

CBR In Korea

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CBR as a philosophy and method encompasses the following broad objectives and activities that are considered critical in enhancing a person's capacity to lead as independent living as feasible. Accordingly, the CBR is linked to 1) wide-ranging activities and services and 2) to change-oriented activities to remove physical, cultural, social, Legal and environmental barriers which might impede participation of people with disabilities in community lives.

With respect to the Disability Discrimination Act, the campaign is being waged in alliance with people with disabilities themselves, disability organizations and professional organizations and the current government has pledged that it will enact the Anti-discrimination Act.

Provision of tertiary educational opportunities (especially in Social Welfare area) for 30 applicants from 2003 to train people with disabilities themselves as educators and service administrators. The trainee will be active in promoting independent living for people with severe disabilities and as women disability, and disability self-help organization specialists.

Consolidation of CBR personnel and disability-linked leadership training through the Korea National rehabilitation Center to empower the communities.

Multi-dimensional Approaches: To improve the current Convenience Act originally designed for the people with disability, the aged, the fragile and the expecting mothers by including mobility, communication and information access clauses. This supplementary revision was initiated by people, with and without disabilities and is pending for the parliamentary debate.

To revise relevant acts for income and employment guarantees for people with severe disabilities. The move compels the local businesses to open up job opportunities in improving the chances for an income guarantee.

Some characteristics of The Korea CBR Model

- Directed to rural communities and closely linked to medical delivery systems and the newly introduced social welfare service offices.
- Developed around urban environments and co-ordinated by community organization specialists who utilizes welfare delivery approaches. After some experimental phases, it is now run by about 150 Disability Welfare Centers throughout the nation.
- Major ministries such as Labor, Education and Welfare operated their own specialist's services such as education, medical, vocational rehabilitation and CBR up to year 2002. However, with the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plans for Disability Welfare from 2003, the Office of the Prime Minister will enforce further consolidation and co-ordination of services directly.
- So far expert organization led the major service and policy developments, especially in the area of Disability Discrimination Act, Convenience Act and Prosthetic Services. However, it is expected that the roles associated with legislative developments and service provision activities will be gradually transferred to people with disabilities themselves.
- As a part of broad move to expedite the change of peoples' attitudes towards people with disability, now it has become compulsory to admit at least 1 disabled child for 10 non-disabled children in kindergartens and further compels inclusion of educational materials in the curriculum to sharpen such awareness.