

**Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP)
Swabalambi, Sonapur, Guwahati
29th and 30th September 2011**

Documented by: C. Mahesh, CBR Forum and Swabalambi

The DAP was held at Swabalambi, Sonapur, Guwahati on 29th and 30th September 2011, where the following CBR Partners – 4 from Nagaland, 4 from Assam and 1 partner NGO from Manipur Participated. The invitees for the programme included – Representative of Minister of Social Welfare, Block President – Timoria Block, Gram Panchayat President, Social Entrepreneurs.

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 60 (approx.) 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 10 Partner NGOs in Manipur, Assam and Nagaland:

SINo	Name of Partner NGO	CBR Staff	DPO Representative
CBR Partner NGOs – Manipur			
1	UVYC	KH Brojen, CBR Coordinator	T. Guneshwor Singh
CBR Partner NGOs – Assam			
1	ACRD	Mansingh	Kulenderjit Burman
2	Swabalambi	Romen, CBR Coord. Meenakshi Kathar, Dilip Das, Usha Paul, Bipin Das	To be updated
3	IIRM	Shahjahan CBRW	To be updated
4	RUWAA	Aichang	Barati Das and Jatin Das
CBR Partner NGOs – Nagaland			
1	Prodigals Home	Katya	Tangit
2	PINF	Akhro	Bidyan
3	DAN	Toshi	Munu
4	Guardian Angel	Apong	Meriupeni

The key achievements/ results presented by the DPOs following the Advocacy Actions by the partner NGOs from Apr 10 – Sep 11 are:

1. Inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools
2. Block level assessment camp to issue Medical/ Disability Certificate for persons with disabilities
3. Persons with disabilities getting Job Card under NREGA (however they are not getting the jobs – and DPOs are lobbying for the same)
4. Issues of Children with Disabilities presented to the Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (happened in Manipur)
5. Lobbying for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the current BPL (Below Poverty Line) Census

Highlight of Day 1

1. The session began on 10 am on 29.9.2011 with CBR Coordinator of Swabalambi Ramen Kathar welcoming Mahesh Chandrasekhar and the participants. This was followed by self-introduction of the partners and participants.
2. Mahesh Chandrasekhar greeted all the participants and briefed them on the background of DAP, the role of DPOs for advocacy of Rights, Human Right and Disability based on UNCRPD. There was also an interaction between the DPO members and Mahesh before the presentations by the Assam and Manipur DPO Federations.
3. **Presentation by DPO leaders - Swabalambi, Assam:** The first presentation at 10.30 am was Swabalambi, Assam presented together by DPO leaders Tirtha Newar and Kanchan Kumari as follows :-
 - a. During the last 6 months the Block level DPO of Swabalambi have facilitated ID cards for the PWDs from the Social Welfare Dept. Guwahati.
 - b. The DPO has been successful in lobbying for Block Level Assessment Camp which was a great relief for the PWDs after transport cost has been hiked.
 - c. The DPO has applied / submitted for indent at the local PHCs for prescribed medicines for cases with Mental Illness and Neurological problems.
 - d. Monitoring by the DPO in ICDS schools for barrier free environment.
 - e. Interaction with ICDS personals.
 - f. Interaction with the GP leaders for IAY houses and Disability Pension (IGNDP) for the eligible PWDs in the village
4. **Presentation by DPO leaders – RWUAA, Assam:** Presented by DPO leaders Jatin Das and Beauty Das as follows:
 - a. 4 DPOs formed at 06 GPs out of 08 GPs.
 - b. Awareness and sensitization programs on immunization for pregnant women in 02 GPs.
 - c. Bank linkage to DPOs
 - d. Bank level Advocacy Programme.
 - e. Job Card Application.
 - f. Sensitization of AYUSH

5. **Presentation by DPO leaders – ACRD, Assam** was conducted by DPO Leader Kulendranath Barman as follows.
 - a. Regular visit ICDS centres and schools for enrolment.
 - b. BPL list to include PWDs.
 - c. ID cards for DPOs.
 - d. Include PWDs at Gram Sabhas.
 - e. Assessment of PWDs at Block level.
 - f. Loan for 07 PWDs.
6. **Presentation by DPO leaders – IIRM, Tezpur, Assam** was done by DPO leader on the following:
 - a. Involved the community people in DPO Meetings.
 - b. Formation of DPOs, conduct monthly meeting and discuss about the future and current scenario.
 - c. DPO leader Ujjal availed Disability Certificate and the documents for ID Cards for the rest of PWD
 - d. In process.
 - e. Linkage with bank for opening account.
 - f. Awareness of Govt. scheme such as Kalpataru Dainik Bhata and IAY
7. **Presentation by DPO leaders - UVYC, Manipur:** The Coordinator of UVYC, Manipur and DPO leader's Tongbram Guneshwor Singh, Asst. Secretary, Disabled People's Organisation, Bishnupur District, Manipur presented

Areas	Activities	Achievement
Education		
Accessibility issues for school going children		
CWDs are enrolled in a regular school without making any changes in the school to accommodate and diverse support needs neglecting the provisions of SSA, RTE and PWD Act etc.		
The whole thought/intention of the parents that is to send their children in the school, prepare for their life, accepted by peers, having friends and moves from the position of dependency to autonomy, have a regular and normal life is reversed- dreams shattered, Joy of pride vanished and feelings of guilt sets in. The feelings of failure is reflected on the CWDs and this effect the upbringing badly, which would not have been otherwise.		
1 Classrooms – are not accessible	1 Visited the CWDs and their respective schools for assessment of fact findings.	1 Assessing the fact issues we facilitate in making complaints from CWDs/Parents.
2 Toilets– are not accessible. It is a matter of privacy especially for the young girls and moreover without toileting for the whole school hours or days	2 Talk with the school authorities for reducing the issues reminding that it's the responsibility of the school authority or teachers.	2 No positive action was taken up by the concerns.
	3 Collaborated with the	3 We are fully cooperated by the MACR & NCPCR. This is the 1st time the cases of disabled children were heard in a public hearing. Earlier it was

<p>is causing untold misery to the CWDs.</p> <p>3 No Special teaching materials and trained teachers – CWDs leads to apart from inclusive setting, integration and mainstreaming.</p> <p>4 Benefit schemes- Scholarship, Midday meal, Free text books and uniforms etc are not getting properly/fully</p>	<p>Manipur Alliance for Child Rights and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights during their visit to Manipur from 24 _ 26 May, 2011, We highlighted the issues of CWDs during a meeting on 24th May 2011 at Hotel Imphal.</p> <p>4 We have submitted applications on the issues to the Education Director (School) on 17th June 2011 and the same to NCPCR through MACR.</p>	<p>the cases of HIV/AIDS and Drug abused, Child trafficking, Child labour etc.</p> <p>4 The jury members took notice of the cases and instructions were given to the concern departments (SSA/Edn. Dept. & Social Welfare). The action taken report of the same should also be sent to the NCPCR within one month from the date.</p> <p>Major Outcome: The school authorities along with the concern department officials came to the CWDs at their respective homes and asked for opening Bank Accounts in the name of the CWDs for Benefit schemes.</p>
<p>NEED ASSESSMENT/MEDICAL ASSESSMENT</p>		
<p>Medical Certification</p> <p>There is less opportunity and choices for the multiple and severe disabled persons who are in the anterior part of the village, less transportation facility and having difficulty with their mobility for having a disabled certificate thus remains escaping from the benefit schemes. And moreover the only one disabled certificate issuing authority is stationed at the heart of the city which is more than 40-60 Kms.</p>	<p>1 We the DPO members highlighted the issues to the District Social Welfare officer and proposed for organizing Block wise Medical Assessment camp for the last months.</p> <p>2 We have conducted publicity by using loud speaker to the villages on the day before the camp.</p> <p>3 On the day of the camp we provide transportation facility by using one diesel Auto</p>	

LIVELIHOOD/EMPOWERMENT		
<p>A) Separate NREGS job cards for PWDs</p> <p>There are PWDs who are able to work in the NREGS and does not have the opportunity as there was no name in the family job cards and overprotection or low expectation of the family members whereby rejected and excluded from the community life ;they become victims and object of pity not agent able to make a difference. The negative attitudes and low expectation leads PWDs to feel disempowered- to feel unable to do anything or to change their own lives, to feel worthless and incapable and to have low self-image and low self-esteem.</p>	<p>We approached the Pradhan, members of the villages for issuing separate job cards of PWDs by narrating and made them understand the issues along with request applications from the DPO.</p>	<p>Some of the Pradhan/members are accepted and we are able to have 12 separate job cards during this reporting period of 6 months(April 2011- September 2011)</p>
<p>B) DISEMPOWERMENT OF PWDs</p> <p>PWDs are always overprotected or low estimated by the family members and community whereby rejected and excluded from the community life; they become victims and</p>	<p>We have facilitated the PWDs by motivating and participation in the CBR training programmed of UVYC and other District and State level programmed as facilitator or participant specially on the area of Empowerment</p>	<p>1 Now PWDs are come out and actively participated with contributions in the decision making process &activities of the group as well as in social activities.</p> <p>2 Peer support, alliance and partnership are existing.</p>

<p>object of pity not agent able to make a difference. The negative attitudes and low expectation leads PWDs to feel disempowered- to feel unable to do anything or to change their own lives, to feel worthless and incapable and to have low self-image and low self-esteem. And PWDS are remain a silent spectators when there is deprived of ones right as mindset is passive receivers.</p>		
<p>C) Enhancement of livelihood activities: PWDS are generally having less livelihood opportunities due to lack of skill and choices resulting to dependency.</p>	<p>PWDs who have trained and having skills were engaged as resource persons in the skill training programme of CBR, UVYC .</p>	<p>20 PWDs have benefited through 3 - days training programme on mat making and Mora making.</p>
<p>D) Follow up the case of RK Samananda Singh, who was apprehended by police and now released after jailed in connection with the used by one militant outfit for illegal monetary demand from the public.</p>	<p>The DPO members visited the police station at regular interval and discussed for closing the case.</p>	<p>It is on process. As of now, he is working as a handy man in a local taxi and involved in the group activities.</p>

8. Discussions following the presentation:

- a. With the Block level Assessment Camps for disability Card and Medical Certificate - in Assam Medical Certificate from Government Doctors determining the percentage of Disability is no longer a major issue

- b. Discussion on IGND Pension and State Level Disability Pension. The NE states except Assam have the State Govt. Disability Pension in place. This pension is for all PWDs who have above 40% disability. In Assam the IGNDP is only for PWDs above 80 % which has deprived the rest.
 - c. There is a common concern for the CWDs in the village schools which have very limited resource for the CWDs. There is a great need for Trained Teachers from SSA in the village schools. In Assam there is only 01 Resource Teacher in each Block of the state.
 - d. The need for inclusion of PWDs in the BPL Census that is coming up is very vital.
 - e. There is a need for facilitating Income Generation Activities program at Block level.
 - f. We need to work with stake holders to ensure the utilization of 3 % Reservation at all level.
 - g. Availability of Free Medicine for Mental Illness and Neurological conditions at the PHCs for prevention of relapse is needed.
 - h. Network with the stakeholders for allotment of work under MGNREGA.
 - i. Lobby for good sanitation and low cost latrines in the villages.
 - j. Lobby for Barrier free environment in schools and at all places.
9. **Post Lunch Session:** Started by Suchismita Majumdar of Swabalambi welcoming the guests, from the Govt./PRI and others .The Minister of Social Welfare, Assam and the MLA of the Constituency Mr. Akon Bora failed to show up at the Meeting as assured. He sent his representative to meet the participants. The guest included Mr. Gopal Sharma, Representative of Minister, Social Welfare, Mr. Jadav Boro, Congress President of Dimoria Block, Mr. Sahidul Rehman, President of Sonapur Gaon panchayat, Ms. Arzoo Dutta, Senior Consultant, WHO, Ms. Ambalika Senapati and Ms. Emily Dey of Disability Law Unit, Northeast, Shishu Sarothi, Ms.Asha Bora,Enterprenuer and Activist for Empowerment of Rural Disabled Women and others, Media Persons from DY365, NE TV and News Times Assam. State Level DPO Leader Mr. Anil Talukdar.
10. **Issues presented/ discussed with the above officials:** Based on the morning discussions, the Block Level DPO leader of Swabalambi Tirtha Newar shared the following problems/issues with the Officials present:
- a. Block Level Assessment Camp for Disability Certificates for PWDs
 - b. IGNDP Disability Pension
 - c. State Disability Pension should be included as 3% of the total Social Welfare Department Budget of the states.
 - d. Appointment of trained /special teachers by SSA
 - e. State Govt. rule for Right to Education Act for appropriate education of CWDs and others.
 - f. Inclusion of PWDs in the BPL Census.
 - g. Accessibility in Polling Booths.
 - h. IGA program at Block level
 - i. Socio Economic & Caste Census in states
 - j. Work under MGNREGA for PWDs and others.
11. **End of Day 1:** The first Day session ended with Ramen Kathar thanking all the participants.

Highlights of Day 2:

1. Review of Day 1: The day began with review of the previous day at 9.30 am by Mahesh Chandrasekar and DPO leaders/Coordinators.
2. **Presentation by DPO leaders - Prodigals Home, Dimapur:** At 10.am the DPO leader of Prodigals Home, Dimapur came up with the presentation on Advocacy Action during the last 06 months.

Sl. No.	Issues	Outcome
1.	Exam syllabus for CWDs & Special Permission to appear for exam without attending regular classes	DPO & PIMC met the teachers in Sarbn ME School & permission granted with syllabus issued.
2.	Individual BPL card	Submission of list of P WDs to Director, Food & Civil Supply, who forwarded it to Asst. Director, Food & Civil Supply to put up the file in process.
3.	Creating separate Reg. for PWDs & barrier Free environment on the ground floor & issue of temporary certificates for PWDs - Reviving Audiometer Machine	-By follow up letters of Memorandum submitted to Medical Superintendent for improving facilities for PWDs at District Hospitals the DPOs have been successful in forming Separate Registration Counter for PWDs, Barrier Free Environment to be Formulated in new buildings Audiometer machine revived and will be Made mandatory for Doctors in Medical Board.
4.	Free Travel in Govt. Transport	List of PWDs submitted to Manager, Nagaland State Transport and 05 DPOs successfully availed Travel card
5.	Advocacy for accessibility in Middle School , Burma Camp	DPO members met the school authority and was assured to comply and make the CWDs sit in front.

The DPOs and the Coordinators of Assam applauded Prodigal Home's presentation for the innovative move of the DPOs in approaching the right persons like the director of food and Civil a Supply with list of PWDs to be included in the BPL Card list. Then the DPO prepared a list of PWDs and submitted the List of PWDs to the Manager of Nagaland State Transport Corporation for the Free Travel Cards of PWDs. This was learning from Assam partners.

3. Presentation by DPO leaders - PNIF, Nagaland

- a. In the last 06 months 03 DPOs, 05 in process and 40% PWDs identified.
- b. Conducted Community Action Plan (CAP) with DPO members where village council takes part in listening to grievances shared by the PWDs.
- c. DPOs visit 03 schools for barrier free environment.
- d. Representative of DPO monitors the above.

4. Presentation of Development Association of Nagaland (DAN) was done by DPO leader Munnu

- a. Working in 30 villages and 232 PWDs identified.
- b. 10 DPOs formed
- c. 55 PWDs applied for ID Cards and 15 PWDs applied for Free Travel Concession.
- d. 78 PWDs availed Medical Certificates.
- e. Application for BPL Cards for PWDs having Medical Certificates.

5. The last presentation by DPO members was from Guardian Angel as follows:

Sl. No.	Areas	Issues identified	Advocacy Status
1	Education	Scholarship Scheme of CWDs from Social Welfare Department. Exclusion of CWDs from Scholarship scheme	Lobbying with the Dept.
2	Health	Free Disability Certificates and DPOs follow up	PWDs receive Free Disability Certificate
		Social Justice	Lobbying for full payment of Disability Pension against 25% payment.
		Self-Governance: To include disability as a part of Agenda of Village Council Meeting and permission to PWD leaders To attend VCM	To lobby with village council
3	Livelihood	Job cards asked	Lobbying for Job Cards and GPs -To survey and submit PWD details 04 villages agreed to do so with DC's Help and DPOs to follow up with VDB to take up PWD specific Welfare Schemes as activity 05 DPOs doing IGP successfully to (A ids/Appliances, CWDs' education, Skill development repay monthly installment Activity for the unemployed where PWDs take part

4	Social Security	BPL CARD	Submitted list of PWDs to Director, Food & Civil Supply through ADC. The presentations of Nagaland was a learning for the other DPOs to involve the village council in mainstreaming PWDs and effective applications to the concerned officer of Govt. department to avail Travel passes and inclusion of PWDs in the BPL Census.
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TDAP PRESENTATION

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

Education:

- Scholarship Scheme for all CWD's (Social Welfare)
- Exclusion of CWD's sponsored by SSA from Scholarship scheme of Social Welfare Deptt.

Health:

- Free disability certification – to follow up

Livelihood:

- NREGA job cards
- Individual BPL cards.
- Income Generation programmes

Social Justice:

- ID cards
- Disability Pension in full against 25 % payed

Self Governance:

- To include disability issues as part of Agenda of Village council Meetings.
- Permission for PWD leader to attend the Village council meeting
- VDB to take up PWD specific welfare schemes as part of their activity. (Eg. Aids & appliances, Education of CWD's, Skill development trainings for the unemployed where PWD's could be trained together with others.)

ADVOCACY STATUS

1. Education: (Ref. RTE - 2008)

- To lobby with the Department

2. Health: Free Disability Certificate

- 5 Disability Certificates received free of cost

3. Livelihood:

- NREGS Job Card – 2 Village councils have agreed to give Job cards to the PWDs, GB's are asked to do the survey & submit the particulars of PWD's.
- 4 villages have agreed to do the same in consultation with the VDB's (To follow up)
- IGP : 5 DPO's doing IGP successfully, able to repay the seed money in regular monthly instalments
- BPL Card – Submitted the list of 23 PWD's to Deputy Director – Food & Civil Supplies (Incharge), through the ADC's recommendation to put up the file. (Need to follow up)

4. Self Governance:

- To lobby with Village Council

5. Social Justice:

- Identity Cards – 36 PWD's received ID Cards
- Disability Pension – To lobby for full payment & payment of arrears of remaining 75%

DPO FEDERATION – GUARDIAN ANGEL

6. **Session on Human Rights Principles:** After tea break Mahesh interacted with the participants on Human Rights Principles of Dignity, Autonomy, participation, Inclusion & Accessibility, Nondiscrimination & Equality, Respect for Difference.
7. **Session on New Draft Bill on Rights of PWDs 2011:** The next session by Mahesh highlighted the New Draft Bill on Rights of PWDs 2011 which has the penal component and more emphasis on women with disabilities, children with disabilities and persons with multiple disabilities to exercise their human rights in accordance with the UNCRPD.
8. **Information on:**
 - a. External Evaluation of CBRF coming up in October 2011
 - b. 12th Five Year Plan.
 - c. The DPOs were oriented on availing funds from MPLAD fund and local MLA Fund which has Rs. 10, 00,000/- reserved for the Disability sector.
9. **Session on “How to prepare for a DAP?”**
 - a. Identify the needs (Individual problems or needs) and issues (common problems/needs of a group
 - b. The need to have a short term and long term goals.
10. **Session on “How to write Memorandum”**
 - a. Identify the problem and send to the concerned department.
 - b. Provide the data
 - c. Make it clear and specific
 - d. Make it timely.
 - e. Follow up.
 - f. Discuss with DPO members
 - g. Refer to ACT/POLICY when programming
 - h. Mark a copy to higher Authority
 - i. Copy to other state DPO network
 - j. Acknowledgement

11. **Advocacy Action Plan for the next 6 Months:** Based on the issues and discussions the participants agreed upon the following Advocacy Action Plan for the next 6 Months:
 - a. To follow up with BPL Cards
 - b. To submit memorandum and follow up
 - c. One Advocacy in every partner's area and link up with World Disability Day.
 - d. Examples of how we are practicing Human Rights
 - e. Plan for all DPOs includes networking with the Government and other stakeholders in all issues of PWDs, CWDs and women with disabilities.
 - f. The DPOs would also network with the media for publicity of the issues.
 - g. There will be sharing among the DPOs of the North Eastern states both on success and failure so that DPOs work for a common goal.
12. Mahesh in consultation with the participants fixed the next venue of DAP Meeting on March 2012 at Swabalambi preferably at the BDO's campus, Sonapur, Dimoria Block, Kamrup Dist. Assam. He also suggested that DAP programme must be in a place which is accessible by the Govt. officials and in a place to make the community aware about DAP programs in the area for more effective DAP programs
13. **The next date of DAP at Swalambi 9th and 10th March 2012**
14. The meeting ended with vote of thanks

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**Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP) at
Swabalambi, Kamrup District, Guwahati
On 29th and 30th Sep 2011**

Tentative Agenda

Day 1	Venue: Swabalambi, Sonapur NH 47, Forest Range Office	
		Registration
1	10.00 am	Welcome Background of the Disability Advocacy Programme (DAP) The key focus of the 2-day programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the DPO in lobby for their Rights, Human Rights and Disability – based on UNCRPD
2	10.30 am	Presentation by the DPO Federation Leaders from CBR Partner NGOs on “Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swabalambi, Assam 2. Assam Centre for Rural Development, Assam 3. RWUAA, Assam 4. IIRM, Assam 5. United Voluntary Youth Council (UVYC), Manipur
3	11.30 am	Group Discussion based on the presentations and discussions (Need chart paper, marker pens, clips to display charts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying issues/ key areas of interventions in the coming 6 months
4	01.00 pm	Lunch
5	02.00 pm	Interaction with Govt. Officials/ PRI Members/ People’s Representatives/ Service Organizations/ State Level DPO leaders <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.
6	04.30 pm	Consolidation and close of session

Day 2		Venue: Swabalambi Office
1	09.30 am	Review of Day 1
	10.00 am	<p>Presentation by the DPO Federation Leaders from CBR Partner NGOs on “Advocacy Actions during the last 6 months”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prodigals’ Home, Nagaland 2. People in Need Foundation, Nagaland 3. Development Association of Nagaland (DAN) , Nagaland 4. Guardian Angel, Nagaland
2	10.45 am	Tea
3	11.00 am	Human Rights Principles of Dignity, Autonomy, Participation, Inclusion & Accessibility, Non-Discrimination & Equality, Respect for Difference
4	11.30 am	<p>Updates/ Sharing of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Bill on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2010 • External Evaluation – Oct 2011 • 12th Five Year Plan • MPLAD Fund • ... •
5	12.00 am	Developing the action plan in the coming 6 months
6	01.15 pm	<p>Date of next DAP</p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Close of session</p>
7	01.30 pm	Lunch and Close of Session