



Newsletter Enablement No 9, June 2009

Introduction

The year 2009 has started for Enablement with quite a large number of assignments in various countries. Besides it hasn't been quiet in The Netherlands either and it has become apparent that there is a serious need to further develop Enablement with a team of committed co-workers. The occasional and often ad-hoc arrangements with fellow consultants don't meet all the needs anymore and on a more structural basis Enablement needs to consist of a team of rehabilitation professionals. It has also become evident that the need for office space is also urgent. Currently discussions with banks and property holders are taking place in order to ensure that – where possible – this year Enablement is situated in a bigger, modern and well-accessible office, preferably with opportunities to hold training and workshops as well.

As part of the expansion of Enablement discussions and communication have taken place with a French NGO working in northern India in the field of community based rehabilitation (CBR), Enablement and Evert Veldman, an occupational therapist. Evert is having solid experience in the field of rehabilitation in the Netherlands and some experience in Sri Lanka. Evert will leave for India and will work there for 6 months and will hopefully join Enablement after returning from that assignment.

Last but not least; Anja – my wife – has taken on the responsibility for secretarial support from the 1st of May. Her support will certainly result in even better efficiency and service to clients, partners and others in the network of Enablement.

Developments in Nigeria

As part of a long term assignment with the Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) Enablement is involved in the facilitation of rehabilitation in Nigeria. A baseline disability study was done in Kaduna State in January/February this year after an intensive training was given to fieldworkers (qualified sociologists) of 2 weeks in interviewing skills. The results have been analyzed and the report ready by the end of June. During May this year an intensive capacity building 'exercise' took place for NLR staff and stakeholders involved in developments in the 2 States where NLR is developing rehabilitation programs: i.e. Bauchi State and Kaduna State. During July this year training in puppetry will be given by CHAPS a puppetry program from Kenya. The trained puppeteers will perform puppet-shows in public places in the communities in Bauchi State in order to confront the community with prevailing attitudes and the need to change attitudes and opinion towards people with leprosy. Prior to the training a baseline study will be done to investigate the levels of community stigma towards people with leprosy. The puppetry shows and its effects on community attitudes will be studied and documented. During September this year a strategic workshop will be held which focuses on the future of the National TB and Leprosy Program. Rehabilitation of people affected by leprosy will form part of the discussions and it is hoped that the commitment from NLR to support developments in the field of disability and rehabilitation will gain momentum and be accepted by all stakeholders.

Developments in Ghana

Enablement as partner with the University of Applied Sciences of Leiden and the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa contribute towards capacity building at the Kwame Nkrumah University (KNUST) in Ghana. During a stakeholders workshop with over 30 participants a competency-based BSc in Rehabilitation Practice and an MSc in African disability studies was developed and it is expected that they will be approved by College Board and the Academic Board of the University. The participatory process with involvement of major stakeholders including people with disabilities was an exciting process and we all look forward to future developments in this field.

Developments in Nepal

Similar to developments in Nigeria are certain developments in Nepal. The NLR team in collaboration with local partner organisations conducted a large house-to-house disability study. The results are in part available and it is expected that during the second half of this year the report of the study is ready. Based on the outcome of this study and following this study a strategic workshop is planned to take place later this year.

Nepal BIKASH training in CBR

For already the 6th consecutive year a 2-week CBR course was organized at and by BIKASH in Phokora in Nepal. This training has become very popular and is not only attracting participants from Asia but also from Africa and Europe and at times even from southern America. This year 's course was shortened with one day as weather conditions were poor and it was not certain that all participants could catch their connecting international flight. It is expected that during the 2010 Prakash Wagle – who attended the TOT course in The Netherlands this year - will play a greater role in the facilitation and training.

TOT in CBR in the Netherlands

The first Training of Trainers program in CBR was organized from the 25th of March to the 7th of April and was attended by 12 participants representing 9 different countries. The course was a great success and this can largely be contributed to 2 factors; the high level of expertise among the participants on one hand and on the other hand the high quality of facilitation and training by a group of 5 facilitators/trainers: Henk van Apeldoorn (of Tournesol); Fiona Budge (of To the Point Consultancy) Hanneke Verhoeven (of MDF); Roelie Wolting and Huib Cornielje of Enablement. The course took place in an excellent atmosphere in Hotel Maarsbergen. Enablement is confident that most of the 12 participants will apply their new competencies in practice and hopes to work more closely together with some of the trainees. The group of trainees will continue to update their knowledge, share experiences and materials through a blog which they recently started.

New Publications

Two articles have been accepted for publication and are published during 2009:

- Cornielje H and Bogopane-Zulu H, CBR, the implementation of policies, Conference book WHO-CAN CBR conference, October 2007, published March 2009 and available from TALC in the UK.
- Cornielje H, The Role and Position of Disabled People's Organizations in Community Based Rehabilitation: Balancing between dividing lines, APDRJ, Vol 20, No 1, 2009.

The first publication described that CBR is interpreted in a number of different ways across the African continent and that these interpretations vary often according to the local practical context. Part of the context relates to the existence, or otherwise, of legislation and policies which potentially can affect disabled people and their families, but very often they make no difference at all. Where these policies exist there are still implementation issues which relate much more to the actual circumstances of people with disabilities and their families. CBR has the potential to play a very constructive role in this implementation process. This book chapter reviews key points that may assist in the process and highlights the importance of disabled people becoming part of DPOs and working together with CBR workers to make the lives of disabled people and their families better.

The second publication looks into the role of disabled people in CBR. This role is increasingly being seen as of vital importance for the success of CBR. In actual fact participation of disabled people and self advocacy have become two of the principles of CBR as seen by the World Health Organisation and associated organizations behind the new CBR thinking. This paper deals with the position and role of disabled people themselves in CBR programmes. It critically looks into the role Disabled Peoples' Organisations in terms of promoting equal access to essential and acceptable quality of rehabilitation programmes for all and especially the poor of this world. It is argued that DPOs should join the ranks of those (professionals) who are committed to ensure that rehabilitation becomes accessible to all. The current global situation of an ever-widening gap between the 'ones who have and those who don't have' requires a critical reflection on ones' own work in CBR and DPO development. We cannot permit ourselves anymore a division among those who are disabled and those who are non-disabled as there are other divides among groups of people that are by far more profound and serious to the majority of disabled people worldwide.

While the urban elite of disabled people who live in a conflict-free, open and democratic society may be well concerned with issues such as accessible tourism, CBR as essential service provision is often unavailable for the poor rural masses and those living under illegal conditions in slums of the cities of Africa, Asia and South America. CBR as philosophy seeks for solidarity with those who live under appalling conditions; threatened by conflict, eviction and hunger. This paper calls for collaboration between DPOs and the CBR movement in order to address diversity and ensure that the implementation of basic human rights is truly addressed.

Developments at the VU University, Amsterdam

During November and December 2008 a Disability and Development (D&D) module as part of a Masters in Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Health and Life Sciences (MPA) was organized. It is expected that during the coming years this first elective module will develop into a fully recognized and independent MSc program. During this elective module ample attention is given to the field of CBR. A second module is currently being developed; contacts with universities in Indonesia and South Africa will hopefully result in the development of a joint MSc program whereby students can follow courses in the various countries and does their research work in their own country. The first course was very well evaluated by the internal and external students. The course will offered again in 2009: period 23th of November to the 18th of December

The target audience is as follows: optional course for Master students Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Health and Life Sciences (MPA) and International Public Health; **external students from low and middle-income countries are also encouraged to apply.**

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New website

The new website (www.cbrtraining.com) is focusing especially on courses related to community based rehabilitation and was launched in February 2009 and is now already becoming equally popular as the existing Enablement website. The site has been built by Renzo Brandsma and its appearance gives one immediately an impression of the training philosophy of Enablement; participatory; empowering; flexible; contextualized and tailor-made.

Appropriate training and education of rehabilitation professionals will, to a large extent, determine the success or failure of delivery relevant services and programs to disabled people. Investment in peoples' development has often been a neglected area of advancement in rehabilitation programs in developing countries. We believe that the

contribution towards peoples' empowerment is essential for the delivery of appropriate rehabilitation services and programs.

There is a lot of lip-service paid to the CBR principles; so far that the new draft CBR Guidelines even don't mention explicitly those principles anymore. Being politically correct, expertise and/or commitment is not enough to make an effective contribution to the improvement of the living conditions of disabled people; equal opportunities and participation in society. It requires a willingness to dedicate professionalism to an 'option for disabled people'. Moreover, professional effectiveness depends on the personal ability to create space for participation of disabled people in their own development process which is a condition for the achievement of realistic goals.

Rehabilitation professionals have to learn new approaches to both old and new problems. They have to learn that what the community needs and wants from them changes with time and circumstances, and that it is essential to be kept well-informed about required changes in intervention. In addition, they must be kept involved in a process of mutual learning and education to assist communities in finding the best possible solutions to problems. It is essential, therefore, that education strengthens critical thinking, insight, creativity and problem solving ability, in order to train rehabilitation staff to undertake new tasks and increase technical competence.

The accomplishment of such competencies requires specific training methodologies. Hence the consciousness-raising methodology from educationalist Paulo Freire and the humanist educational philosophy of self-directed learning (Malcolm Knowles) form largely the foundation of the training philosophy of the courses organized by Enablement. The training programs are aimed at the empowerment of students and enabling them to contribute to much-needed changes in rehabilitation services delivery globally. This can be realized through a process of personal empowerment (a more humanistic vision), which subsequently should lead to transformation of old structures and systems (the more radical philosophy).

In order to tune teaching philosophy with teaching methodology a variety of modern adult education methods will be used. Case studies, simulation games, role plays, syndicate and discussion groups all form an important medium to integrate the different topics.

New developments

Short Course: Delivering Presentation in the Netherlands

During this 3 day course - which will be held from the 22nd to the 24th of September 2009 - you will acquire the theory, skills and methods to design and deliver effective presentations that will increase community awareness and support for CBR initiatives. As a result it is expected you will help improve the quality of life of people living with a disability. The course is given by Fiona Post.

Training of Trainers in CBR program in The Netherlands

Enablement will also offer during 2010 the following course after a very successful first course in 2009: **TOT in CBR**. The course is scheduled for June 2010. This course is of particular importance if you want to develop training skills for CBR staff.

CBR-course in Ethiopia and Nepal

The main objective of this course is that participants will have a working knowledge of all the important aspects related to CBR. Besides plenary theoretical sessions there will be a variety of practical (skill) sessions and a field trip.

DATES:

CBR course Ethiopia: November 9 to November 20, 2009

CBR course Nepal: February 22 – March 5, 2010

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

BIKASH Nepal:

The Training Coordinator, E-mail: info@bikashnepal.org.np Website:

www.bikashnepal.org.np

ALERT Ethiopia

Director of Training, Email: leprosytb@ethionet.et Website: www.telecom.net.et/~tdalert

International Course in Management of Disability and Rehabilitation in the Netherlands

Enablement is pleased to inform you that again in 2009 and in 2010 an International Course in Management of Disability and Rehabilitation is being offered to rehabilitation professionals and disability and development workers and activists. Serious candidates should apply well in advance.

Courses in HIV-AIDS and Disability

Depending on needs high level training workshops on HIV-AIDS and Disability will be organised either late 2009 or early 2010 (see www.cbrtraining.com for more detailed information). The course venue and course dates will be determined by the personal and professional background and country of residence of prospective course participants.

10 year anniversary of Enablement

In the December 2008 newsletter it was mentioned that Enablement will celebrate this year the fact that it operates now for 10 years: a milestone that deserves to be celebrated. This is done in two ways:

- 1) By means of the publication of a book describing case studies, which can be used for educational purposes. A number of – real - case studies have been documented by me and in training programs it is those case studies that often give a deeper understanding of important issues in CBR development and delivery of services. Quite a number of people who have been approached to send case studies to me have reacted positively and these case studies will be transformed (where necessary) for more educational purposes. There is still room for more of such – usually complex case studies so please feel free to contact me. All names of authors will be fully acknowledged and revisions will be sent to you for correction and comments.
- 2) By means of co-organizing with BEZEV a conference on inclusive education in Bonn in Germany this year on the 26th and 27th of November. Details of this conference will be sent to you during the coming weeks.

Finally

It has been my pleasure to work, correspond and communicate with so many of you. One important remark from quite a number of participants of this year's courses was that ***“the training provided gives a very good blend of theory and practice; down to earth training and that is what we need”***. I hope you will appreciate and read the following – slightly adapted - quote with a smile as this is my only intention; a quote however, that keeps us down to earth as well regarding the reality and future of CBR ***“Mankind should wake up out of the (CBRⁱ) Matrix and attempt to live in the real world”*** (*matrix reloaded, 2003*)

Wishing you a lot of strength and courage in your work in this real world!

Huib Cornielje

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ⁱ Comment by Huib Cornielje