

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Community based rehabilitation (CBR) has been in existence for over two decades now, started primarily to address needs of persons with disabilities in developing countries. During the first decade, there was little or no published literature available on different aspects of this new approach. Over the last ten years, however, there has been a gradually growing body of knowledge, based on experiential accounts and what Finkenflugel terms 'grey' literature, comprising of project evaluation reports, annual reports of programmes and some newsletters. Most of these reports are with donor agencies or governments, and not usually available for wider circulation. Scientific literature on CBR is still rare, and one finds that authors from the developed world

Over the last decade, the Asia Pacific Disability Rehabilitation Journal and associate publications like Selected Readings in Community Based Rehabilitation and Manual for CBR Planners, have been attempting to address the gap in information on CBR, by disseminating information on CBR from different parts of the world. It is now increasingly recognised that with a dedicated readership of about 20,000 from all over the world, APDRJ is a useful vehicle for dissemination of material related to CBR, not only by publishing in the journal, but also by co-mailing other related publications along with the journal. Of late, in addition to the APDRJ group publications, publications of work from other authors are being produced and mailed along with APDRJ.

The APDRJ team are now bringing out a CD-ROM with all back issues of the journal and associate publications, from 1997 to 2003. This will make available under a single source, all the material that is not available elsewhere, for easy reference and retrieval. The feedback received from readers indicates that such reference material would be of use to them, particularly for people in the field as they move from generating experiential information to more evidence based information. The feedback also indicates that it would also be more relevant to users at this point in time, with most field workers having access to computers.

All these publications are an effort at establishing a more scientific body of knowledge about different aspects of CBR, meant to build capacity of different groups such as policy

makers, donors, academics, researchers and people in the field. The aim of all these information dissemination efforts is to contribute to evidence based growth and development of CBR in the future.

The APDRJ team wishes all readers a happy New Year!

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