

## Challenges of the Standardized Questionnaire for CBR Studies: Lessons from Nepal

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### The Context

- Learning by involving the similar type of research and consultancy (e.g. *The Leprosy Mission Nepal and The Netherlands Leprosy Relief*).
- The information collected from the disabled people or their caretakers included :
  - Demographic characteristics,
  - Socio-economic situation,
  - Ability of self care,
  - Limitation of daily activity, and
  - Social participation.

## Focus of the Discussion

- Issues of “UNIVERSAL APPLICABILITY” of the survey Questionnaire versus “LOCAL CONTEXT”
- Issues “GENERALIZED SITUATION” versus “INDIVIDUAL VARIATION” within the District
- Inadequate information about subjective feelings in Survey Questionnaires

## WHO ARE THE NEEDY PEOPLE FOR FINANCIAL /EQUIPMENT SUPPORT?

- \* RELATIVELY POOR,
- \* MARGINALIZED,
- \* NOT ABLE TO AFFORD FOR SCHOOL OR REHABILITATIVE SUPPORT

## Disability Survey Situation in Nepal

- Government does not have minimum level of information about the disable people and their types at the various levels.
- Many NGOs have been taking disability as a crosscutting Issues,
- Some NGOs claim that they have covered one third of 75 district but in reality they have been covering only few VDCs in the districts.
- Don't have adequate data about the socio-economic situation, types of disability, present condition, need of supports and the expectation of disabled people.
- Some districts are overlapped and some districts are completely underserved.

One of the major issues, that I found, which should be properly explored is economic one.

The economic indicators greatly vary based on the place of residence of the respondents (e.g. urban versus rural), valuable economic assets in the program areas (large animals, productive lands, fallow lands buildings of various types , occupation, family income and personal income, shares, pensions, rents and so on).

## Where Did We Face Difficulty?

To explore the economic situation of the person

- How many larger animals does the family own (goats, cows, buffalo, pigs etc.)? **RDA Tool for Household Survey**

This question will be more applicable in rural areas and less applicable in urban areas. Animal husbandry is not so common in urban areas .

- How many small animal does the family own (chickens, ducks etc.)? **RDA Tool for Household Survey**

This issue also depends on the place of residence (Rural or Urban) and cultural of the caste/ethnic group in Nepal. For example, Brahmin generally do not have chickens and ducks in western Nepal due to the concept of purity and pollution.

- How much is your monthly family income? **RDA Tool for Household Survey** . It is very difficult to estimate the family income because most of the rural people have subsistence farming, family as unit of production and consumption.

## Where Did We Face Difficulty? (Conti.....)

- How much land do your family own? Or, How much land do you own? This question seems very simple but it should also be remembered that the types of land, productivity, cropping intensity and the price greatly vary even within the village.
- The expected support from the external organizations (INGOs, GO) also varied based on the educational status and the opportunities of having exposure to other areas rather than the real need of the disabled person.

We should be serious to collect the real situation of the disabled person because....

- We have to find out the real need of the disabled person;
- We have limited resources;
- We have to prioritized the cases;
- We should give them justice;
- Link Disabled persons and facilities to the facilities and services

What can be done for the SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE ??

- Based on the local context, PROXY economic indicator can be made:
  1. Food Sufficiency Months from own production in the rural areas. (For example, Less than 3 months, Up to 6 months, Up to 9 months, 12 months, and Surplus.
  2. Main Source of Income of the Family
  3. Other sources of income of the family

ONE OF THE KEY ISSUE SHOULD BE OBSERVATION

#### What Additional Do We Need ?

- The narratives and case stories of the disabled person. Appreciation of narratives and case stories are equally important, as a way of acknowledging the individual experiences and difficulties.
- Without the context provided by fieldwork, people with disabilities are at risk of becoming their impairment in a new discourse of help and rehabilitation. They lose the cultural dimension of personhood.
- Thus, a more in-depth need assessment to the disabled person (i.e. the potential candidate to receive service) should be done before implementing the rehabilitation program.

#### What Additional Do We Need (Conti....)

- I had an opportunity to discuss about the RDA Tool with Wim H. van Brakel in Kathmandu. I feel that some pertinent questions should be added in RDA Tool for finding the real needs of the disabled person. For example, what makes it harder (or easier ) for them to participate in the community.
- Field Researcher found some difficulty to collect information about WHODAS 12-item Core Questions. It was observed that only adequately trained person of having higher level knowledge on disability can rephrase the question properly (if the respondent does not properly understand) and get valid information.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TOGETHER?

- Common Understanding of Minimum level of information required for CBR for DISABLED people.
- Sharing the SURVEY DATA and REPORT with other supporting/facilitating Organization including the GoN
- Avoid the duplication of the programs
- Link between person with disabilities and those who provide the working environment/services to them

THANK YOU