

Vision

“An inclusive society where people with disabilities have equal rights and a good quality of life”



Newsletter

April - September 2010

Announcements

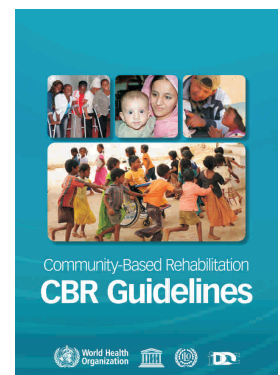
New CBR Guidelines launched in Abuja, Nigeria

On 27 October 2010, the 4th CBR Africa Network Conference (CAN) launched new guidelines designed to empower persons with disabilities by supporting their inclusion in health, education, employment, social, skills training and other community services.

The Community-based rehabilitation guidelines:

- Provide guidance on how to develop and strengthen CBR programmes;
- Promote CBR as a strategy for community-based development involving people with disabilities;
- Support stakeholders to meet the basic needs and enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families;
- Encourage the empowerment of people with disabilities and their families.

The CBR Guidelines is a joint production of WHO, ILO, UNESCO and IDDC.



First CBR National Seminar on “CBR - Strategy for Inclusive Development”

CBR India Network is a democratic country led Network formed to support the development and dissemination of CBR as a strategy for inclusive development to promote the needs and rights of every person with disability in India especially children, women and persons from rural/ remote/ least served areas of India. Mobility India is the Secretariat of the network.



The Network is conducting the CBR National Seminar on 10th & 11th December 2010 in New Delhi. The Seminar will bring key stakeholders together to try and develop a national alliance with Government, NGO's, Development Agencies, Disabled People's Organizations and others. One of the key features is the release of the new WHO CBR guidelines during the National Seminar.

In this Issue...

- Updates / Announcements
- WHO wheelchair training & Appropriate wheelchairs
- Play with Clay - Inclusive Summer Camp
- Mobile Auto workshop
- Friends of MI –UK
- Rehabilitation Therapy Handbook release
- Obituary
- Changing Lives

WHO wheelchair training

In 2008, the World Health Organization Guidelines on provision of manual wheelchairs in less-resourced settings was published as the first step towards developing a system of wheelchair provision to support implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (specifically Articles 4, 20 and 26). Subsequently, in June 2010, WHO selected MI to conduct its first piloting of the basic module of wheelchair training package. The Piloting of training package and a video shoot was done at Rural Development Trust, Ananthpur (our grass root partner) and at our Attibele Community Based Rehabilitation project area. Different kinds of wheelchair models were



available during the piloting and video shooting. 12 participants from across India, Nepal, East Timor and Australia attended the training. The participant profile included wheelchair users, Physio & Occupational Therapists, Prosthetists & Orthotists, Community workers and other rehabilitation personnel.

This training package will support local staff in less-resourced settings to develop skills and knowledge required to effectively provide manual wheelchairs in accordance with the Guidelines.

Appropriate wheelchairs

Minakshi (18) spends the better part of her day in a wheelchair. As she has muscular dystrophy, the wheelchair is the only means for her mobility. She lives in a peri-urban environment. She works from home by assembling machine components.

Syed Nizamudeen (35) was paralyzed in a road accident 2 years ago. He lives in an urban setting and requires a wheelchair that will help him move around with ease.

For Minakshi and Syed the wheelchair is an assistive device that will enhance their personal mobility. It is estimated that over 100 million people with physical disabilities worldwide need wheelchairs, though less than 1 percent own or have access to one.

Due to lack of prescriptions or fitting standards, often wheelchairs are distributed without cushions or an appropriate seating configuration. A wheelchair that is not properly fit to the user, or comes without a cushion, may increase the risk of secondary conditions such as pressure sores or spinal deformity. Also inappropriate and ill-fitting chairs do not provide any significant improvement to the users' mobility, independence, or integration into their community.

MI provides wheelchairs that are appropriate, well fitted and suit the need of the individual. Wheelchairs given to Minakshi and Syed were modified to give appropriate postural support, to suit their local environment and enable them to be in mainstream society.



Mobile Auto for repair of Aids and appliances



Mobility India has been striving hard to reach out to people with disabilities who are less privileged and are not within the accessible range of rehabilitation service provision. For this it launched a mobile workshop in 1996 to extend wider reach to people with disabilities in rural areas.

Recently a Mobile Auto service was inaugurated in Chamrajnagar district, where Mobility India has the Education & Livelihood Opportunities programme. The Mobile Auto will reach out to about 1000 adults and children with disabilities in 76 villages where the programme is operational. The service is rendered as per need and the date and venue is coordinated by the local self help groups. Therapy assistants and Orthotic technicians travel in the mobile auto to carry out repairs and provide therapy interventions.



Play with Clay - Inclusive Summer Camp

Lumps of clay, molded by small, dexterous fingers into wondrous shapes. 40 children with disabilities and non-disabled children in the age group of 10-14 participated in a unique inclusive summer camp on terracotta clay at Chamarajnagar. The theme of this workshop was nature and the inspired children imaginatively created turtles, snakes, birds and other such creatures out of clay. Mr. Ramanuja, art teacher currently associated with Kumarans School Bangalore conceptualized and designed the sessions. The sessions were interspersed with discussions on environment and nature. The children also helped build a kiln and took home fired clay products that they had created. Said Sushma Rani (one of the participants), “I enjoyed the experience. I felt 4 days were not enough and wanted the camp to continue.”



Volunteering or skill sharing can be a mutually beneficial activity that brings a change in the organizations, the local communities and most importantly in the lives of people. Mobility India has had many volunteers and professionals from within India and overseas who have shared their knowledge and skills with us. At Mobility India, one could find options in physiotherapy, prosthetics and orthotics, research methodology, fundraising, documentation, web designing, database management, accounts, library, community work etc.

Friends of Mobility India UK

Verna Morris and Mark Ellis visited India in 2003 to share skills in physiotherapy and language support & develop communication materials respectively. Returning to UK, they formed the "Friends of Mobility India UK", a group of individuals, their friends and family members that is actively involved in raising the profile of Mobility India and supporting the cause.



Fundraising through adventure sport & recreation activities for:

- Scholarship for students to study in Rehabilitation Therapy Courses (12 month - Certificate Course)
- Teaching Materials
- Sharing Skills as Rehab Professionals (Physiotherapy)
- Therapy services
- Building Capacity of staff through sponsorships for International seminars & conferences
- Develop and Publish a Rehabilitation Therapy Handbook

Rehabilitation Therapy Handbook

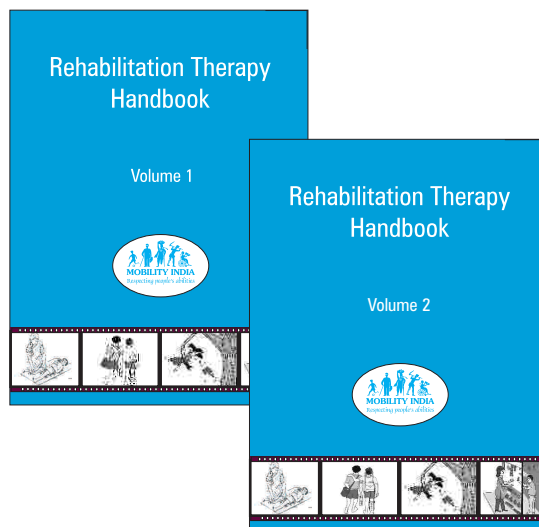
After 3 years of work and contributions from therapists and experts from India and other parts of the world, the revised edition "Rehabilitation Therapy Handbook" was ready for publication. A Therapy Manual was developed prior to this in the year 2000. With changing times, a need was felt to revise contents of the manual. Special mention goes to Ms. Emma Tebutt (Physiotherapist UK) who liaised with MI staff and different experts from around the world to write and review different chapters and to 'Friends of Mobility India UK'.



The Rehabilitation Therapy Handbook was released on 21st August 2010 by Ms. Romola Joseph, Governing Body Member, Mobility India and Ms. Emily Hancock, Physiotherapist, UK (representative of Friends of Mobility India, UK). Emily is currently volunteering with Mobility India for a year to build the capacity of staff in research methodology.

Use of Rehabilitation Therapy Handbook

Every person with disability is unique with his /her individual problems. A significant challenge for mid-level therapists, especially those working in rural areas is to apply theoretical knowledge learnt in the classroom to suit the requirements of each individual. This handbook will be a reference guide to students, trainers, rehabilitation professionals and educational institutions. This will also have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and help to address the problem of high staff (teacher) turnover. The book in 2 volumes is available for private circulation.



Upcoming Training Programmes

Courses	Dates
1 month course for CBR workers	April 2011
Lower Limb Orthotics - CAT II single Discipline	11th July 2011 - 5th January 2013
Lower Limb Prosthetics - CAT II single Discipline	11th July 2011 - 5th January 2013
Certificate in Rehabilitation Therapy	11th July 2011 - 2nd June 2012



Obituary

We deeply mourn the sudden demise of Mr. Praveen Kumar Hegde who worked in the Fundraising & Communication Unit as Communication Assistant



14-4-1974 to 14-5-2010

Maaz of Illiyasnagar, Banashankari

“Maaz enjoys coming to Mobility India”, says his mother. The initial years since his birth have thrown a lot of challenges to Maaz and his parents as he could not gain coordination in his lower limbs.

A year ago, Maaz's parents were introduced to few members of a Self Help Group in the neighborhood of Illiyasnagar (Group facilitated by Mobility India in the Banashankari slum, Bangalore). Mobility India provides therapy assistance and assistive devices to children and adults in the slums through the Community Based Rehabilitation programme.

Maaz was assessed and identified as having Cerebral Palsy. What followed were regular therapy sessions to enhance his overall development. In addition, he was given orthotic support (devices that support weak limbs) and a standing frame to help correct his posture.

In addition to rehabilitation support, Mobility India also sensitizes the local community and parents on the right to education for all children. Maaz will soon turn 4 and his parents are keen to see him in school. “My son has made tremendous improvement since we brought him here. Maaz has started going to play school in the academic term in 2010.” says his mother.



Pushpavathi of Bellagarnahalli, Attibele

Pushpavathi (14) was born with club foot. She could not walk long distances because of this. Pushpavathi and her family moved to Attibele from Hassan last year. The move and her disability caused a break in her studies.

With help from the villagers, our Community facilitator identified Pushpavathi. The facilitator sensitized the school head master and got her admission in one of the schools in the nearby area. She was also supported for the admission fee, monthly fee and books for the year. Subsequently her foot condition was assessed. She was referred to the hospital to undergo surgery for club foot correction. With supportive devices, she now walks better.



Pushpavathi is happy to be back in school and studies in class IX. She is the member of the local children's parliament, a group that meets regularly to raise fundamental issues that affect children's lives like cleanliness and hygiene in the local community, repairing leaky roofs of classrooms, streetlights in their villages, children with disabilities not attending school etc. These issues are then presented to local Panchayth leaders for further action.

Pushpavathi could possibly have led an isolated life and had to abandon her studies, but the timely intervention has brought her back into mainstream society.

Maaz & Pushpavathi are children identified through our Community based programmes in Bangalore & Attibele respectively. Mobility India has been striving hard to reach out to people with disabilities and their families living in poverty to bring them into mainstream society. Each year numerous individuals and their families' lives have been improved. So donate generously to give people with disabilities a chance to walk, go to school, earn a living and live a life with dignity.



Donate Generously

- Assistive Devices (calipers, artificial limbs, crutches, walkers)2000 -5000
- Wheelchairs5000-7000
- Education / per child / per year2000- 5000
- Nutritious food1000-2000
- Any amount you wish to contribute

I am donating Rs..... by Cheque/ Demand draft number
Towards

I would like to introduce a friend.

Pin.....Telephone: E-mail :

(DD/Cheques to be made in the name of Mobility India)

About Us

Mobility India (MI) is a registered society, established in 1994 in Bangalore, Karnataka and our regional resource centre is in Kolkata, West Bengal. MI's objective is to provide support to ensure that people with disabilities have equal rights and a good quality of life, particularly poor people living in rural areas and urban slums.



In pursuit of this objective, MI set up its Rehabilitation, Research and Training Centre in 2002, a disability-friendly building. MI's key activities are providing rehabilitation services, conducting various training programmes in rehabilitation therapy, prosthetics and orthotics, wheelchair service provision and Community Based Rehabilitation, development and promotion of appropriate technology, community based initiatives following the WHO CBR Matrix and building capacity and partnerships of grassroot organisations.

Governing Body Members

President: Mr. Anil Prabhu - Chief General Manager, State Bank (Retd)

Vice -President: Mrs. A. Sathyavathi Shamshuddin - Principal (Retd.), Govt. College

Secretary: Mr. Ramesh Ramachandra- Retd. IRS

Treasurer: Mr. Philip De Costa - Additional Director, DRDO (Retd.)

Member: Dr. (Mrs.) Elizabeth Thomas- College Principal (Retd)

Member: Ms. Romola Joseph- Social Worker

Member: Dr. C. M. Thyagaraja - Director, City Engineering College

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