

International Centre for the Advancement of Community Based Rehabilitation

Exciting Projects, Inspiring People !

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INTERPROFESSIONAL PROJECT ON ! DISABILITY, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

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ACCESS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

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- 18,000 beneficiaries participated in 90 Public Awareness and Service Interprofessional Days!
- 850 regional stakeholders from over 100 government and non-governmental organizations participated in 12 Regional Networking Workshops!
- Modular Training Program for MCHD workers at CRP Savar and five other locations!
 - 75 MCHD service providers participated in six five-day modules for Teaching Team in CRP Savar!
 - 750 community service providers participated in 24 district workshops at six locations !



- 125 stakeholders participated in two Annual Policy Forums and a Project Conference!
- 56 participants from Bangladesh participate in 8 month long Online Certificate Program on CBR and international development with special focus on maternal and child health and disability!
- 24 women with disabilities participated in three Workshops for women and mothers with disabilities!

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In the first 10 months of implementation, the project organized a series of activities involving over 2000 participants, 25% of whom had a disability, including:!

- Over 600 participants in three disability awareness days!
- 50 participants with disabilities in three peer support introductory training sessions !
- 50 participants in two disability and gender workshops!
- 11 government teachers supported to receive a CRP/BHPI Certificate in Special Education !
- 11 young women with disabilities supported to complete CRP industrial sewing training!
- Six mobile clinics , providing services to the total of 1533 community members from over 300 villages !
- One classroom with improved accessibility and ergonomics for students with disabilities in the William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School!





AYNUN NAHAR A health worker and teaching team member from IPODMCH, Aynun met Nayan, a 12 month old child, at the local Welfare Centre. Nayan's mother had joined an Interprofessional Day in a remote village of Savar Upazila organized by Aynun with the support of IPODMCH and learned about symptoms of developmental delay. Screening Nayan's developmental status and knowing the obstructed delivery history of her mother, Aynun suspected that Nayan was a child with cerebral palsy. She told his mother about importance of rehabilitation services, advised basic positioning and referred him to CRP-Savar.!

After 3 months of regular treatment at CRP-Savar, Nayan can now control his neck and sit independently. Nayan's parents are very happy with the outcome. Although therapists suggested continuing treatment once a week, they cannot afford it because of poor economic conditions. Aynun is very happy with the Nayan's outcome but she wonders if she could help this child further by providing some basic exercises.!

IPODMCH TRAINING HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION. I LEARNED HOW TO PREVENT AND IDENTIFY DISABILITY. I AM VERY HAPPY THAT MY SIMPLE ADVICE CONTRIBUTES IN BRINGING HOPE TO THE CHILD'S LIFE.!



MONI A senior nurse and IPODMCH teaching team member, Moni met Rahima in her Urban Health Clinic in Barisal. Rahima, a 24 year old and mother of three children came to meet Moni with complaints of incontinence followed by obstructed delivery of her third baby over a year ago. Because of her incontinence, she was not being involved in household activities and was struggling to maintain a relationship with her husband. As Rahima stated -!

BECAUSE OF THE INCONTINENCE AND BAD SMELL, I WAS ALWAYS IN FEAR AND USED TO FEEL THAT I AM IN PRISON. MY HUSBAND STARTED AVOIDING ME AND BEGAN THREATENING DIVORCE. AT ONE POINT, I CONSIDERED COMMITTING SUICIDE.!

Rahima was sent to Moni by a Family Welfare Assistant who took part in a IPODMCH district workshop in Barisal. Moni suspected Rahima was suffering fistula as a result of delivery complications. Moni referred Rahima to Sher-A Bangla Medical College Hospital for surgery. After a small surgery and three months of treatment, Rahima recovered from her incontinence and regained her active family and social life. She is very thankful to Moni for helping her to regain her almost 'lost' life. Moni is extremely proud to be part of IPODMCH training, enabling her to provide further instruction to community health workers, such as those who played an amazing role in bringing Rahima to Medical treatment.

SHARIFUL ISLAM , IPODMCH COUNTRY COORDINATOR

I am very proud to be part of IPODMCH, a unique initiative which mainstreams disability into Maternal and Child Health programs in Bangladesh. I am amazed when realizing the impacts of front line health worker capacity building in both governmental and non-governmental sectors. It is my privilege to work with ICACBR staff and Queen's University contributors. Their work not only makes the IPODMCH training program effective but also builds the capacity of local staff, such as myself, in working towards success and sustainability of the project overall. I am sure that IPODMCH will be a role model project not only for disability mainstreaming, but also its unique contribution in disability prevention while making services more accessible for all women and men, girls and boys with or without disability.



FARIDA AKTER ASMA Following her spinal cord injury 15 years ago, Asma has been working in the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) to train and support patients in using of their wheelchairs and is one of CRP's Peer Support trainers.

During her time at CRP, Asma has only felt comfortable talking with patients. She thinks this is the only job that she could do with her wheelchair. She never felt comfortable sharing or supporting other persons with disabilities who do not have a spinal cord injury. However, after participating in four introductory sessions on Peer Support and is a core member of the AHEAD Peer Support Trainer of Trainers Teaching Team.!

ØBELIEVE EACH PERSON WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD HAVE THIS TRAINING ON PEER SUPPORT. THEY SHOULD LEARN ALL THE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION OF THIS. BECAUSE BEFORE HAVING THE AHEAD PROJECT PEER SUPPORT TRAINING, I NEVER SHARED MY FEELINGS OR MY THOUGHTS WITH ANY OTHER PERSON WITH DISABILITIES. I HAVE BEEN USING MY KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN THIS TRAINING AND NOW I FEEL CONFIDENT AND COMFORTABLE TO TALK WITH ANYONE WHO IS FACING DIFFICULTIES WITH HIS OR HER DISABILITY. I SHARE MY EXPERIENCE WITH THEM AND TRY TO SUPPORT THEM TO FIND OUT WAYS THEY CAN OVERCOME THEIR BARRIERS.Ø!

KUSHI AKTER A 19 year old woman, Kushi has a shorter left leg and walks with a modified gait. She was selected for the Sewing Machine program in the Madhab Memorial Training Centre of CRP, which is supported by the AHEAD project. After the completion of the four-month training, she found a job in a garment factory as a sewing operator. She was extremely happy to obtain this job as she lives with her brother and family and never thought that she would be able to earn money independently.!

Khusi is happy working with her colleagues in the factory and finds her supervisor and other workers extremely helpful. She is very proud to be a part of the AHEAD project.!



ØI WAS ENCOURAGED ON PROGRAM'S INAUGURATION DAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE AHEAD PROJECT Ø SPEECH ON THAT DAY MY JOURNEY BEGAN WHEN I ALSO TALKED ABOUT MY FEARS AND HOPES FOR THE FIRST TIME.Ø

Khusi dreams of a good career and becoming an example for women with disabilities in Bangladesh, and is not interested in marrying right now. She wants to prove herself by furthering her education and then will marry.!

ØI TRAVEL EVERYDAY ON LOCAL TRANSPORT AND AFTER HAVING THE AHEAD SUPPORTED SEWING MACHINE TRAINING I KNOW HOW TO PROVE MYSELF. I AM NOT THINKING OF MARRIAGE RIGHT NOW.Ø!

KORNY MARINA MOMEN, AHEAD COUNTRY COORDINATOR

I am extremely honored to be the part of AHEAD project working for accessible educational and health programs for children and youth with disabilities in Bangladesh. Through this project, everyone can take part equally in the development of this country, no matter their abilities. This is the place where we can use our experience in broader way with new dimensions. I am really grateful to ICACBR in giving me the opportunity to improve the quality of life of the children and youth with disabilities in our country. To me, AHEAD project is a great endeavour for persons with disabilities benefiting Bangladesh and improving the quality of life for person with disabilities.

IPODMCH EDUCATOR EXPERIENCES

JACKIE WHITTINGHAM, MODULE 2

I spent 11 days working with the Interprofessional Project on Disability Maternal and Child Health (IPODMCH) in Bangladesh. The group of trainees hailing from different regions of Bangladesh brought both enthusiasm and dedication to the training. Their commitment and eagerness to learn never faltered as we found ways to communicate with and without interpreters.

What I experienced inside the classroom was a microcosm of the greater CRP community. The compound is filled with rich greenery and brilliant colours of the traditional garments worn by women who come to tend to their family members afflicted with disabilities. I was struck by the innovation of people who could turn recycled paper into elaborate seating for children, and awed by how this contrasted with my previous perception of a country renowned for its rate of poverty and hardship. After just a few short days it was apparent that the proverb *Ability not Disability* is truly reflected in the work of the CRP team and the ICACBR/Queen's University staff who have made the IPODMCH initiative possible.

WHAT I EXPERIENCED INSIDE THE CLASSROOM WAS A MICROCOSM OF THE GREATER CRP COMMUNITY



ROSEMARY BRANDER AND ANNE O'RORDAN, MODULE 3

For five days, we worked with 39 participants, teaching about interprofessional collaborative teamwork, early childhood development and identification of disabilities in newborns and young children. While we encountered challenges in understanding culture and language, our differences all but disappeared as everyone engaged in experiential learning.

There was laughter much of the time, but also tears and sadness as we learned of the many problems that the project is meant to alleviate in a country experiencing a lack of health care services alongside political uncertainties. Yet we

WE ENCOUNTERED A WARMTH AND GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS

encountered a warmth and generosity of spirit beyond our expectations. We took away much more than we left behind, including one realization that will last forever: every

person in this *oasis* that is called CRP is treated with respect, kindness and equality. The values evident in its Director and in ICACBR's work are brought to life here. This is a way of living and working that all individuals would do well to emulate, regardless of the country one calls home.

AHEAD EDUCATOR EXPERIENCES

MEENU SIKAND, PEER SUPPORT MODULE 2

In first week of December my attendant Pari and I travelled to Bangladesh. Over the following two weeks, I met CRP Founder Ms. Valerie Taylor, the AHEAD Bangladeshi team, CRP staff and many residents whose resilience, courage, strength and unconditional friendship have touched me deeply and changed me forever. Everyone I met wanted to discuss various issues, obtain opinions, and learn lessons. Mothers who were learning advocacy skills to help their children or other women with disabilities wanted to engage in conversation about getting married, holding a job, or having children of their own. Others were looking to lead public education campaigns!

IT FELT VERY SPECIAL THAT MANY PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED ME TO BE PART OF THEIR LIFE BY SHARING THEIR STORIES, DREAMS AND AMBITIONS

Everyone embraced me with interest, respect and love. It felt very special that many participants allowed me to be part of their lives by sharing stories, dreams and ambitions. Many trainees reminded me of my own early struggles, doubts and ambitions concerning my disability. The participatory method used to deliver this training allowed all 29 participants to actively engage in the course and pre-training meetings!

The AHEAD project continues to equip participants with skills and tools that will allow them to become more financially independent and remove barriers in an educational system that is not inclusive. I am so honoured to be part of the AHEAD team, bringing my skills, expertise and knowledge of South Asian culture to deliver this much needed training.



PAOLA DURANDO, LIBRARY EXPANSION

It's hard to know who was more nervous, me or my Bangladeshi colleague Mohesana Mosammat when we first met. The apprehension quickly fell away as we discussed commonalities, our conversation peppered with familiar library jargon!

Whether located in Savar, Bangladesh or Kingston, Canada, both our libraries strive to meet the health information needs of students, faculty, researchers and clinicians. Both our libraries support occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nursing programs. Mohesana and I both teach information literacy skills, training library users to select and effectively search the best possible resources. We collaborated to develop an e-library, an extension of the CRP's physical library while opening up HINARI access to all members of the BHPI-CRP community. Introducing the e-library to groups of students and faculty, we provided awareness of the rich resources available and encouraged faculty members to incorporate enquiry-based learning in their instruction. If students explore quality resources on their own, they are far more likely to become lifelong learners and to contribute to their professional evidence base!

During one of our conversations, Mohesana referred to CRP founder Valerie Taylor as "sister Valerie". Indeed, the staff and volunteers at the CRP work together as a family to pull off miracles on a daily basis. In January 2014 the BHPI-CRP Library and the Bracken Health Sciences Library became Sister Libraries. This designation cements the libraries' relationship, as both endeavour to positively impact the delivery of health care!

INDEED, THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE CRP WORK TOGETHER AS A FAMILY TO PULL OFF MIRACLES ON A DAILY BASIS.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION AND ICACBR

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:!

ICACBR's current projects page at <http://www.queensu.ca/icacbr/projects/current.html> !

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed at <http://www.crp-bangladesh.org/> !

Contact Us At: ICACBR@queensu.ca !