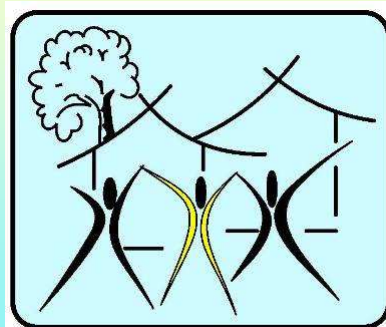


Interface between DPOs and CBR

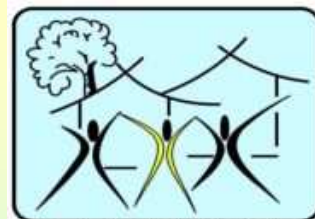
Experiences of CBR Forum and its Partner NGOs



Community Based Rehabilitation Forum

CBR Forum, Bangalore, India

- Established in 1996 (12 Years ago), engaged in promoting CBR in remote/ rural/ least served areas
- Our purpose is to work with
 - all Persons with Disabilities, their families, communities, organizations and institutions
 - on empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
 - by facilitating disabled people's organizations
 - to address the gaps that exist at various levels
- Currently we are working in partnership with over 80 Partner NGOs in 17 states, reaching out to approximately 40,000 Persons with Disabilities



Community Based Rehabilitation Forum



Interface between DPOs and CBR

- This presentation is based on the work of CBR Forum and our partner NGOs
- The presentation focuses on our experiences of working with our partner NGOs in promoting the
- **“Taluk/ Block Level Disability Advocacy Programmes” (TDAP)**



Taluk (Block) Disability Advocacy Programme (TDAP)

- A strategy to build capacities of Disabled People's Organisation at Village/ Block
- It is a means of getting village level DPOs to work together at the Taluk/Block
- It is a means of involving the DPOs in undertaking sustained lobbying with the Govt./ elected representatives



The Design of TDAP

- As part of TDAP, the field area of one partner NGO in the State/ Region is chosen as the training ground
- CBR Coordinators from the State/ Region are invited to participate in the TDAP process



The Design of TDAP...Continued

- TDAP is a 2 day event
- **The first day** is for interactions with the DPO and local elected representatives/ Govt. Officials
- **The Second day** is for working with the CBR Staff and CBR Coordinators from the State/ Region
- **Follow-up TDAP programmes are held once every 6 months without fail**
- **With this approach we are able to reach out to 80 Partner NGOs working in 2400 villages**



Process adopted on Day 1 of TDAP – At the beginning of the relationship

- The local partner NGO organises this 1-day event in the community where,
- Persons with Disabilities who are the members of the local DPO are invited
- On an average there are 60-100 persons with disabilities
- **This event is usually organised in a meeting Hall that is within the premises of the Panchayat/ Block/ District level administration – this move makes the administration notice persons with disabilities**



Process adopted on Day 1 of TDAP – At the beginning of the relationship

- An environment is created so that the delegates are able to freely interact on the issues faced by them
- The Agenda includes - Structured session on
 - Disability, Discrimination and Human Rights
 - The Laws, Policies and Programmes
 - The current practices
- The CBR Coordinators from the region share their experiences with the group
- **At the end of the day there is a list of doable Advocacy actions by the DPO with appropriate plan for follow-up**



Process adopted on Day 1 of TDAP – As the relationship progresses

- As this process gains momentum and strength, in the subsequent TDAP sessions,
- Day 1 is used as a “Disability Adalat/ Public Hearing”
- The BDO and Govt. officials from the Block, Panchayat Members, Lead Bank Mangers, elected representatives are invited
- The DPO leaders/ representatives are supported by the partner NGOs to come prepared with evidences and written representation
- The DPO leaders/ representative present these issues during the public hearing
- Assurances from the Govt. are sought and are followed-up by the DPOs
- Representatives from the media are invited to cover this event



Process adopted in Day 2 of TDAP

- The programme of Day 1 is reflected by the CBR Personnel and CBR Coordinators from the state/ region
- Each CBR Coordinator from the State/ region presents progress of their CBR Advocacy Plans and these are critically reviewed
- New developments/ information on Disability Rights/ Advocacy are shared/ discussed
- Individual advocacy plans for the next 6 months are developed and presented by the CBR Coordinator
- While presenting the CBR Coordinator should demonstrate how -
 - The Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be promoted and Protected and on
 - How the SHGs/ DPOs are going to get stronger in this process



The following are the Key Learning's/ Outcomes from the various TDAP



IRCDS Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu



This is a picture of an Advocacy Programme held in Aug 2008, where more than 100 persons with disabilities participated

The District Panchayat (Local Self Govt.) President and other officials from different Govt. Departments and Lead Bank Manager were present



IRCDS Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu



In a subsequent programme, the DPOs sought appointment with the District Collector and based on the provisions under the Persons with Disabilities Act presented their issues during the monthly “**Public Grievance Day**” in which all the 150+ Govt. Officials from the District were present



Some of the major achievements following the TDAP at IRCDS Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu

- It is for the first time in the state that 43 SHGs of persons with disabilities have been sanctioned Rs. 60,000/- under Govt. SGSY Scheme for livelihood (a scheme that is given to Women’s Groups Only)
- Orders have been passed to ensure all Gram Panchayat (local self Govt.) allocate and utilize 3% of the development funds for persons with disabilities

Using Right to Information Act (RTI) the DPOs have

- Ensured that 3% of the houses built under Govt. Housing scheme are allocated to PWDs (6 of 266 houses)
- Based on the circular issued by DRDA (Dist. Rural Development Agency) the DPOs have asked the Govt. to give an account of the number of buildings in the Taluk/ District that have been made accessible.
- They have asked the concerned authorities to give an account of the number of Job cards issued and the number of PWDs who have been given jobs under NREGA
- Panchayat authorities were asked to give an account of the manner in which 3% development funds were utilized for PWDs



UMVK, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

- Here the DPOs have succeeded in ensuring the involvement of Govt. Authorities like - Gram Sarpanch, MPTC (Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency) member, Health Worker, Representative from NREGA programme in the SHGs meeting
- Members of DPOs are also invited to attend the monthly Gram Sabha (Village Meeting)
- Local DPOs have linked up with the State Level Federations of DPOs

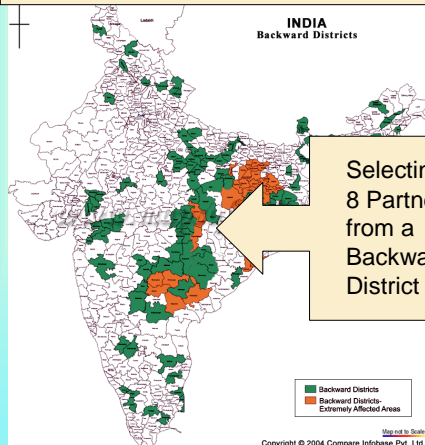


**The positive experiences/
learning from the TDAP has
been one of the factors that has
influenced the
Repositioning of CBR Forum**

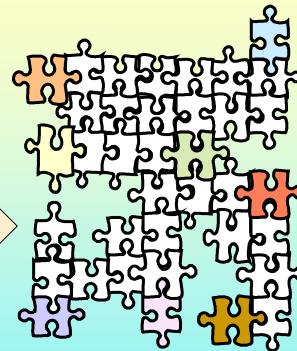
Accordingly our work in the future
is aimed at strengthening the
District Level Initiatives (DLI)

CBR Forum's strategy to work with District level DPOs

Identifying Backward Districts from the 3 Regions (East, North East and South)



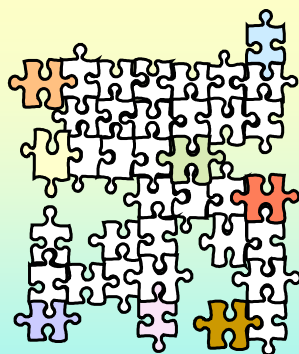
Selecting 8 Partners from a Backward District



Work from Phase 1 to 3

(Year 1 to 5)

- Each partner covers **30-40 villages** and **ear-marks the area for future expansion** in view of covering the entire District between them.
- Work is centered around – **Identification of Persons with disabilities**
- Linkages** will be established **with resources** in view of addressing essential needs of PWDs in the short term
- Primary Focus: Forming/ strengthening 30-40 Disabled People's Groups** representing village/ GP/ Partner level

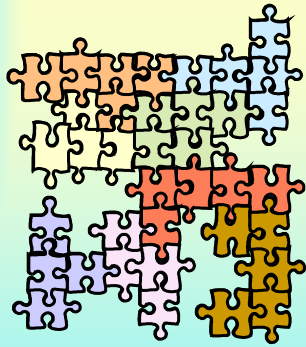


30-40 villages covered by each of 8 Partners



Work from Phase 4 to 6

(Year 6-10)

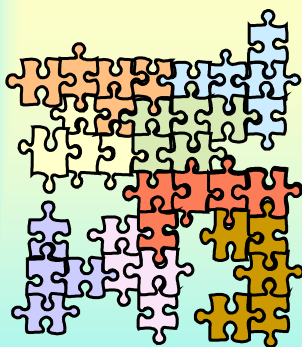


1 Federation by each partner

- Each partner **federates the PWDs into a Disabled People's Organisation** representing village/ GP/ Partner level.
- **Through the DPO** plan to reach out to other disabled people from the adjacent villages/ blocks of the partner – so that the partners are able to **cover the district**.
- **The DPO works hand in hand with local Government** Institutions (Panchayath Raj Institution) and **builds pressure** on Government authorities at various levels to ensure that services are available to address the needs of PWDs.

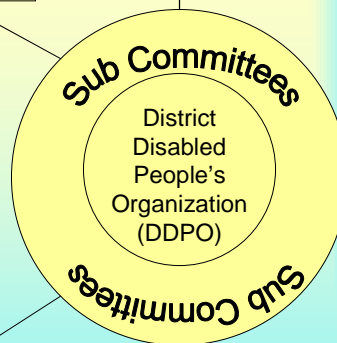


Work from Phase 4 to 6



8 Federations in Each District

10 leaders from each of the 8 federations at the partner level groomed as leaders to form



Social Justice

Livelihood

Health

Education



In conclusion

- This process is creating greater visibility of PWDs and their issues in the decision making forums at the Panchayat/ Block/ District level
- **6 Monthly Follow-up of the TDAP programme has ensured the success of the initiatives**
- The TDAP Process is facilitating the linking up of local SHGs/ DPOs promoted by the CBR Programme with the larger disability movement such as the State Level DPOs



In conclusion...Continued...

- TDAP experiences have demonstrated practical ways by which CBR programmes can engage with DPOs/ persons with disabilities from rural/ tribal communities in:
 - addressing the discrimination/ lack of opportunities experienced by persons with disabilities;
 - establishing direct linkages between SHGs/ DPOs and the Govt./ Panchayat/ Elected representatives
 - in strengthening/ building capacities of SHGs/ DPOs in facilitating a move beyond the project framework





“Namaste”

Thanking you
for your time

For further details or information
please contact:

C. Mahesh
Advocacy Coordinator
CBR Forum
14, C.K Garden, Wheelers Road Extn.,
St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore – 560 084
Tel: +91-80- 2549 7387
advocacy.cbrforum@gmail.com
admin@cbrforum.in
www.cbrforum.in