



'Cracking the evaluation nut': A working group to address the challenge of Impact Evaluation in Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes for Disabled People

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Aims and Objectives

The aim of this project was to form an international working group of 6-8 researchers/practitioners working in disability in low income settings, to meet and explore possible models for flexible but meaningful impact evaluation for use by CBR programmes in diverse cultures and contexts.

The IGH grant enabled the group to hold two concept development workshops and a further consultation meeting at a global congress on CBR, and to collaborate in writing a funding proposal for a larger project to design and field test a new approach to CBR impact evaluation.

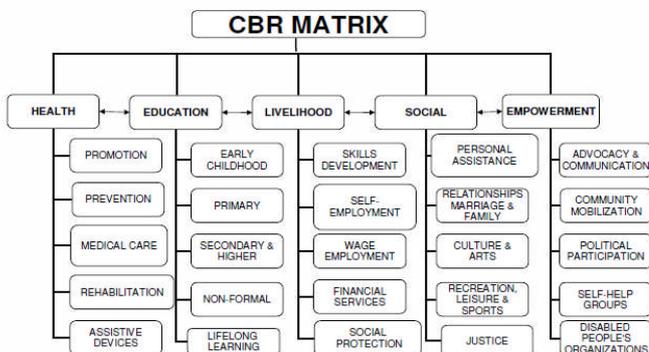
Cross disciplinary

The improved wellbeing and inclusion in society of disabled people globally is a major but neglected Global Health issue. Approximately 10-15 % of the worlds population are disabled and the majority receive inadequate or no services and are easily excluded and stigmatised in their communities.

There has been a gradual shift from 'Medical' to 'Human Right's' and 'Inclusive Community Development' approaches in Disability, supported by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007).

The new WHO CBR framework (2010) aims to use multi-disciplinary cross-sectoral approaches as powerful tools to bring about change in Disabled People's lives.

The new cross-sectoral approach to CBR suggests 5 key domains of intervention as represented in the below:



CBR Matrix (WHO 2006)

This framework demands a broad participatory approach to implementation, evaluation and to research in the field.

A new impact evaluation model needs to draw on both quantitative and qualitative models and diverse disciplinary and practical perspectives including Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Disability Studies, Anthropology, Psychology and Philosophy.

Activities

1. Two workshops (May & Nov 2011):
Attended by 8 invited experts working in disability and development and contributors from diverse departments within UCL. The group included academics and practitioners from a range of countries (China, South Africa, The Netherlands, Germany, France, UK) and a range of organisations including universities and major disability NGOs (Handicap International and CBM).

2. Further discussions were held by Skype and email to refine the outputs (draft model and funding bid).

3. Consultation at World CBR Congress (WHO) in India Nov 2012:

Two of the team will present the potential model for CBR evaluation. This will allow for broader consultation with a global audience of disability practitioners and scholars. This will inform further refining of the model and the field testing plan.



Photos courtesy of WHO website

Outputs and impacts

A potential mixed methods participatory model using Outcome Mapping as a key approach was drafted and trial field sites and local partnerships were agreed upon.

A funding proposal for development of the model and for field testing in Uganda and Malawi was prepared and submitted to the Nuffield Foundation (decision awaited). This is in collaboration with local African NGO partners and universities and the Norwegian Association of the Disabled.

Conclusions

There is agreement across agencies, practitioners and experts that there is an urgent need for a systematic yet flexible model for Impact Evaluation of CBR.

This project aims to initiate development of this through consultation and field testing a toolkit of participatory methods which will include key stakeholders such as disabled people and key community members in the process.

