

From Local to Global Level. Community Based Rehabilitation – a Strategy for Achieving Inclusive Development (03 to 04 May 2012, Bonn, Germany)

Thursday, 03 May, 2012

Working Group 1: Empowerment

Experts:

- Svein Brodtkorb (Norwegian Association of Disabled, NAD / Norway): Empowerment on the national level
- Balakrishna Venkatesh (India): Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their families (local)

Facilitator: Johanna Kern

Questions for analysis of the experts' inputs on local practice in Norway and India:

1. Where do you place your project / program within the CBR matrix? (*component / elements*) – What are typical characteristics of the CBR approach in the NGO projects / programs presented? (*CBR principles and strategies such as: inclusion, empowerment, sustainability; community participation and solidarity, non-institutional, important role of non-professionals / family members, neighbours etc.; accessibility / barrier-free environment; social justice / human rights based approach; socio-economic development / poverty reduction*) – What is the role of Empowerment in the presented local practice examples for the entire CBR context? (*cross cutting issue*)
 - the projects presented link a variety of elements and components of the CBR-Matrix; good (empowerment) projects and programmes should cover a spectrum of different spheres of life in order to promote inclusive development
2. Which measures could not be implemented? Why?
 - the most difficult part was to “get started”
 - a crucial point for the success of a project was the self-perception of PWDs and the question of how we can change this self-perception (provision of information is important but even more important are “agents of change” who can function as catalysts)
 - due to the lack of infrastructure and resources it was hard to scale up projects
 - a successful project stands and falls with the right ownership

Questions for further discussion:

3. What is necessary in order to expand a local CBR project / program to a regional and national program?

- good public relations work is understated and broadly ignored as a good means for scaling up
- networking, public communication and advocacy need to go hand in hand in order to succeed
- a holistic approach from different levels (top-down and bottom-up approaches, focussing on different target groups) is necessary
- cooperation with “duty bearers” should be strengthened without losing ownership of the “rights holders”
- state governments should publicly be held accountable for their commitments to international treatments such as the CRPD
- recognize windows of opportunity and seize them (sports like the Paralympics as promising catalysts)