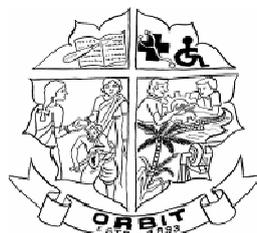


**ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA AMICI DI RAOUL FOLLEREAU (AIFO)
&
ORGANIZATION FOR BIDAR INTEGRAL TRANSFORMATION (ORBIT)**



**Title: “Innovative Approaches for the Rehabilitation
of People with Disability in the District of Bidar,
Karnataka State - South India”**

***Action co-financed by
Italian Bishops’ Conference (Rome - Italy)
and implemented by AIFO and ORBIT***

Second Year Report

Reported period: 26/05/2009 - 31/05/2010

Document issued by ORBIT and AIFO

1. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTION

* **Title of the action:** "Innovative Approaches for the Rehabilitation of People with Disability in the District of Bidar, Karnataka State, South India"

* **Applicant:** Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)
Via Borselli, 4-6 40135 Bologna (Italy)

* **Country:** India

* **Place of the action:** District of Bidar, Karnataka State, South India.

* **Typology of the action:** Physical and social rehabilitation of the people with disability, with particular attention to children with disability.

* **Duration of the action:** 3 years (end of the project: 30/05/2011)

* **Starting date of the action:** October 1st 2007.

* **Local Institution responsible for the implementation of the action:**

ORBIT (Organisation for Bidar Integral Transformation) N.H.09
Humnabad - 585 330 Bidar District, Karnataka State, India
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ORBIT is an organisation linked with the local Diocese:
Rev. Robert Michael Miranda - Diocese of Gulbarga
Bishop's House - Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral
Church Road, Gulbarga 585103

* **Local person responsible for the operational management of the action:**

Fr. Santhosh Dias - Manager of ORBIT
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***Beneficiaries:** the direct beneficiaries will be the People with Disability (PWDs) in the area of action, with particular attention to children with disability. Their families and the community are the indirect beneficiaries. The area of the action corresponds to 80% of the territory of the Bidar district (four Taluks).

***Strategy of the action:**

- **General objective:** to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the PWDs, with particular attention to children, through the development of a CBR program.
- **Specific objective:** to promote the social inclusion of PWDs in four Taluks of the District of Bidar.

2. ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED AND RESULTS OBTAINED

Caused by difficulties in organizing the local staff, involved in development of activities in the field, the deadline of the first year of the project was extended eight months. For this reason the reported period of this document is: from 26/05/2009 to 31/05/2010.

During the second year of the project was possible to develop the action in five Taluks of Bidar District (initially the area of action was foreseen in four Taluks). ORBIT has been working for the social rehabilitation and inclusion of people with disabilities (using a Community Based Rehabilitation approach), and also for the prevention of disabilities. With the support of AIFO and Italian Bishops' Conference, ORBIT has been able to implement and guarantee the continuity of CBR action in the field (focusing the attention on children with disabilities). The situation of the action and the result obtained during the reported period (12 months) is as follows:

Need assessment

In the month of June 2009, 10 people with disabilities (PWDs) were newly identified. Among them 4 were in Aurad and 6 in Basavakalyan. They are given awareness and their need assessment was done. During the project period 362 need assessments were made: Humnabad 50, Bidar 56, Aurad 52, Basavakalyan 154, Bhalki 50. During the assessments, the individual case studies are made and documented. The needs of these differently able persons were identified and action plan was prepared to follow up with intention of rehabilitation facilitating education, referral services, medical treatment, facilities and mobility aids.

Formation and strengthening of SHGs

Regular meetings of all the 127 SHGs are held and awareness is given on different issues relating to the disabled like rights of the PWDs, prevention of disability and managing the persons with different kinds of severe disabilities. More efforts are put in to motivate the members of the SHGs to sustain and strengthen the groups, as many of the members desire to break away the groups not realizing the importance of it. The disability day was observed in the SHGs with some special activities for the disabled. The awareness on the rights of PWDs was stressed and the motivation to form a Federation was given. In spite of all our efforts, 10 SHGs were ended.

A plan for income generating program (IGP) was developed in order to help the eligible PWDs to enhance their income. In this program the organization will train and support financially those who undertake self-employment. Within the program, 30 members have been already identified for tailoring, ironing, petty shop, fruits and vegetable vending, animal husbandry. Among them, 9 persons were selected for further consideration. They came to gather for a meeting at ORBIT and 5 pico, 2 double and 2 single tailoring machines were given to them.

Awareness activities

Community meetings. Mass level meetings were held during the project period. The awareness was given to the public regarding the issues of the PWDs and disability, early identification of the disability, the community based rehabilitation approach (CBR), facilities available in the Government departments for PWDs and different training opportunities available at local level. These meetings were held mainly for the purpose of organizing the PWDs, and to form their own SHGs.

Mass Awareness on misuse and importance of Identity Card (IC) was mentioned to PWDs and their parents in all the Government hospitals of five talukas of Bidar.

Four Awareness programmes have been organized in Humnabad, Bidar, Bhalki, Basvakalyan taluks. Awareness programmes were organized for both the PWDs and the communities in general.

Schools awareness program. On four different Government schools ORBIT animators conducted awareness programs. They conducted speech competition on topics related to disability. This increased the knowledge of children about different able persons and disability. School awareness programs were conducted in all the taluks, in order to create awareness among the students. We feel that if we create this awareness when they are young it will be a great success in the later stages of their life. Various games and competitions are conducted to make them aware of the disability. Prizes were given to the students in order to encourage them.

Awareness activities to pregnant women and mothers. Four awareness programs to the pregnant ladies and mothers were given: 3 in Humnabad and 1 in Aurad Taluk. In these programs the importance of nutrition, in order to prevent disability, was explained through discussion and speech. The importance of antenatal, prenatal and postnatal care was presented and discussed.

Awareness to other Community Based Organizations (CBOs). Awareness programs to the women SHGs of Bhalki and Aurad were given. In these programs, the women received information about preventive measures of disability. Other awareness programs were organized in the project area for women (CBOs members) on causes of disability due to lack of nutrition, also informing about the available services of the Government.

A specific awareness program on different issues of disability was given to a Group of women who are undergoing embroidery training program of Handloom and Garments Department of the Government (80 women in two batches coming from the villages around Basavakalyan).

Many disabilities, diseases or weaknesses in the children are due to lack of appropriate nutrition for the children. Awareness program on nutrition for pregnant women were organized in the Mirzapur and Hamelapur villages of Bidar (combined training and awareness program). The women were informed about the importance of nutrition and the advantages of using the appropriate nutrition food. They were practically explained what is and how to prepare and cook appropriate food, in order to avoid all disabilities linked with nutrition. This awareness program was a real help for women. Finally the program was concluded by answering their question and clearing all their doubts regarding the nutrition

Parents' Workshops

Three workshops were held for the parents of PWDs (one in Aurad and two in Bhalki). In this workshop, was given awareness about managing of PWDs with different disabilities, especially the mentally retarded.

A workshop were held in all the taluks (November 2009) for parents. In these workshops, the parents of PWDs living in the villages and surroundings were brought together and taught them how to identify, manage and assist PWDs. They are given awareness about the rights of PWDs, the facilities available at local level in different fields. Each workshop was organized for 3-4 hours in each village.

Vidya Vikas (Inclusive education)

The children with disability are neglected regarding basic education, so was decided to combine our Vidya Vikas program with the CBR program, and promoting the inclusive education process. Various teachers were identified and involved and will be act in the same way in the future: 3 teachers were appointed in Government school of Morkandi, Andhral and Shivpur villages of Basavakalayan and 3 teachers in the government school of Hipalgaon, Jonikere, Lingadhalli villages of Aurad. In the morning they will teach in the government school but in the evenings they will have special activities for children with disability. The teachers will also visit their families and build a good rapport with their parents and neighbors.

Support for organization of DPOs

Various workshops/meetings were held in Aurad, Basvakalyan and Humnabad with SHGs members about how to manage their disability: introduction about Government available facilities, skills which they can use for themselves and get empowered on their own. Finally they were motivated to join DPOs in order to gather and fight for their own rights.

Training to DPOs members

Regular trainings have been organized for DPOs members by our local animators and coordinators. Firstly the members were motivated on various topics like human rights, and income generating programmes that are available to them from the local organizations (NGOs) and Government.

Orientation to PWDs and relatives

Orientation programmes have been organized in all the Taluks, except Bhalki, developed by ORBIT animators and coordinators and in collaboration with PWDs and their family members regarding various topics like basic physiotherapy, feeding and daily living activities and skills.

Support to access facilities

Identity cards. During the project period PWDs were helped to obtain Identity Cards: in Humnabad Taluk, Bidar Taluk, Bhalki Taluk, Basavakalyan Taluk and Aurad Taluk.

Railway concession. PWDs were helped to get railway concession in Aurad Taluk, Bidar Taluk, Humnabad Taluk, Bhalki Taluk, and Basavakalyan Taluk.

Housing facility. One person with disability was helped to get housing facility under Ashraya Scheme in Aurad Taluk.

Bus Pass. PWDs were helped to obtain bus pass (total of 408) in the following Taluks: Bhalki, Aurad, Humnabad, and Basavakalyan.

Pension to PWDs. Persons with disabilities were supported to obtain PHP in Aurad Taluk, Basavakalyan Taluk, Bhalki Taluk, Humnabad Taluk.

Aids and appliances. Persons with disability were helped to obtain different aids and appliances for their mobility. A camp was organized at ORBIT for distributing the same. These aids and appliances were provided by Anga Karunya Kendra, Bangalore. While distributing the aids and appliances, each individual case are recorded with their photos. Besides, other three camps were held at Chincholli, Sedam and Chittapur to assess the need of the aids and appliances (624 disabled were assessed during the camp and 427 out of them are selected for the mobility aids which will be provided later). Apart from the above, six persons with disability were helped to get the hearing aid provided by the District Disability Department. And four persons with disability were helped to obtain Wheel chair from District Disability Department.

Income generating activities

Poverty is common among the differently able persons in Bidar. Many of them lack education and do not have a profession. To help these people an Income Generating Activity was started this month. In total 30 differently able persons were made aware about this activity. Among them 8 were selected for a tailoring project, they all received a sewing machine and tools. An overview of the beneficiaries with their new tailoring machines is attached on next page.

Loans applications

Applications for the Chitanya loans and Micro loan schemes for the PWDs have been submitted in the district BCM office.

SGSY Loans.

In Basavakalyan Taluk the DPO's are functioning well and the members are very active. The members are very regular in saving their accounts. Two DPO's were selected for the SGSY loans. These loans will be of great help to PWDs to have their own business like Provision store, sheep rearing, goat rearing, and foot wear shop. In future the bank manager has assured that still more DPO's will be selected and given loans.

Name of the DPO	Village
<i>Beeni Thori</i> Disabled People's Organisation	Gigili
<i>Mallige</i> Disabled People's Organisation	Bhetgeera

Revolving funds

Seeing the active involvement of DPOs in their savings and regular meetings 4 DPOs of Basvakalyan Taluk were selected for the revolving fund from the DCC Bank. This will really be a great motivation to the DPO members. Through this revolving fund members of the DPOs are very happy and they are more enthusiastic to save more savings (*please, see the table below*).

Name of the DPO	Village
<i>Shri Chanabasveshwara</i> Disabled Peoples Organisation	Algoad
<i>Keerthi</i> Disabled Peoples Organisation	Sastapur
<i>Navachethana</i> Disabled Peoples Organisation	Ramnagar
<i>Parimala</i> Disabled Peoples Organisation	Rampur Wadi

Treatment

Treatment of epilepsy cases. Epilepsy cases were helped to get treatment in Govt. Hospital Bidar. Besides the follow up of previous identified cases for continuous medication was done.

Physiotherapy. Follow up of previous cases for RM, strengthening, stretching, gata training, and breathing exercise and foot correction exercises were done. Eleven new cases were identified for such exercises.

Eye surgery. One blind person was helped to undergo cataract surgery in Welmagna Hospital, Bidar. And one person was helped to have surgery in Hyderabad.

Referrals. PWDs with skin, dental, gynec and lungs problem were helped to get treatment from concerned specialists

Home based rehabilitation health camps

Five home based rehabilitation health camps were organized by ORBIT in 5 Taluks in collaboration with the Government Hospital. The disability and illness were identified and medical checkup was provided by local doctors (corrective surgeries, treatments, counseling, and physiotherapy applied by the local doctors).

Formation of Taluka Federation of PWDs

In the month of July 09, the program made great achievement by formation of 5 taluk forums in Bidar. Training on the concept of the forum was conducted by Mr. Jayanth from AIFO. He explained the concept to the CBR staff and differently able persons. This was followed by the formation of 5 Taluk forums.

CBR Taluk forum training to the staff

On 20 & 22 July 2009 Mr. Jayanth from AIFO gave training to the CBR staff. Since many staff members were appointed last month the CBR concept was explained to them. Extra attention was given to explain the roles and responsibilities of all the staff members.

The second part of the training was about the Taluk forum. The concept was clarified to all the CBR staff members. In discussion with all the staff and the differently able persons we decided to form 5 Taluk forums.

Taluk forum concept training to PWDs

On 21 & 22 July 2009, training was held on the concept of the Taluk forum for the differently able persons. From all the 5 Taluks, 12 each differently able persons were invited to attend the training. Mr. Jayanth made them aware about the importance of the Taluk forum. The power of unity was explained to them: the forum enables them to act as a group and get benefits from the government. Various activities were conducted according to the Taluk wise groups to enhance their group skills. The participants themselves brought up issues that could be addressed by the Taluk forum.

A women suffering from leprosy, who is also the SHG president of the village, shared her problem. While going to the bank for depositing the money of the DPOs she is neglected by the bank staff. The bank manager is even crueller and ordered her to go out and never return. This awful event shows the attitude of the community towards differently able persons. All the participants shared the opinion that this issue should be discussed in the next Taluk forums in all Taluks.

Accounting training

In the month of July 2009, Mr. Patrick from AIFO Bangalore came to ORBIT to give training to the accounting staff. He explained the new AIFO monthly financial statement format. He also gave training to the staff on how to put the accounts into the computer. He helped to process all the accounts. Thanks to his support, the whole accounting is up to date at present.

Survey by MSW students from Mysore

Five students from the University of Mysore, doing a Master study in Social Work completed their summer placement at ORBIT. During their 3 week s stay in Humnabad they did not only learn about the programs of ORBIT. They also did a survey in 15 villages to identify the differently able persons of those villages.

World Disabled Day

In the month of December 2009, the world disabled day was organized in all the Taluks of the district. We had no stage program as such but we had organized the whole day with the lot of activities for the disabled people to exhibit their talents and skills. Lot of inputs was given to them on federation and its importance and benefits they can get from federation. How to fight for their rights by organizing rallies, Rasta roka. They were also told to overcome their disability and to be mainstreamed by themselves in the society. This was a really a great experience to every one. The afternoon sessions were full of games and activities like: Tomato Race, Needle and Thread, Straw game, Balloon bursting these games were conducted according to their disability. Other competitions like Singing, Mimicry, and Mono act were also organized. All of them took part actively in all the competitions and finally they were motivated by giving prizes to all the participants.

NAME OF THE FEDERATION	TALUK	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS (PWDs)
Shanthi Kranthi	Aurad	46
Ravi kiran	Bhalki	40
Jyothi	Bidar	49
Nava Chethana	Humnabad	39
Jai Karnataka	Basavakalyan	36

Leprosy survey

The first phase of leprosy survey was held in all the Taluks during the project period. We have decided that due to the negligence and lack of support from the community to provide sandals to the leprosy patients. We had taken a compiled list from all the taluka panchayath office and asked our animators to do this survey. Our animators met the leprosy patients personally and took the measurement of their feet along with the address and contact numbers. We have ordered for the sandals from Chennai and we will be able to distribute them to the leprosy patients.

Data collected in the first phase of the leprosy survey

Taluk	Number of leprosy affected persons identified
Aurad	163
Bidar	28
Basavakalyan	20
Humnabad	38
Total	249

Staff appointed

The termination of Government appointed staff resulted in appointing new staff to the project. The new staff took time to understand the project goals, objectives and the activities they are supposed to take up. With this new staff we hope to be on schedule soon.

Networking

ORBIT aims at integrated development by collaborating with various stakeholders. We did improve our networking by visiting the District Health Officer (DHO) in Bidar. During the visit the health camps, which are planned to be in all project Talukas, were discussed.

Documentation

ORBIT has systemized the documentation of the CBR program. We already made great improvements. New formats have been made and provided to animators, local coordinators and program coordinator. However not all staff are able to use them and do proper documentation. In the coming months we will train them and improve their documentation skills.

CBR Staff Review meetings

During the year 24 review meetings were held. In the meetings the evaluation of the work done and preparation of the action plan was done.

Conclusion

The formation of the Taluk forums and training in rights of the differently able persons will open new opportunities for the disabled to stand up for their rights. We hope that it will contribute of the wellbeing of all disabled in the Bidar district.

Report issued by ORBIT and AIFO