

Disability Institutional and Policy Change

SMRC
Bhubaneswar
Orissa

SMRC's Background

- This presentation is linked to.
- Our experience and involvement in the disability sector for the past thirty years.
- Our participation in the negotiations for rights of PWDs as member of the UN AdHoc Committee.

Recent Documentation

- A study done by SMRC on Women with Disabilities in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal.
- The UN Convention (CRPD) signed by India and several other member nations.

Why CRPD

- In four years India and other signatories will need to provide a report to the United Nations.
- It is therefore important that the data for the report is merged into this reporting system.

Initial Stage

- General Administrative Orders to all Central Govt. Ministries, States, UTs need to be sent to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation by:
 - i. Collection of all data in future to reflect disability (gender disaggregated).
 - ii. Budgets must be analyzed from a disability (inclusive of gender) perspective.

Our Aim: Bringing down barriers

Sensitization, awareness, access and structures

- Insensitivity on the part of service providers
- Design barriers due to structures that are disability indifferent,
- Lack of information among the disabled about their entitlements
- and the procedures to access.
These are some of the difficulties.

Awareness

- From my experience I take awareness as the most important component of change Awareness in community, implementing agency officails and policy makers.
- Under the CRPD Article Art 8 provides for Awareness-raising which was the first of the issues to be discussed in the Ad Hoc Committee.
- Unless Superstition, myths and even the idea that disabled cannot learn, work or be productive are removed the implementation will not be fruitful.

What needs to be done

- Make financial provisions for Awareness Creation.

Prevention

- Our work at SMRC has showed the importance of Prevention especially in rural areas
- ICDS workers who detect disability are not trained properly

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

- More budget for prevention
- Training to ICDS workers

Employment & Training

- **Training**
- We see less employment than late 1980s – 1990s – Electronics closed (Konark etc.,)
- Left out of Hi-Tech vocation
- 3% reservation administration reforms most post these people access are cut
- Urban – shrinking of job opportunity
- NHFDC low as little monitoring

Skill Training

- Counseling (Special Budget be demarcated)
- Relaxation of eligibility criteria
- Train Faculty in inclusion of disabled students (In Orissa it is take in only physical and not those with visual and hearing disability)
- Outfit the Institutions with disabled friendly equipment

Accentuated entitlement failure

- The gaps aggravate further as we go up the value chain of different entitlements from disability certificates to work, aids and appliances, housing, pensions & transportation.

Art 27 and right to work and employment (CRPD) 13

- As Work is one of the most discriminatory in practice we need to implement seriously Art 27
- Equality in “conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions must be met
 - As per CRPD State Parties must ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities in training and workplace.

What needs to be done

- **More funds for training officials about needs of disabled**
- **More employment sector finances**
- **Promotion of employment of persons with disabilities but care must be taken that in introducing public – private partnership the State does not abdicate its responsibility in any sphere**
- **Hostels for all (for training and working). Saturation will not cost much**
- **Rural Resource Centres and Rural Business Schools**

Saturation coverage for the more vulnerable in Plan

- MR, widows etc., are the more vulnerable but less numerous groups. Such groups should be covered under schemes on a priority basis and on a 100% coverage basis.
- Family members, carers need attention which may need support through a pension oriented scheme. Given the size of resources put in the overall welfare schemes, this should not pose a problem.

Safe environment at home and at the work-place

- Safety of the work place and of the passage to the work –place becomes important. This is an area of stronger concern. No entitlement failure can justify violence or sexual harassment particularly of an individual who has less where withals to defend themselves.

Required

- Special Task Force for Protection of Disabled esp., MR & Women with disabilities
- Specific budget to combat Violence against women and MR

Research

Special Groups including ST/SC/ Minorities/

Women Headed Households/Old Age

Needs of Persons with Mental Conditions

Identification of Trades

Overall Poverty Alleviation

- Special Weightage in BPL list (If disability costs included any APL would in reality be BPL)
- Disability sphere extended to cover family members Eg., pension/social and health insurance
- Special social net for Tribals and Dalits

Implementation of Article 11 CRPD SMRC Campaign to Include Disability in Disaster Management

Structural

- Special Ministry for Disability
- Special Departments at Centre and State levels
- Corporation From National with branches upto to Block Level (Corporation sets up resource centres)