

International Symposium: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

ABSTRACT

Title: Disability intervention model of CHAI

Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

The Indian constitution provides equal rights and opportunities to all citizens irrespective of caste, class, religion, race, gender and disability. Despite this, persons with disabilities belong to the most disempowered and socially excluded sections of society. Although there are 93 million¹ children with disability across the world, they are deprived of basic rights in functional areas across health, education, livelihood and participation in the society. Inclusion and rehabilitation of children with disabilities has become the need of the hour. In view of this, Catholic Health Association of India started providing comprehensive tailor- made services to children and youth with disabilities.

This paper aims to highlight the extensive work done by CHAI and its effort in overcoming barriers to mainstream the children and youth with disabilities. This would be highlighted through a numerous case studies and community voices.

The programme was initiated in 1994 with a vision to provide rehabilitative interventions for children and youth with disabilities in four major thematic areas namely health, education, inclusion and livelihood. CHAI has adopted a unique ‘person-centric model’ where holistic interventions are provided to children and youth with disabilities. Through this model, CHAI has been able to provide services to nearly ten thousand disabled children and youth on an annual basis through institutional and community based rehabilitation. The model also focuses on building the capacities of various stakeholders within the communities. The activities are framed with a mix of service delivery and advocacy approach. The model is implemented by forming partnerships with disability based organisations across the country who take the role of being active volunteers and ensuring that the services reach each and every child and youth with disability.

This paper will emphasise on the ‘person-centric model’ of rehabilitation implemented by CHAI which could be adopted for similar need based interventions. Through this paper, CHAI intends to reach out to a larger number of disability based organisations with the aim of forming potential partnerships and thus hoping to cater towards larger number of children and youth with disabilities who require these services.

¹ STATE OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN, 2013, UNICEF

