The International Rehabilitation and Prevention of Disability (RPOD) and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) courses in Nepal

Rehabilitation and Prevention of Disability

This year the Rehabilitation and Prevention of Disability (RPOD) course was conducted for the 10th consecutive year at BIKASH training Centre, Pokhara, Nepal. The main objective of the course is to impart up-to-date knowledge and skills to participants about disability with a special focus on leprosy related disability. Many sessions focus on knowledge and skills required for the supervision of disability projects. During the 2-week course, the participants will have to develop and design a project proposal using the tools that have been presented and discussed during the course.

The course this year had 16 participants from six different countries (more applications were received).

Participants came from the following countries (alphabetical order): Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, India and Nepal.

Course in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

This year for the third time the CBR course followed the RPOD course. As in previous years, some participants from the RPOD course stayed on for the CBR course. With the changing policy of leprosy (I)NGOs and governments, and mainstreaming of leprosy work into general disability work there is an increasing interest in, and need for training staff in more general and specific aspects of community health and rehabilitation.

This year the CBR course had 17 participants from five countries (alphabetical order): Afghanistan, Brazil, India, Nepal and Thailand.

Target groups for both courses are health professionals (medical doctors, therapists, nurses etc) involved in disability care and program managers. The courses are especially designed for those with a responsibility to implement and sustain disability projects.

Professionals with a non-medical background (administrators) will also greatly benefit from these courses. If they have limited or no knowledge about leprosy and or disability then they are advised to take part in a 1-week in-service training/orientation.

Increasingly, rehabilitation and prevention of disability takes place in the community with the active involvement and participation of the community. Appropriate technology is advocated, self-help groups are formed, microfinance business training is started etc. Everything is geared towards the empowerment of people with disability and the communities in which they live.

BIKASH is an acronym for Building In Knowledge, Attitude and Skills for Health. Bikash is a Nepali word that means “Development”. BIKASH, formerly Green Pastures Training Centre, is a non-governmental organisation which became independent from the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) in 2005.
The (inter)national facilitators for both courses are very much experienced in the field of leprosy and disability. The main facilitator for the CBR course is Huib Cornielje, a health professional with more than 20 years experience in CBR. He also directs his own consultancy office (www.enablement.nl).

The Partnership for Rehabilitation Program, the community outreach/rehabilitation program of the International Nepal Fellowship, will also co-facilitate this course.

The main objective of the course is that participants will have a working knowledge of all the important aspects related to CBR. Besides plenary theoretical sessions there will be a variety of practical (skill) sessions and a field trip.

**Dates**

**RPOD course:** March: 5–16, 2007 (2 weeks) [+ optional week(s) if pre-arranged]
**CBR course:** March: 19–30, 2007 (2 weeks).

For the RPOD course, a maximum of 12 participants will be accepted. For the CBR course, only 16 participants will be accepted.

**Target group:** Managers of community based rehabilitation and/or POD programmes, senior leprosy control staff and doctors and therapists with managerial responsibilities for RPOD/CBR activities.

**Venue:** The BIKASH Training Centre, Green Pastures Complex, Pokhara, Nepal.

Course fees (including board & lodging): $350 per week.

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