



Rehabilitation Council of India
&
Indira Gandhi National Open University

Jointly organize



National Meet of NGOs – Rejuvenating Partnership

18th & 19th March 2010

Convention Centre, Indira Gandhi National Open University Campus

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi

It is a well known fact that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are one of the strongest pillars of the disability sector in the country. Initiative was taken by NGOs in disability rehabilitation programmes in the country several decades ago. The zeal still continues with more vigour and reach. Active participation of over 3,000 NGOs in various Govt. schemes and programmes in the disability field is a testimony to their significant contribution. It is not a secret that the first schools for the blind, deaf and mentally retarded children in the country were started by missionaries or religious organizations.

Central and State Govts. have developed partnerships with NGOs as both are complimentary and supplementary to each other. Government has recognized the strength of NGOs and therefore, it depends heavily on them for implementation of various policies and programmes. We have come a long way since then as awareness is now much more than before. Attitudinal barriers are breaking. Govt's policies are now more proactive. Every day we have examples by persons with disabilities who have set out to prove that they can be better than their able bodied counterparts even with limited resources.

However, there is long way to go. Still a large number of children with disabilities are out of school, employment opportunities are minimal for persons with disabilities, prevention and early intervention services are scarce, rehabilitation programmes are yet to cross the boundaries of cities, the condition of girls with disabilities is poor, access to public places for persons with disabilities is a low priority. There are numerous such challenges before our society.

It is well known that the human resource is the fulcrum of service delivery and hence the quality of services to persons with disability will depend to a large extent on the quality of training. As a premier organization for formulating policies and programmes for human resource development in disability rehabilitation field, RCI has accorded recognition to about 350 institutions across the country out of which over 70 per cent of the institutions are run by NGOs. Therefore, it is high time to recognize the contribution of NGOs and explore ways and means to augment human resource development in the country to bridge the vast gap between the need and supply of trained professionals. An effort is proposed to be made to dwell collectively to search the unexplored areas of partnership between the Govt. and NGOs particularly in human resource development.

The objective of two day **National Meet of NGOs** is to ponder over and deliberate on path breaking strategies and practicable solutions for a better tomorrow.

Following are some of the issues to be addressed during the **National Meet:**

a) Human Resource Development in the field of disability rehabilitation

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India sponsored study conducted by Institute of Applied Manpower Research (2009) on 'Projection of human resource requirement in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities' has projected a need for approximately 2 lac trained professionals by the year 2011. At present about 48,000 trained persons are registered with the RCI. Various aspects of training in this field would be the focus of the two day meet.

b) Public Private Partnership (PPP) models in HRD programmes

Is the PPP model an option for implementation of programmes in a cost effective manner? Successful models of PPP exist in education, health and other sectors. The resource persons and participants would be expected to share their experiences in implementing their models.

c) Capacity building of NGOs

It is recognized that Non-Government Organizations have a pivotal role to play in disability rehabilitation. Capacity building of NGOs can give them access to technology, knowledge, skills, innovative ideas etc. through judicious use of scarce resources. What can be done to take this process forward?

d) Inter-ministerial linkages for the maximal use of the resources

Every Ministry has some or the other component related to disability. As per the recommendation of the Xth Plan, all Ministries need to allocate not less than 3% of their total budget to disability related issues. In addition, every Ministry need to appoint a nodal officer at the level of Joint Secretary for better coordination to deal with the issue of disability in their respective areas of operation.

e) State or Regional Councils

RCI's reach is limited due to its limited infrastructure. For better monitoring and regulation of rehabilitation training programmes State or Regional Councils are required to be established all over India.

f) Research & Development

There is a dearth of indigenous research in rehabilitation and special education fields in our country. Both fundamental, applied and action researches are required. The outcomes need to be field tested.

The participants are expected to come prepared for fruitful deliberations and discussions in order to arrive at practicable and implementable recommendations for execution.

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