

**REPORT OF THIRD INTERNATIONAL COURSE  
ON  
COMMUNITY REHABILITATION(CBR)**

Organized by  
Disability Studies Unit  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya  
SRI LANKA

October 1995.

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Prepared by

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## REPORT ON THIRD INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION

Purpose for my invitation to the course.

Ministry of gender and community development invited the following to the CBR course:

Dr Baingana Nganwa, Ministry of Health (MOH)

Ms Phoebe Katende, Ministry of Gender and Community  
Development (MG&CD).

Ms Veronica Mpagi, Ministry of Education (MOE)

My previous work among disabled children and CBR programmes while in Mulago hospital involved collaboration with the CBR unit in the ministry of Gender and Community Development and special education in the Ministry of Education. Three of us named above were invited to participate in the course in order to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the three ministries that address disability issues.

My objective in attending the course was to:

- \* Gather information and data for comprehensive intervention in disability by Ministry of health.
- \* Acquire knowledge concerning policies and guidelines for medical rehabilitation programmes.
- \* Exchange experience and knowledge with other CBR and rehabilitation practitioners.
- \* Acquire research information and skills targeting disability.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

In order to promote Community-Based Rehabilitation, the Course will aim at enhancing teaching and managerial capabilities of participants.

To achieve this overall objective, the Course will aim specifically at developing in participants necessary attitudes, knowledge and skills so that they will be able to;



- (i) respond with sensitivity to needs of people who have disabilities, their communities, and promote their empowerment.
- (ii) assist/support communities to plan, implement and monitor their own programmes.
- (iii) analyze community structures, activities, resources and support systems, and facilitate/promote their coordinated use.
- (iv) make detailed plans for phased district / regional programme development.
- (v) interact and collaborate effectively as members of interdisciplinary groups.

#### COURSE CONTENT

The course covered four major areas:

- > Disability concepts
- > Community-level technology
- > Field study and analysis
- > Rehabilitation programme development

Throughout the course, World Health Organisation policies, documents and instruments were emphasised as important tools in rehabilitation.

As part of rehabilitation programme development, the three Ugandan participants designed a one year proposal whose aim is to increase cooperation and collaboration between the three key ministries (MOH, MOE, and MG&CD) at National level and in six districts where both special education and government CBR programmes are well established ( appendix I).

#### COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Participants were all rehabilitation practitioners from social work, health, education professions. A few were trainers of facilitators and trainers of trainers. They came from Uganda, China, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Myanmar, Namibia, Norway, Sri Lanka and Yemen.



Information and experiences shared were as interesting as they were diverse. However, some experiences were common to all of us except Norway -- examples are war and conflict, poverty, the relationship between North and south and attitude towards disability.

#### OUTCOME OF THE COURSE

The course objectives were largely met especially that of developing in participants knowledge and skills for rehabilitation. The course also encouraged participants to continue the struggle to bring services as close to people with disabilities as possible using existing and often limited resources.

Attached is a copy of the course certificate.

All my objectives were met except the one concerning research techniques in disability.

I hope the ministry of health will provide an opportunity for utilization of the knowledge and skills acquired by:

- \* Studying and implementing the one year proposal whose aim is to encourage cooperation and collaboration between MOH, MOE, and MG&CD in order to better tap resources at district and sub-county level.
- \* Creating ample opportunity for the implementation of the proposal on "*Development of Policies and Guidelines for Medical Rehabilitation of People with disabilities.*"
- \* Including disability issues in the ministry's primary health care strategies.

#### APPRECIATION

Special thanks go to the Norwegian Association of Disabled Persons (NAD) which kindly sponsored my course fee, accommodation and round trip travel costs to Sri Lanka.

I would also like to thank the Director General, Ministry of Health who granted me permission to attend the course and Dr Alia, Entebbe Grade A Hospital who ably covered my duties while I was away from the station.



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