

Voices of Participants

Pio Campo, Brazil

I believe that health means allowing a child to grow up, not just without the danger of sickness, but also to make sure that the child can play, love and be loved and respected in his/her role of being a child.

Eliana De Paula Santos, Brazil

Fighting against prejudices and discrimination, apart from being an act of social promotion, is also an act of love and solidarity.

Javed Abidi, India

India has about 50-60 million disabled persons. Even if we live in an “information age”, less than 2% of them have any access to the education.

If we speak about the power, who takes the decisions, who has more power? Usually the clients, the disabled persons are marginalised and voiceless, while power is with foreign experts, project managers and even community workers. Planning and carrying out activities without involving the disabled persons, the clients, means that project activities will not be successful.

We have been trying to change this situation. In 1998, we had the national disability convention in which disabled persons and their families were invited to discuss issues like education, accessibility, employment, social living, voting rights, etc. Experts were also there in this convention, but more time was given to disabled persons themselves to speak about their ideas and they did participate very actively in all debates and discussions. They decided to institute the World Disability Day in India as well.

Since then, we have helped in setting up of 35 information nodes all over the country. Partners have been identified in each state capital. In addition, 75 partners have been identified at district level. Our goal is to set up a system, so that the voice of disabled persons can be heard and they can participate in the decision making.