

REPORT OF WORKSHOP ON REHABILITATION OF PERSONS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

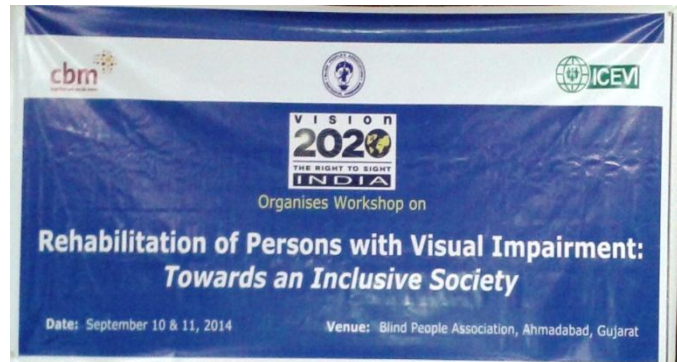
Date: 10th & 11th September, 2014

Venue: Blind People Association, Ahmadabad

10 SEPTEMBER

A total of 52 participants from different Region of India participated in this programme. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. P.K. Pincha, Chief Commissioner, Persons with Disabilities Act, Government of India at 9.30a.m. Mr. Sanjay Nandan, Gujarat State Commissioner, persons with Disabilities Act was also present on the occasion.

The list of participants is enclosed as Annexure-1.



The programme started with a melodious prayer sung by the blind students of the BPA. Dr Phanindra Babu Nukella CEO, VISION 2020- India and Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary, Blind People's Association welcomed the participants. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, Blind People's Association gave the vote of thanks. Dr. Phanindra Babu Nukella set the context of the workshop by explaining the objectives of the workshop namely;

Objectives:

- Identify the gaps in rehabilitation services for Person with Visual Impairment
- Map legal/constitutional rights and schemes and benefits for persons with visual impairment
- Revisit and redefine vision standards for jobs for visually impaired
- Identify advocacy issues for action and offer recommendations to relevant stakeholders towards improving rehabilitation services

The Schedule of the Workshop is enclosed on Annexure-2

SESSION NO.1

The first session started immediately after the inauguration.

The Theme was Revisiting Rehabilitation: Chairperson- Mr Pincha, CCPD, MSJE
Moderator- Mr Y Kripanandam, Assistant Director, NIVH. The Speaker was Dr Bhushan Punani who spoke on "Overview of Rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment in India". He emphasised the nature of changes thus;

- Shift from blindness to all disabilities
- Shift from charity to opportunity
- Advent of Technology
- New Laws on the Anvil
- Changing pattern of disabilities
- Importance of networking for growth

Mrs. Nandini Rawal spoke on Paradigm shift in service delivery models of rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment. The main points ensuing were;

- There are a lot of myths about persons with disabilities
- There is a lot of mislabelling and use of wrong terminology
- The 4 models of disability – charity/religious, medical, social and rights based can be seen in different parts of India
- Need to move away from charity to rights based

Dr Vimal Dengla, NAB P&NM Centre, Mount Abu spoke about Inclusive Education: Implementation and Impact. Summary of his submission is as below;

- Historical movement from special school to integrated education to inclusive education
- Provisions under persons with disabilities act 1995
- Inclusion of children with disabilities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- Difficulties in inclusive education
- Need for more NGO participation in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan activities

The next presentation was by students with visual impairment who spoke about their challenges. 6 students, Shruti, Vishal, Jigar, Devendra, Yogesh and Mukesh from different educational programmes in the BPA spoke passionately about how they became blind, the attitude of society, the great role of parents and educators in their rehabilitation and their dreams. All of them requested society to not consider them as different people but as people first who also are like other people.

Mr. Vasant Shendye, Sightsavers spoke about "Empowering and mainstreaming persons with visual impairment through Community Based Rehabilitation". The main points arising are:

- The role of Sightsavers in promoting Community Based Rehabilitation programmes
- The importance of PwDs participating in their own empowerment
- Use of various tools like Right To Information (RTI) for advocacy
- Importance of economic empowerment and networking

POST LUNCH SESSION:

Rights and Advocacy: Chairperson Dr. Bhushan Punani

Mr Pincha, CCPD, MSJE, GoI spoke about "Legislative Rights, Schemes & Benefits for persons with Disabilities for persons with Disabilities". He emphasised the following;

- PwDs are also citizens of the country like other citizens
- There are 4 Acts which relate to persons with disabilities namely; PwD Act, Mental Health Act, National Trust Act and Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act
- Various Schemes and entitlements for persons with disability
- The forthcoming new Bill for PwDs

Mr. Homiyar Mobedji, Enable India spoke on "Innovative ways and Advocacy for Social Inclusion of Persons with Visual Impairment". The main points that arose were;

- Employability of persons with disabilities
- Need for social inclusion of PwDs
- Need to cover PwDs in rural areas

- Job preparedness for PwDs

Role of organisations: Chairperson: Mr George Abraham

Mr Y Krupanandam, NIVH spoke on "Role of NIVH in overall rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment. He spoke how NIVH is working for Education, O & M, Vocational training, Employment & Social Inclusion of people with visual impairment since 1943. He also spoke about diploma in inclusive education run by the institute.

Accessibility

Mr Ranchod Soni spoke about "Assistive devices and technology for persons with visual impairment". The main points were;

- Technology has levelled the playing field for PwDs
- Technology is a must in today's life and PwDs must learn how to use technology to compete

Mr. George Abraham, SCORE Foundation spoke about "Barrier free environment (Physical & Attitudinal) and made a Video presentation on universal design.



Group Work

The last Session consisted of **Group Work** to come out with an **Action Plan** to strengthen

the Rehabilitation Services throughout the country. 4 groups were formed to take the responsibility of identifying common issues and means of resolving them. All the groups made a presentation. The Action Plan is attached on **Annexure-3**.

The participants were taken at night to a dinner hosted by BPA and ICEVI at an open air restaurant called "Madhuli". They were treated to a sumptuous dinner alongwith games, singing and other entertainment.

11 SEPTEMBER

Developmental Aspects: Chairperson: - Dr Sara Varughese **Moderator:-** Dr. Uday Gajiwala

Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Project Director, BPA spoke on Setting up a Rehabilitation Centre, Right from the services on early intervention to social inclusion. She emphasised the following;

- Importance of life cycle approach
- Various service delivery modes
- Single disabilities vs cross disabilities approach

Mr George Abraham, SCORE Foundation spoke about the "Need of research in disability rehabilitation sector by emphasizing the following:

- Need analysis of services in India
- Documentation of good practices

- Launching research scholarships in rehabilitation
- Evidence based research

Service Based: Chairperson: Dr. Col. Deshpande **Moderator:** Mrs Nandini Rawal

Mr Akhil Paul, Sense International spoke about "Rehabilitation services for persons with visual impairment with additional disabilities". His main points were;

- Change in blindness patterns
- Needs of people with dual sensory impairment
- Use of technology
- Importance of communication

Mr. Srinivasan, CBM spoke about "Disability Inclusive Eye Health" and gave details about the history of cbm, the twin track approach and the need to link disability programmes with general development.

The next Session was a Panel Discussion on Rehabilitation – how far are we to holistic approach? The **Panelists** were Mr. Shiva Mohan, Mr. Vasant Shendye, Ms Beula Christy. The joint points that arose were;

- Move from centre based to community based rehabilitation
- Importance of networking between eye hospitals and rehab centres
- Importance of parent counselling and involvement
- Role of media in changing attitudes

Release of CBR Guidelines in Hindi:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the CBR Guidelines in 2010 and this publication describes the CBR strategy for reaching out to PwDs. The publication is based on 5 aspects namely; health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment. This very important publication will be useful in India only if it is available in the regional languages. BPA took upon the responsibility of translation of these guidelines in Hindi with the financial support of AusAid and cbm. This publication in Hindi was released at the hands of Dr. Sara Varughese, Regional Director, cbm.



Release of CBR Guideline in Hindi

POST TEA SESSION:

Vision Standards: Chairperson- Dr JKS Parihar, **Moderator-** Mr. Akhil Paul

Col M Deshpande spoke about "Setting up the context for standardisation of vision standards in jobs/ other benefits" and emphasised the need for reviewing vision standards. Dr JKS Parihar (Army Referral Research Centre) spoke about "Vision standards – from the Defence perspective and mentioned that people who are blinded in the army are reemployed in other skills.

Mr. Dharmendra Jena also spoke on "the importance of vision" but emphasised that people with low vision or blindness could do most jobs with the help of assistive devices and technology. There was a great deal of discussion on these topics and most people felt that already Government of India has a list of identified jobs and these should be looked at. The opinions of blind and visually impaired persons themselves should be incorporated before finalising jobs or vision standards for them.

The workshop ended with the valedictory session which was chaired by Dr. Sara.



Workshop Participants

Anexure-1

S.N.	Speakers Name	Name of Organization
1	Mr Pincha	CCPD
2	Mr Vasant Shende	Sightsavers
3	Dr Sara Varughese	CBM
4	Mr. Srinivasan	CBM
5	Mr. Shiva Mohan	CBM
6	Mr Y Krupanandam	NIVH
7	Dr Bhusan Punani	BPA-Executive
8	Ms. Nandini Rawal	BPA-Executive
9	Dr. Homiyar Mobedji	Enable India
10	Col M. Deshpande	PBMA HV Desai
11	Mr. George	Score Foundation
12	Mr Akhil Paul	Sense International
13	Ms. Beula Christy	LVPEI
14	Mrs. Vimal Thawani	BPA-MD Unit
15	Dr JKS Parihar	Army Research & Referral Centre
16	Dr Phanindra Babu Nukella	VISION 2020 India
17	Mr Mrinal Ray Madhaw	VISION 2020 India
18	Mr Nirmal Verma	Perkins
19	Dr Uday Gajiwala	Tejas Eye Hospital
20	Mr. Vimal Kumar Denge,	P&NM Centre
21	Dr Pradeep Agarwal	CI Gupta
22	Mr. Manoj Jadhav	Shri Ganapati Netralaya
23	Mr Gautam Mazmudar	Indian Red Cross Society
24	Dr G D Singaal	MPWAB
25	Mr. Bisen	MPWAB
26	Mr. D N Sharma	J & K
27	Mrs Manju Sharma	J & K
28	Dr. Laxmi Jhala	Alakh Nayan Mandir Eye Institute
29	Dr. Ramprasad Narsingdas Lakhotiya	Udaigiri Lions Eye Hospital
30	Mr. Bharat Joshi	BPA-CBR
31	Ms Zainab	Book Share
32	Manbir Singh	Dr. Nagpal Eye Hospital
33	H.P. Modh	Legal Officer, Disability Commissonerate, Gandhinagar
34	A.F. Patel	S.D.O. Ahmedabad
35	Mr. Rajpal	Deputy Commissioner
36	Dr. V.C. Bhatnagar	GHIO, M Abu
37	Dharmendra Jena	BPA-Bareja Hospital
38	Amrut H. Ashal	BPA-LV
39	Maulik Tripathi	BPA-School
40	Somen Maitey	BPA-Bareja Hospital
41	Deepa Atul Joshi	BPA-Db Unit
42	Dr. Chaudhari	Medical Officer
43	Mr. Ranchod Soni	BPA-Technology
44	Mr. J.T. Panchal	Lions Club International, Dist-323B
45	Mr. Dinesh Bahl	BPA-Fund Raising
46	Mr. Mihir Jani	BPA-National Trust
47	Dr. B.K. Panchal	BPA-Physiotherapy
	3 Attendants & 2 Drivers	BPA

Annexure-2

Workshop on Rehabilitation of Persons with Visual Impairment

Date: 10th & 11th September, 2014

Venue: Blind People Association, Ahmadabad

Objectives:

- Identify the gaps in rehabilitation services for Person with Visual Impairment
- Map legal/constitutional rights and schemes and benefits for persons with visual impairment
- Revisit and redefine vision standards for jobs for visually impaired
- Identify advocacy issues for action and offer recommendations to relevant stakeholders towards improving rehabilitation services

Day- 1 (10th Sep, 2014)

Time	Particulars	Resource Person
09:00-09:30 hrs	Registration	Vision 2020 & BPA Team
09:30-09:35 hrs	Prayer	Students with visual impairment from BPA
09:35-10:00 hrs	Welcome by host organisation	Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary, BPA
	Welcome by Vision 2020 the Right to Sight India	Dr Phanindra Babu Nukella CEO, VISION 2020- India
	Introduction of participants	Mrs. Nandini Rawal Executive Director, BPA
	Vote of Thanks	
10:00-10:05 hrs	Setting the context	Dr. Phanindra Babu Nukella
	Revisit Rehabilitation	Chairperson- Mr Pincha Moderator- Mr Y Krupanandam
10:05-10:25 hrs	Overview of Rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment in India	Dr Bhushan Punani BPA
	Disability Models	Chairperson- Mr Pincha Moderator- Mr Y Krupanandam
10:25- 10:45 hrs	Paradigm shift in service delivery models of rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment	Mrs. Nandini Rawal BPA
10:45- 11:10 hrs	Inclusive Education: Implementation and Impact	Dr Vimal Dengla, NAB
11:10- 11:35 hrs	Empowering and mainstreaming persons with visual impairment through Community Based Rehabilitation	Mr. Vasant Shendye, Sightsavers

11:35- 11:45 hrs	Challenges faced by students with visual impairment	Student Testimonials
11:45- 12:05 hrs	Tea Break	
	Rights and Advocacy	Chairperson – Moderator –Dr. Bhushan Punani
12:05- 12:35 hrs	Legislative Rights, Schemes & Benefits for persons with Disabilities for persons with Disabilities	Mr Pincha CCPD, MSJE, GoI
12:35- 13:00 hrs	Innovative ways and Advocacy for Social Inclusion of Persons with Visual Impairment	Dr. Homiyar Mobedji Enable India
13:00- 13: 40 hrs	Lunch Break	
	Role of organisations	Chair: Moderator: Mr George A
13:40- 14:05 hrs	Role of RCI in regulating the programmes for Human resource development	RCI
14:05- 14:30 hrs	Role of NIVH in overall rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment (Education, O & M, Vocational training, Employment & Social Inclusion)	Mr Y Krupanandam NIVH
	Accessibility	
14:30-14:55 hrs	Assistive devices and technology for persons with visual impairment	Mr Ranchod Soni BPA
14:55- 15:20 hrs	Barrier free environment (Physical & Attitudinal): Video presentation on universal design	Mr. George Abraham SCORE Foundation
15:20-15: 40 hrs	Tea Break	
15:40- 16:40 hrs	Group work - 1 Suggest strengthening measures and identify advocacy issues	
16:40- 17:00	Group work presentations, discussion & Wrap up	
17:00 Onwards	Sightseeing and dinner hosted by BPA and ICEVI	

Day -2 (11th Sep. 2014)

Time	Particular	Faculty
	Developmental Aspects	Chairperson:- Dr Sara Varughese Moderator:- Dr. Uday Gajiwala
08:30-08:45 hrs	Setting up a Rehabilitation Centre (Right from the services on early intervention to social inclusion):- Infrastructure, HR, Equipments etc.	Mrs. Vimal Thawani
08:45-09:00 hrs	Need of research in disability rehabilitation sector	Mr George Abraham SCORE Foundation
	Service Based	Chairperson: Moderator: Mrs Nandini

		Rawal
09:00- 09:20 hrs	Rehabilitation services for persons with visual impairment with additional disabilities	Mr Akhil Paul, Sense International
09:20- 09:40 hrs	Disability Inclusive Eye Health	Mr. Srinivasan CBM
09:40 - 10:40 hrs	Panel Discussion Rehabilitation – how far are we to holistic approach?	Panelists Mr. Shiva Mohan, Mr. Vasant Shendye, Ms Beula
10:40- 11:00 hrs	Tea Break	
	Vision Standards	Chairperson- Dr JKS Parihar Moderator- Mr. Akhil Paul
11:00-11:10 hrs	Setting up the context for standardisation of vision standards in jobs/ other benefits	Col M Deshpande
11:10- 11:30 hrs	Vision standards – Defence perspective	Dr JKS Parihar (Army Referral Research Centre)
11:30 - 12:30 hrs	Brainstorming on “Standardisation of Vision standards in jobs”	Dr JKS Parihhar, Mr Dharmendra Kumar Jena, Col Deshpande
12:30- 12:45 hrs	Recommendations	Dr Sara, Dr Nukella
12:45-13:00 hrs	Summing Up & Valedictory	
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	BPA visit	For people wishing to visit

Action Plan Developed during the workshop:

Strengthening Measures and Identification of Advocacy Issues

Components	Strengthening Measures	Advocacy Issues
Early Identification of Potential Rehab cases (Rural and urban)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and sensitization for all, especially in rural areas at various levels • Training for screening to doctors, Anganwadis/ Asha workers, teachers and paramedical staff • Door to door visits by health workers, anganwadi workers and concerned appropriate authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captions on the back of covers of school and college note books/ Inclusion in curriculum for ANMs, AWWs, ASHA etc. • Mandatory health check up before admission to k.g. • Conduct advocacy with key influencers to build support mechanism
Referrals and linkages (involvement of parents, professionals and community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of linkages between medical and rehabilitation professionals. • Organising workshops for Ophthalmologist (National Institutes and state authorities) • Parents counselling • Having a resource directory • Sensitization of various stakeholders • Having a group of DPO for supporting parents • Availability of trained HR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralised database for providing support • Propaganda through mass media regarding the magnitude of the problem • Dissemination of information through a directory indicating the services offered by the organisation • Conduct advocacy with key influencers to build support mechanism
Education - Inclusive, Special, (Primary, secondary and higher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness to Heads of Educational Institutions • Refresher courses for the special educators every year with focus on skill assessment. • Incentive to general teachers for teaching certain number of CWSN after having a special training. • MSWs to be educated for inclusion of PwDs in mainstream schools • Sensitisation of government personnel in the department of primary/ secondary/ higher secondary education on inclusion • More emphasis to be given for training manpower in the specialised areas such as science and maths • Promotion for development of education material in the accessible format to suit the needs of the child at the level of the education board • Accessible infrastructure, trained HR and education material in braille, audio and e-books, • Equal opportunities in terms of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely assessment, • Mass media coverage on inclusion of disabled in the main stream education in line with SSA • Creating more awareness on RTE with the Heads of Institutions • Database for monitoring • Syllabus should include education regarding common disabilities in childhood

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation All libraries should have facilities for disabled people – e.g. special corners for disabled people Scholarships to disabled students 	
<p>Vocational training</p> <p>(Individual perspective, Organisational perspective)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings to be reformulated bridging the gap of the demand and supply through identifying the jobs and tailoring to the needs Entrepreneurship should be promoted. Candidates are to be trained according to their profiles/ strength of the candidate Net working of the organisations in the specific filed Upgrade the ATI/ VRCs in the states to cater to the training needs of VI To encourage local groups/ DPO to make their skills more fine, apart from traditional training should think of new avenues that lead to efficient employer generation Increase the no. of vocational training centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have more centres To make existing training centres more equipped Getting more and more students admitted to Vocational trades made for general students. Conduct advocacy with key influencers to build support mechanism
<p>Employment</p> <p>(Govt, private)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and matching the new jobs Analysis of each job and creating training modules depending the requirement of the job Finding out / exploring opportunities Increasing awareness among private sector Reservation for products prepared by disabled people in shopping complexes Awards and appreciation to the employers Scale up the proven models for employers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3% reservation norm to be fulfilled Promotion of “incentive Scheme” for prospective employers Wide publicity of the National award scheme for best employer providing jobs to disabled Promotion of govt. Employment schemes like MNREGA and inclusion of PwD
<p>HRD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To upgrade the special education training programmes To start new courses in the area of Inclusion To make all the general teacher training programmes to have specialisation papers to deal with children with special needs To develop the status of special educators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of role models to sensitize and persuade Create job opportunities for them Ensuring that all govt policies and schemes are implemented Course curriculum should be reviewed periodically

Schemes and Benefits

- **Various concessions**
- **Disability certification**
- **Assistive devices and technology**
- **Distribution of Aids & Appliances**
- **Scholarship & awards**
- **Any other**

- Awareness about the various schemes and policies among various stake holders
- Earmarking certain percentage of funds for every type of disability particularly for VI
- Regular review of relevance of the schemes and benefits

- Ensuring that all govt policies and schemes are implemented and it reaches to all stakeholders
- Online reporting and monitoring mechanism
- Integrating the services with Aadhar card. There should be a web portal for registration of the client.

Social Inclusion/CBR**(Community participation, involvement of Professionals in the process of social inclusion)**

- Formation of groups, mobilization, livelihood promotion, establishing linkages with other govt programmes.
- Corporate adoption of CBR programmes
- To tap the resources under CSR
- Coordination amongst various agencies
- Role of local DPOs in planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Counselling for marriage

- Ensuring realization of benefits
- Sensitization of co-workers regarding necessary support that the disable needs

Research

- Promoting research under all developmental programmes
- Research on various aspects of disability like accessibility, assistive technology, education, prevention, generation of new softwares,
- Stake holders are to be involved in the various stages of research right from the identification thorough usage
- Universal designs has to be promoted
- The technical institutions to take research in the field of disability
- Research in the area of Low vision devises with low cost

- Disability segregated data should be available.
- Govt should include more devices under ADIP and SIPDA
- Dissemination of research results with the end user
- Wide publicity of national award
- Institutes for higher learning should be told to take up issues related to disability and the research should be available at a central level.

Barrier free environment

- Ensuring universal designing accessible at all places
- Accessibility to be included as core subject in civil engineering and architectural courses.
- Removing psychological barriers
- Social audit of the new buildings be done.

- Designs and plans should be approved based on universal accessibility design.
- Dissemination of the guidelines to the Engineers

PHOTOGRAPHS



- Our Sincere thanks to Blind People Association family for hosting the workshop in their organisation and also for all the arrangements
- Our Special thanks to CBM for their support for the workshop
- We are thankful to All the speakers and participants for their time, effort and active participation
- Our special thanks to Mr Prasanna Kumar Pincha, CCPD, Govt. of India for his time, effort and valuable inputs
- Our thanks to ICEVI for arranging a wonderful evening for all the speakers and participants as well

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