.

Copy to:-

1. Sub-Divisional officer Civil Mairang, Government of Meghalaya.
2. Block Development Officer C&RD Mairang.
3. District Social Welfare Officer Nongstoin.
4. Medical Health Officer CHC Mairang
5. Block Mission Coordinator SSA Mairang.

Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP) - WELLSPRINGS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (WSSS)

Programme Schedule: 26th Sep 2011

VENUE: Election Hall, Sub-Division Office, Mairang

SL.NO	TIME	PROGRAMME
1	10.00 AM	REGISTRATION
2	11.00 AM	WELCOME SPEECH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back ground of the Disability Programme • Focus of the 2 days programme • Role of their DPO for lobby for their Rights-Human Rights and Disability – UNCRPD • Submission of Memorandum
3	11.20 AM	Interaction with Government Officials from Mairang Sub-Division 1. Block Development Officer
4	11.40 AM	TEA BREAK
		2. Health Dept. 3. District Social Welfare Dept. 4. Public Works Department(PWD) 5. Agriculture Dept. 6. Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank(MCAB)
4	1.00 PM	LUNCH
5	2.00 PM	Presentation by the DPO leaders from DLI Partner of West Khasi Hills on “Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nongstoin Social Service Society- NSSS 2. Agency for Sustainable Development Initiative – AFSDI 3. Fatima Sisters 4. Bethany Society Mawkyrwat 5. Wellsprings Social Service Society -WSSS
8	4.30 PM	TEA and Close Session

Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP) - WELLSPRINGS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (WSSS)

Programme Schedule: 26th Sep 2011

VENUE: WELLSPRINGS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

SL.NO	TIME	PROGRAMME
1	9.30 AM	Review of Day 1
2	10.00 AM	Presentation by the DPO leaders from DLI Partner of West Khasi Hills on “Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Society for the Welfare of the Disabled, Shillong 2. Zoram Entu Pawl, Mizoram 3. Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre, Mizoram 4. Centre for Peace and Development, Mizoram 5. Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Tripura 6. Blind and Deaf Association Tripura
3	11.30 AM	TEA BREAK
4	11.45 AM	Human Rights Principle of Dignity, Autonomy , Participation, Inclusion & Accessibility, Non- Discrimination and & Equality Respect for Difference – that should our efforts- Mahesh
5	12.30 PM	Updates and Sharing of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Bill on the Rights of Persons with Disability,2010 • BPL Survey • 12th Five Year Plan • MPLAD Fund • Baseline Data • External Evaluation –Oct 2011
6	1.00 PM	LUNCH
7	2.00 PM	Developing the action plan for the coming 6 months – Group Discussion and Presentation
8	3.30 PM	Date of Next DAP Vote of Thanks Tea and Close of Session

MPLAD funds now to help handicapped

MPs can now spend up to Rs10 lakh from their Member of Parliament Local Area Development fund to assist physically disabled people

New Delhi: Member of Parliaments can now spend up to Rs10 lakh from their Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund to assist physically disabled people, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

The Indian government recently decided to increase the annual entitlement of MPLAD funds of MPs from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore, the Ministry said in a statement here.

"This necessitates a re-look at the entire gamut of operational guidelines and modalities governing the implementation of the MPLAD scheme in order to make them simpler, more user-friendly and to ensure that MPs can use the annual fund in a useful manner at the grass-root level in time every year," it said.

The government has received requests that MPs should be allowed to spend a portion of the MPLAD fund in assisting physically challenged people, it added.

"Although the current MPLAD guideline prohibits assistance to individuals, it has been decided that this condition be relaxed in favour of physically challenged people and henceforth directed that MPs will be allowed to spend a maximum of Rs 10 lakh per year from their MPLAD funds to assist the physically challenged," the statement said, reports IANS.

"In order to ensure that the fund is properly spent, it has been decided that such assistance be given only for the purchase of tri-cycles and artificial limbs for differently-abled people. Directions have been issued that all applications for such assistance be examined and approved by the chief medical officer (CMO) of the district," it added.

Rs 10 lakh from MPLADS for assistance to physically challenged

NEW DELHI: Members of Parliament can soon spend up to Rs 10 lakh every year from their Local Area Development fund for providing assistance to the physically challenged.

This provision will come into effect from June 1, according to a statement by the statistics and programme implementation ministry.

The physically challenged can use the money only for purchase of tricycles and artificial limbs after proper verification from chief medical officer. "This was decided to ensure proper utilization of assistance," said an official.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-05-07/india/29519846_1_mplads-assistance-ministry