

A Synthesis of Programs for the Empowerment of Women with Disabilities in Asia

BY

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THESIS

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This thesis is dedicated to my mother, Laxmi D. Gurung, and my father, Krishna B. Gurung: the tireless warriors to ‘socialize’ disability into our culture beyond their limits, and women with disabilities all around the world whose resiliency I admire the most.

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CKG

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADD	Action on Disability and Development
AWDHK	Association of Women with Disabilities, Hong Kong
BPKS	Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CSID	Center for Services and Information on Disability
DPI	Disabled People's International
DPO	Disabled People's Organizations
HWPCI	Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia
IDEA	Inclusive Development Action
ILO	International Labor Organization
KAMPI	Katipunan ng Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc
NGO	Non government organization
PwD	People with disabilities
RAWWD	Rehabilitation Aids Workshop by Women with Disabilities
RIDRIK	Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea
SHG	Self- help groups
UN	United Nations
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WHO	World Health Organization
WwD	Women with disabilities

SUMMARY

The many social, economic, political, and environmental disadvantages experienced by people with disabilities (PwD) are intensified by gender based discriminatory attitudes for women with disabilities (WwD) in Asia. There have been many initiatives focused on the empowerment and inclusion of people with disabilities generally, ranging from local self-help groups to programs funded by global agencies like the World Health Organization (WHO). However few programs focus exclusively on WwD within Asia. In order to broaden awareness about these initiatives, this study sought to identify and document such programs. A total 57 programs were identified and analyzed in order to provide a framework and resource for organizations that are working for and with WwD.

The study's analysis found that gender plays an important role in designing and implementing empowerment programs. Often, programs work against their own stated purpose. The dominant cultural belief that women are responsible for causing a child's disability and must be the "caregiver" of family members with a disability, is often strengthened by programs that target only women. This is counterproductive since men are the usual decision makers in the family, and not reaching them means their decisions are not fully informed by program information. Furthermore, Asian policy makers and development designers are mostly men who give low priority to disability and thus, their "development" agenda mostly exclude WwD.

Such exclusion is structural but practices can be improved through education, training, employment and the formation of self-help groups. Increased program partnerships between women's Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and women's organizations can make disability a common issue for all women regardless of their disability status. Recognition of the importance of women's caregiving would help dispel the stigma of disability as a family burden.

I. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the situation of women with disabilities (WwD) in Asia and the role and importance of empowerment to WwD. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 650 million people, or 10% of the world population, is estimated to have some kind of disability. Though there are no firm statistics on the population of WwD, current research estimates that 80 million of the total disability population of the world is represented by girls and women (UNESCAP, 2003b). WHO (2010) estimates that three-quarters of the world's disability population live in developing countries that are low and middle-income. The Asia and Pacific regions alone are estimated to be home to about 400 million of the world's total disability population (UNESCAP, 2010). In Asia, no studies have been conducted to estimate the actual population of WwD. However, it can be assumed that the number of WwD represents a significant share of the global population since Asia is the most populous continent in the world.

A. Core Concepts

The term “women with disability” (WwD) used in this study refers to females of any age having one or more impairments, activity limitations or participation restrictions because of physiological and/or environmental factors. The definition of disability is consistent with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, a universal disability framework developed by WHO that includes environmental factors such as attitudes, physical settings, and the social environment involving attitudinal aspects of people. WHO (2002) considers disability as a condition caused by the combined or individual outcome of *impairments*, *activity limitations* or *participation restriction*. WHO (2002) defines impairments as “problems in body function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss” in body parts or/and their

functions (p. 10). Impairments can be either visible or invisible. *Activity limitations* refer to the difficulties one encounters in carrying out different activities. Similarly, *participation restriction* is defined as the “problems an individual may experience in involvement in life situations” (WHO, 2002, p. 10). Examples of *activity limitation* include difficulties in self-care, mobility, communication; examples of *participation limitation* include an individual’s difficulties associated with being involved in social or political activities due to discrimination and problems in having an intimate relationship.

The term “empowerment” has many different definitions across contexts and disciplines. The World Bank (2010a) defines empowerment as “the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes” (p. 1). Charlton (1998) has linked empowerment with “raised consciousnesses,” which he describes as a “continuum of changing values and ideas that rejects domination” (p. 118). For Andersen and Siim (2004), empowerment is a “process of awareness and capacity-building which increases participation and decision-making” (p. 2). A simpler and clearer definition is used by the Belgium Commission on Women and Development (as cited in Charlier & Lisette, 2007), which regards empowerment as the process to acquire “powers” both at individual and collective levels.

I employ the latter two definitions of empowerment of WwD for the purpose of identifying empowerment projects in this study. Any program or activity that aims to increase WwD’s awareness and participation that could potentially lead to increased decision-making ability or access to greater power is included in this study. Accordingly, a wide variety of programs are included, for example, a local level vocational training initiative developing embroidery, sewing, or knitting skills, producing ortho-prosthetics for WwD, or helping WwD

attend a local school program. Thus, regardless of the nature of activity or programs, if they have potential to increase options for WwD, then they are considered tools of empowerment. Such tools can eventually lead to the acquisition of “power” in their family and society. One example of empowerment can be seen in Mobility Appliances by Disabled Women Entrepreneurs, a Ugandan nongovernment organization (NGO) that engages WwD in building wheelchairs (Snyder, 1999).

Finally, the focus of review is on Asia, the largest and most populous continent in the world. There is a lack of consensus upon what Asia means and casual references to Asia can have highly variable meanings. In this study, the widely used United Nations (UN) categorization on geographical region and composition is used. The UN categorization divides the 50 countries of Asia into five regions. This study focuses on the 27 nations of East, South and South East Asia.

B. **Disability and Gender**

Around the world, women make up just over 51% of the population. However, due to numerous societal standards, they continue to be left out of the decision making processes. This reality is especially true of women with disabilities in cultures where the role of wife and mother is considered to be the primary role for a female. (Feika I., nd. cited in Rao, 2005)

According to Meekosha (2005), people with disabilities (PwD) are commonly seen as “without gender” or as “asexual creatures” but in reality, gender “intensifies” the disability experience for women. As a result, WwD experience limited or restricted opportunities in terms of education, employment, marriage, and independent living (Meekosha, 2005). Within the disability population, the situation for WwD is made worse due to gender biases across the cultures. Boylan argues that “this double prejudice is the root cause of the inferior status of women with disabilities, making them the world’s most disadvantaged group” (as cited in

Darnbrough, 2003, p. 158). On the other hand, Bhambani (2003) associates the marginalization of WwD to the absence of reliable statistics on WwD in Asia. According to Bhambani (2003), the lack of statistics reflects the utter indifference and attribution of insignificance towards the entire group of WwD, with very few authentic surveys conducted to document the statistics and issues of WwD. The absence of statistical and other reliable information increases the tendency to ignore an already marginalized group. While ignorance and negative attitudes towards disability widens the gap between people without disabilities and the disabled population, gender bias compounds the situation making WwD one of the most isolated groups in Asian societies.

An important factor in the marginalization of WwD is the social stigma and economic, political and environmental disadvantages for PwD. For example, a sample survey conducted in Bangalore by Mobility India reported that WwD were the most deprived group in India because they did not have access to education, health care, employment or the support of family life (UNESCAP, 2003a). While one can argue that men with disabilities face similar disadvantages, WwD are less likely to seek and use available resources because of the prevailing bias against females. WwD may remain uninformed of even the most basic social services that could assist in their functioning (Rehman, 2000). Asian customs often result in families preferring male over female members, leading to WwD being discriminated within their families. A study by UNESCAP (1995) notes that the difficulties faced by girls with disabilities can start at birth with discrimination occurring within the family in the form of receiving less care and food, and exclusion from family interactions and activities. Family biases can ultimately result in restricted social interaction, health care, education, rehabilitation services and employment opportunities. The US based NGO, Mobility International USA (2003) noted that “Women and girls with

disabilities receive inadequate—if any—rehabilitation services because the very limited available resources are directed toward adult men with disabilities” (p. 165).

While describing the cultural history of deaf education in early nineteenth century America, Baynton (1996) argued that “if deaf people lacked voices literally, women lacked them figuratively” (p. 75). The current situation may not be as bad as the nineteenth century, but WwD still have unequal status. For example, the 2000 United States census (United States Census Bureau, 2003) indicated lower employment rates for WwD (51.46%) than for men with disability (60.1%). Despite the higher standard of living compared to WwD in developing countries, WwD in Western countries share similar experiences of marginalization, emotional and sexual violence and other forms of abuse. A study conducted over a period of five years among a representative sample of 7,027 Canadian women showed that WwD were 40% more likely to experience domestic violence than women without disabilities (Brownridge, 2006). Another study of 305 American WwD showed that 68% of them reported being physically, emotionally and sexually abused (Curry et al., 2009). Similarly, the United Nations (2006) reported “Surveys conducted in Europe, North America and Australia have shown that over half of women with disabilities have experienced physical abuse, compared to one-third of non-disabled women” (p. 56). In a national study on women with physical disabilities in the US, Nosek, Howland, Rintala, Young, and Chanpong (1997) concluded that economic dependence, the need for assistance, environmental barriers, and social isolation were the causes of WwD experiencing abuse for longer periods of time with fewer escape options compared to women without disabilities. A lack of knowledge and confidence makes them less likely to complain or seek help which only increases their vulnerability to physical, sexual, and psychological violence and abuse, and dependency on family members for support and care (Disability Awareness in Action, 1997).

C. Women with Disabilities in Asia

Women have lower social status in much of Asia, which increases their vulnerability to discrimination within their family and in the larger society. Vulnerability is heightened by the stigma of disability. Most Asian societies perceive women with disabilities as incapable of fulfilling the culturally assigned roles of womanhood.

From my personal experience of working in disability related NGOs for ten years and growing up in South Asia with a male sibling having multiple disabilities, I have observed the deep interconnection of gender and disability regardless of economical, political, or cultural status. These gender effects have been reported in studies conducted throughout Asian countries and across different cultural groups within countries. For example, women are often considered as both a cause and cure for disability: by giving birth to children with a disability and as the caregiver of family members with a disability. In her book, *Debility and the Moral Imagination in Botswana* (2005), Livingston illustrated such relationship between womanhood and disability through case studies of people having disabilities and the primary role of gender in understanding the disability condition. I have observed that both family and society express greater concern when a woman has disability. Primary concern is given to her physical appearance and related issues that may affect her chances for marriage and ability to provide financial and family support. Marriage is considered an important measure of the status of women and a disability can make them 'unmarriageable' because it can stigmatize the woman as asexual, unattractive, and sexually unproductive.

When families are able to get their daughters with disabilities married, the marriages are generally based upon compromises from the bride's family, such as a much older groom, widower, or a divorced man with adult children. In some cases, parents find a groom by offering

a lucrative dowry of cash and/or a motor vehicle, as I have witnessed in Nepal. Bhambani (2003) provides similar examples in the context of Indian society, adding that patriarchal attitudes encourage men not to choose WwD for marriage even if they are financially independent and more attractive than themselves, assuming a disabled women with financial resources might resist being submissive. Limited educational and vocational opportunities, including overprotection by the family, further limit opportunities of WwD. Assumed by others to be unable to perform expected female roles, families often consider WwD an embarrassment or disgrace to the family.

In contrast to countries with individualistic cultures like the United States, Asian countries have a collectivist emphasis that is “closely intertwined with concepts of harmony and duty” (Westerholm, Radak, Keys, & Henry, 2005, para. 9). Within this cultural orientation, women play an important role across Asia in taking care of family members with a disability. Ziesler (2002), a Norwegian disability activist, argues that although WwD face double discrimination because of their gender and disability, the situation is not too different for the mother of children with disabilities. Habib (1995) clarifies this situation noting “Women's role as carers gives them responsibility for their children; on the birth of a disabled child, this notion of responsibility means that they may be blamed for the social stigma of disability, and for having a child perceived as a nuisance” (p. 51).

D. **Women with Disabilities and Poverty**

Poverty and disability are closely interconnected and play a significant role in the lives of PwD. Poverty often reinforces the powerlessness experienced by people with disabilities and increases their marginalization. In this regard, Ghai (2001) has noted:

Poverty de-individualises and alienates those affected from the mainstream society. Marked by feelings of helplessness and

hopelessness, poverty places limitations on the person, in terms of the personal and environmental resources to improve the quality of his or her life. As the most vulnerable and least vocal members of any society, poor disabled people are often not even perceived. (p. 29)

Priestley (2001) argued that in the global context, poverty and disability have a reciprocal relationship in which there is higher incidence of impairment and disability among the poor and people with disabilities are more likely to be poorer than nondisabled people because of unemployment and discrimination.

In the case of WwD, the impact of poverty can be more debilitating; in developing countries, WwD are over represented among the poor (UNESCAP, 1995). Poverty status can be a matter of survival when compounded by discriminatory cultural practices such as women being fed last and given low priority for medical care during illness (Ghai, 2001). This is a bitter truth in Asian communities where the marginalization of WwD starts at the family level due to culturally rooted preferences for male children (Bhambani, 2003). For example, a project report focused on the inclusion of WwD in Bangladesh concluded that “Families are the major barriers for the development of women with disabilities” (Center for Services and Information on Disability, 2008, p. 10). While working in disability NGOs in Nepal, I observed fewer girls with disabilities attending schools or getting rehabilitation services compared to boys with disabilities. When families were asked about the reason, their answer was always the same: “we are too poor to invest in girls.” Their poverty forced a choice between services for male or female children with disabilities. Thus a cycle of poverty is created where WwD are likely to be more economically dependent because of a high rate of illiteracy and very limited vocationally because they have few skills to offer employers (Disability Awareness in Action, 1997). UNESCAP (2003b) reports that nearly 80% of WwD in Asian and other areas of the Pacific

region are totally dependent on others for their own survival because they have no independent means of livelihood. In addition, a cultural practice such as families excluding WwD from their share in the inheritance of family property contributes to the cycle of poverty for WwD (Maqbool, 2003).

E. **Thesis Purpose**

The purpose of this thesis is straightforward: to better understand the services and supports currently provided to increase the empowerment of women with disabilities in Asia. The approach sought to identify such programs, document them, and disseminate information about these initiatives in order to raise awareness about the disadvantaged status of WwD. This descriptive analysis of programs for WwD can be used as a framework and resource for organizations that are working for and with WwD.

There have been many initiatives on the empowerment and inclusion of PwD generally, ranging from local self-help groups to programs funded by global agencies like the WHO. A number of studies cited in the preceding sections were based on special initiatives conducted by a variety of organizations focused on improving the lives of WwD. However, my research has not discovered studies or compilations summarizing these initiatives. In such a context, a summary document would provide an informational resource for government agencies, NGOs or Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) that could stimulate replication or adaptation of successful program activities for empowering WwD. In addition, such a summary could be used as a working tool to create disability programs for WwD in developing countries. For example, a successful Cambodian program that aims to empower WwD through micro-credit businesses might be replicated in India. The type of micro-business might differ from Cambodia to India but the underlying theme and basic program structure could be adapted to suit the context.

This study therefore is presented as a compendium of programs in East, Southeast, and South Asia that focus on the empowerment of WwD. This compendium consists of a classification and review of programs as well as a synthesis that highlights the best practices of programs.

II. METHOD

This chapter presents an overview of the methods used to identify, summarize, and analyze the programs that focus on the empowerment of WwD. The review includes all developmental programs, projects, or activities that focus on WwD. Within this wide range of programs, an individual program can focus specifically on medical issues such as corrective surgery of burn injuries or supporting greater access to education, health, recreation and employment services, advocacy programs for rights and inclusion, or specific skill development programs such as vocational/skill based trainings, business cooperatives, micro-finance projects, among others. The programs included in this study were administered by government agencies, NGOs, DPOs, and private sector agencies in clinical or community settings.

In this study, government agencies are assumed to follow government priorities and policies that vary across countries. NGOs typically have no administrative affiliation with governments; instead they are group of individuals or organizations with a shared purpose of providing services or advocating for a specific public policy. According to the World Bank (2010b), NGOs refer to organizations which are:

- (i) entirely or largely independent of government; (ii) not operated for profit; and (iii) exist to serve humanitarian, social or cultural interests, either of their memberships or of society as a whole.
- (para. 6)

Excluded from the review were programs or projects that do not emphasize the social, economic, and political empowerment of WwD. For example, activities such as surveys, descriptive studies of the status of WwD on varying topics, and academic or theoretical reviews concerning WwD were not included in this study. I did not limit identification to programs that only serve WwD since programs serving people with disabilities generally could represent a critical source of empowerment activities for WwD even though the programs were not

exclusive for females. Therefore, programs that serve both men and women with disabilities but had some activities aiming to empower WwD were included.

A. **Selection of Nations**

Asia was chosen as the targeted geographic region in this study. The continent comprises many diverse cultures and political systems and as a consequence, there are many variations in the classification and categorization of countries. The lack of general consensus makes general references to Asia highly variable. For example, the term “Asia” has different meanings for global organizations like the UN and the Asian Development Bank that are largely influenced by their program mission objectives. For example, the Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2010) identifies 44 countries as Asian countries, whereas the UN identifies 50 (UN Statistics Division, 2010). The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (2010) specifies 32 countries as Asian. This study followed the UN’s 50-nation categorization of Asia.

The UN categorization divides Asia into five regions: Eastern, Southern, South Eastern, Central, and Western Asia. The regions and countries are listed in Table I. This study focused only on the 27 nations in East, South, and South East Asia. The Central and Western Asia regions were not selected because many of these countries are relatively new and since many experience political instability, it was assumed that there would be few model initiatives in disability empowerment. In addition, little is known about disability in these areas and it would be difficult to accurately interpret and provide context for projects. In contrast, the selected three regions are culturally more homogenous and geographically more similar. With more consistent usage of disability-related concepts and more similar activities, program in these geographic regions are more conducive for this study’s comparative analysis.

TABLE I
UNITED NATIONS CLASSIFICATION OF ASIAN NATIONS

Central Asia	Eastern Asia	Southern Asia	South Eastern Asia	Western Asia
Kazakhstan	China	Afghanistan	Brunei Darussalam	Armenia
Kyrgyzstan	China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Azerbaijan
Tajikistan	China, Macao SAR	Bhutan	Indonesia	Bahrain
Turkmenistan	Democratic People's of Korea	India	Laos	Cyprus
Uzbekistan	Japan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Malaysia	Georgia
	Mongolia	Maldives	Myanmar	Iraq
	South Korea (Republic of Korea)	Nepal	Philippines	Israel
		Sri Lanka	Singapore	Jordan
		Pakistan	Thailand	Kuwait
			Timor- Leste	Lebanon
			Vietnam	Occupied Palestinian Territory
				Oman
				Qatar
				Saudi Arabia
				Syrian Arab Republic
				Turkey
				United Arab Emirates
				Yemen
5	7	9	11	18

B. Identification of Programs

Two procedures were used to identify programs for inclusion in this study. First, a general internet search using key phrases, such as “developmental programs for WwD in Asia,” “community based rehabilitation,” and “women in Asia,” using three different internet search engines. Secondly, academic search engines such as Academic Search Premier, CIRRIE, PsychINFO, South Asia Research, SAGE Premier, JSTOR, among others were used to identify scholarly articles and research-based reports on empowerment programs. Table II provides an example of search terms. Terms were used individually and in combination with each other, for example, “women AND disability OR inclusion,” “women AND inclusion OR disability.”

A second procedure to identify programs was to review the program activities of global organizations such as the UN, WHO, World Bank, and International Labor Organization (ILO); international or national NGOs such as Handicap International and Rehabilitation International; regional organizations such as Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability and Disabled People International-Asia Pacific; and international disability coalitions such as Disabled People International (DPI), International Disability Alliances, and the Independent Living Institute. Programs relevant to WwD in Asian countries were identified using information at agencies’ websites.

TABLE II
SAMPLE SEARCH TERMS

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
Women	Disability	Inclusion	Asia	Government agencies
Girls	Handicapped	Empowered	Community Based Rehabilitation Programs	Non-government organizations
Females	Disabled	Empowerment	Projects	International NGO
Gender	Crippled	Development	Initiatives	Disabled People Organization
	Retarded	Power		Women organization or/and agencies
	Mentally disabled	Voice	Activities	United Nations

After identifying relevant programs, descriptive program narratives were developed based on the collected information. A few organizations were contacted via email with specific requests for additional information. Email contact was made when there was a lack of information about programs in the online or print sources. The follow-up questions asked about major program activities, major activities with WwD, the percentage or number of WwD in the organization hired as staff, the funding resources, and type of programs conducted or planned for WwD. Thus, both primary and secondary sources were used. Table III provides samples of questions sent to programs or organizations requesting supplemental information or verification of the information.

TABLE III
SAMPLE QUESTIONS SENT TO ORGANIZATIONS

What are your major programs on disability?

Do you work with women with disabilities? What specific programs do you have for them? Please, specify.

Are there any disabled women on the staff in your organization or project? What is the percentage in relation to the total staff?

Are there any past or future project activities focused on disabled women operated by your organization? If yes, what are they?

For your disabled women specific program or project, who is your funding partner?

Based on the program narratives, a thematic classification of identified programs was developed. Since the majority of programs identified were designed to address issues related to the intersection of gender, poverty, and disability, it was not possible to develop a mutually exclusive classification system. A single program could fit into many different program categories.

The focus of this study was not to verify or test existing theories as a research study but to discover the range of current programs and to organize them in a conceptual framework. Therefore, content analysis was employed to guide the classifications of the programs. The classification emerged as programs were reviewed and expanded or contracted over time during the data collection process. Program descriptions served as the data points. Holsti (1969) has given a general definition of content analysis as “any technique for making inferences by objectively and systematically identifying specified characteristics of messages” (p. 14). Thus,

content analysis was used to organize program descriptions based on the recording/coding of program narratives.

The following chapter on results provides a narrative for each of the identified programs narratives, a systematic comparative analysis of the characteristics of those identified programs, and an organizing framework for classifying programs. Each of the programs was considered for the review and evaluation regardless of whether the program was completed, being implemented, or just starting. The purpose of the analysis of themes was to identify trends or groups in the types of programs developed for WwD. The program narratives are summarized from information derived from reports, publications, online information, and criticism of those programs.

III. RESULTS

A. **Program Themes**

The programs identified in this study were categorized into five thematic groups: (1) disability awareness; (2) socio-economic empowerment; (3) rights and advocacy; (4) health promotion and rehabilitation; and (5) “fixing” disability. Below is the definition for each thematic categorization, with examples to further clarify the meaning.

1. **Disability awareness**

The theme, Disability Awareness, refers to any program activity, such as outreach sessions, classes, seminars, meetings, workshops, street drama, theater, rallies or parades, trainings, and print or audio visual tools (brochures, booklets, radio, or television clips) that inform or educate the audience about disability issues. These activities were conducted in settings ranging from the community center, schools, and places of worship within the village or local community to government offices. The targeted audience for such activities also varied across programs from a small group of five to seven people for a session on disability awareness to hundreds of people attending a disability day celebration rally.

The sole purpose of these disability awareness activities is to increase an audience’s understanding of disability or to influence their attitudes about people with disabilities and disability issues. For example, the Nepal Disabled Women Association participates in the annual International Disability Day celebration rally on December 3rd. Hundreds of people with or without disabilities from different disability and non-disability organizations attend the rally with banners, placards, music, and slogans related to positive disability messages. Recognizing the importance of this celebration, the government of Nepal has even allocated a paid day off for all working PwD. On the other hand, Nepal Disabled Women Association also organizes outreach

sessions to local women's group on the available legal and health services to WwD and that helps in raising their awareness on disability rights and encourages them to seek such services.

2. **Socio-economic empowerment**

This category includes program activities that benefit WwD directly or indirectly to gain more positive social and stronger economic status in their family and in the wider society. For example, programs that conduct income generating activities, all forms of vocational training, employment assistance, loan supports to start micro-business, leadership and skill development trainings on business, marketing and/or organizational skills, and even surveys or research targeting WwD to improve socio-economic status are included under this theme.

A common practice among most disability NGOs working for the socio-economic empowerment of WwD is to operate various kinds of skills-based vocational trainings for WwD, especially the production of handicrafts. Programs identified in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, and Laos were examples of this type of practice. However, I also included some unconventional activities such as surveys or the formation of self-help groups since the goals serve the same purpose. For example, a national survey conducted by the Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea of South Korea brought national attention in South Korea to WwD issues. This was instrumental for establishing the group, Korean Differently Abled Women United, which was the first organization of its kind in South Korea to focus solely on WwD issues. It conducts research on policies related to WwD rights and advocates the relevant agencies to make amendments as necessary. This agency not only supports WwD in finding employment but also assists them to retain their jobs. Such supports empower WwD to improve their social and economic status—and ultimately their quality of life.

Another activity that I have included under this category was the operation of a hostel, that is, a residential facility especially for WwD. Assistance around housing not only provides a secure place to live and pursue their educational or career goals but also gives WwD a venue to meet and exchange ideas. Families also feel comfortable to let their disabled female members stay in such facilities where several women having disabilities can stay together. Such a living arrangement greatly helps WwD to gain exposure outside of their family environment, which indirectly enables them to learn new social skills and increase their confidence and independence. Organizations like Nepal Disabled Women Association, Association of Women with Disabilities, Disabled Rehabilitation Center, and Blind People's Association operate hostels for WwD.

3. **Rights and advocacy**

This category contains program activities that aim to inform and increase awareness among WwD, the general community and government agencies about their disability rights, including access to education, health services, equal participation in social, economical, and political activities, to have a barrier free environment to access community services. Examples of such program activities are awareness sessions, seminars, workshops, and trainings on disability rights and laws, both national (e.g., national disability act) and international (e.g., UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and supports given to the formation of self-help groups throughout the world).

The program, Accessing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to empower women and children with disabilities in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, for example, conducts trainings and awareness sessions especially to educate the WwD and society at large about the international disability rights policies. Similarly, the Cambodian Disabled People's

Organization, Care Society of the Maldives, and Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity of Bangladesh empower WwD by helping to develop support networks for WwD and establish or strengthen WwD self-help groups.

4. **Health promotion and rehabilitation**

Programs that have activities which either prevent the deterioration of disability conditions or prevent the disability incidence in individuals are included in this category. For example, if an organization provides blended therapy service of physical, occupational, and speech therapies to individuals with disabilities then those activities help to slow down processes that result in the worsening of disability conditions. Regular physical therapy along with occupational therapy for children with cerebral palsy not only prevents bone contracture but also greatly improves balance and functional skills. I have also included programs that directly support PwD in terms of financial support, mobility aids, and ortho-prosthetic devices. Such support helps prevent the worsening of disability conditions and/or improve the mobility. In addition, programs with educational components about the prevention of disability and reproductive health are also included in this category.

The Association of Women with Disabilities of Hong Kong is included under this theme because of its activities on the prevention of cervical cancer and its special screenings for WwD in hospitals. The Society for Disabled Women of India is also in this category as it provides medical services through health and disability screening camps and educates women on birth control, AIDS, and general health. Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity of Bangladesh is another example because it provides financial support and materials to WwD for mobility aids and accessible water and sanitation facilities such as toilets in their home. Likewise, the Beijing

Maple Women's Counseling Center of China trains women on mental health issues, creating awareness about mental illness.

5. **“Fixing” disability**

Under this category, I have included those programs that have a corrective aspect in dealing with disability conditions. Though this category appears to resemble *Health Promotion and Rehabilitation*, there is a fine distinction between the two. This theme includes programs that have a clear agenda of *fixing* or *curing* disability, with no specific program components adhering to the concept of disability awareness or disability rights. For example, using technologies to overcome the disabling conditions, providing financial support and referral services to PwD for corrective surgery, psychological counseling to WwD with mental illness and WwD who are victims of abuse or violence, and coordinating with local hospitals to provide health screenings for WwD are some examples of curative disability and health measures.

Beijing Maple Women's Counseling Center is an example of this category because it provides counseling and medical treatment services to women with mental health problems. But it has no activity components for mental health awareness or rights of women with mental health problems. Additionally in this category, Visually Impaired Women Empowerment in India helps women with visual disabilities overcome technology barriers; Disabled Rehabilitation Center in Nepal provides cash assistance for corrective surgeries; and Afghanistan's Development and Ability Organization distributes orthopedic devices. These programs are not framed in terms of the disability rights of WwD or the need to educate people about disability issues. Thus rather than rehabilitation services being provided in the context of rights in conjunction with a larger advocacy effort, these programs typically present their programs as charitable work, in effect ignoring the issue of WwD's rights as individuals. In general, programs included under this

these programs implement activities as if they are going to *cure* disability or disability conditions. Most of these programs are framed within the medical model, an ideology that considers PwD as individuals with medical defects that need medical interventions. The Disabled Rehabilitation Center in Nepal does not have a single activity on WwD disability awareness or rights; instead it offers cash assistance to WwD needing corrective surgeries. Visually Impaired Women Empowerment in India empowers women with visual impairments and blindness to access computers and the internet. However, this program's focus on fixing visual disabilities through technology does not address issues related to the rights of WwD. Figure 1 below shows the categorization of the identified programs.

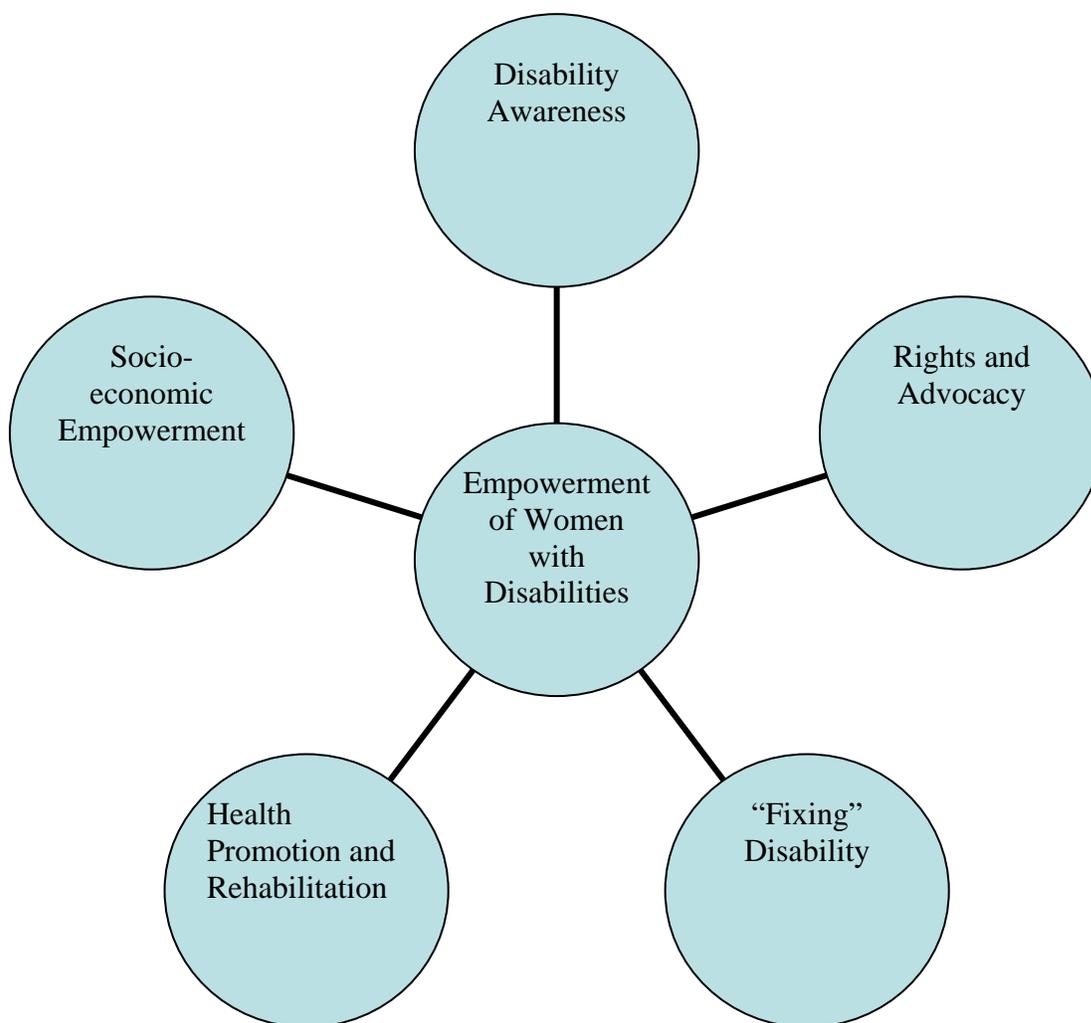


Figure 1. Categorization of identified programs aiming at the empowerment of women with disabilities.

B. Description and Analysis of Identified Programs

This section provides the narrative descriptions of fifty-seven programs with a specific focus on the empowerment of women with disability from the Asia region. Any program or activity that aims to increase WwD's awareness and participation that could potentially lead to increased decision making ability or access to greater power is included in this study.

The programs cover a broad range of services and activities such as helping WwD financially or with other sources to attend a local school program, a local vocational training program and national level centers. These programs are diverse in terms of focus, geographical coverage, type of organization, approach to implementation, types of services, and activities. For example, the Society for Disabled Women's geographic coverage is limited only to Faisalabad, whereas a program like the Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities is national in scale. There are five types of organizations: (1) Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs), such as the Differently-abled Women's Network in the Philippines; (2) Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) organizations such as the Care Society in the Maldives; (3) Institutions or centers such as the Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation in Iran and Lao Disabled Women's Development Center in Laos; 4) organizations having blended features of CBR and institutions such as the Banyan of India; and 5) general community based organizations, such as the Young Power in Social Action of Bangladesh. The implementation approaches used are mainly CBR and Community Approaches to Handicap in Development, which basically advocates for the mainstreaming of disability issues into general development programs.

Regardless of the nature of activity or programs, each program identified in this study is working to increase options and opportunities for WwD. The identified programs are arranged in sequential order according to the countries as per the UN data arrangement, starting from the

Eastern Asia followed by Southern Asia and South Eastern Asia. Table IV below gives a quick overview of the identified programs in each country. There is one separate section listed as *Joint South Asian Programs* which refers to those programs that were designed and implemented across two or more South Asian countries. Basically, these were programs of joint collaboration. For example, the Network of South Asian Women with Disabilities was jointly collaborated by India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. There were a total of two such joint South Asian programs.

TABLE IV
IDENTIFIED PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Country	Number of Programs	Joint South Asian Programs
China	2	
Hong Kong (SAR, China)	1	
Macao (SAR, China)	-	
Democratic People's of Korea (North Korea)	-	
Japan	1	
Mongolia	-	
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	2	
Afghanistan	2	
Bangladesh	5	Plus, 1 joint as South Asian program
Bhutan	1	
India	11	Plus, 1 joint as South Asian program
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1	
Maldives	1	
Nepal	4	Plus, 1 joint as South Asian program
Sri Lanka	5	Plus, 1 joint as South Asian program
Pakistan	6	
Brunei Darussalam	-	
Cambodia	3	
Indonesia	1	
Laos	1	
Malaysia	1	
Myanmar	1	
Philippines	4	
Singapore	-	
Thailand	-	
Timor –Leste	-	
Vietnam	2	
Total	55	2 Joint South Asian Programs

1. **China**

a. **Guangzhou Association of Disabled Women, Guangzhou**

www.gzadw.org.cn

www.wdconference2010.org/en

www.wdconference2010.org/index.php

Formally established in 2006, this organization is the woman's wing of the Guangzhou Federation of the Disabled. It is a woman's DPO based in Guangzhou that provides WwD services and advocacy. Established in 1989, the Guangzhou Federation of the Disabled is a coalition of PwD groups. Although the Guangzhou Association of Disabled Women started to work from 2004, it was not formally established until 2006. Its main purpose is to empower WwD to support them to be independent and participate in society, safeguarding their rights and interests through trainings on disability rights and advocacy, networking, healthcare supports, improving access to education and employment, recreational trips, and providing English language courses. This agency supports WwD empowerment in partnership with similar organizations. A major program in 2010 was hosting the Second Conference on Women with Disabilities (East and Southeast Asia). Attended by about 200 WwD, this seminar was organized in close coordination with the Guangzhou Federation of Disabled.

The Guangzhou Federation of the Disabled is its sole funder but the local corporate sector and a few other agencies occasionally support it by providing materials or other assistance for WwD in need. For example, the Guangzhou Baiyun Mountain in Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Factory was its financial collaborator for taking WwD on a recreational outing for International Women's Day.

Based in the Guangzhou, this agency is actually the woman's section of the Guangzhou Federation of the Disabled, and its daily operations are under the direct management of the federation. Although this association is a strong national organization, it is fully under the management of the federation, which suggests the association has a somewhat dependent status. The major activities of the association seem to be focused more on center-based service delivery rather than community-based activities.

b. **Beijing Maple Women's Counseling Center, Beijing**

www.maple.org.cn/%E5%85%B3%E4%BA%8E%E7%BA%A2%E6%9E%AB/%E5%AE%97%E6%97%A8%E5%92%8C%E6%80%A7%E8%B4%A8/tabid/77/language/en-US/Default.aspx

This center is a Chinese NGO that provides a combination of services based in both community and clinical settings. It is primarily a service delivery agency which also does advocacy and research work on mental health issues of women.

Its main objective is to improve the mental health of urban and rural women, children, and families through psychological counseling, social services, gender and people-oriented research, and policy advocacy. The main activities are to provide women with psychological counseling on a variety of issues and to help women make psychosocial adjustments on issues. This agency also educates and trains people from diverse groups such as single parents, migrant women workers, post disaster, domestic violence, and children of parents who have newly become Chinese citizens on mental health issues.

The Global Fund for Women is its international funding collaborator for the mental health projects.

This organization is one of few that have focused on women's mental health issues. Although it mainly provides psychological counseling to women with mental illness and helps them to achieve psychosocial adjustments, creating awareness about mental health in society is its core objective. Embracing both clinical and social (that is, the community settings) approaches has helped the program address the social aspect of mental health issues and thus reduce the stigmatization of women with mental illness.

2. **Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region, China)**

a. **Association of Women with Disabilities, Kowloon**

www.awdhk.org/home.html

Established in 2000, the Association of Women with Disabilities (AWDHK) mainly works in advocating the rights and equal opportunities for women with disabilities. It is basically a cross disability women's DPO. It is well coordinated with women's organizations in Hong Kong and is Hong Kong's leading agency to advocate for independent living of WwD. Initially, AWDHK worked only to advocate for policy changes in favor of WwD's inclusion and participation in social and political settings. Later, it extended its activities to educate and facilitate the prevention of cervical cancer among WwD.

AWDHK'S major program activities include organizing talks and seminars on the prevention of cervical cancer and its special screenings for WwD in hospitals, advocating around accessibility issues concerning WwD, especially in hospitals, conducting leadership training on gender mainstreaming and gender consciousness in collaboration with other organizations and performing research on WwD specific health issues. The *Health Needs of Women with Disabilities* is one example of the research projects it conducted.

It is funded by local private agencies and individuals including the Hong Kong government.

AWDHK exclusively focuses on the gender aspect of disability. Its emphasis on making WwD aware of their health situation, accessibility issues and political empowerment makes this Hong Kong based agency uniquely devoted to WwD concerns. Its program activities such as the importance of healthcare, especially the prevention and detection of cervical cancer, through talks and seminars and its facilitation role between WwD and cancer hospitals for the screening of cervical cancer strengthen this fact. Its advocacy efforts with the government for appropriate and user friendly beds and devices for WwD have been successful. As it claims, a number of hospitals in Hong Kong have installed wheelchair user friendly gynecological check up beds. Its collaboration with other organizations especially women's organizations like Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centers is significant considering disability is the most ignored theme among the women's organizations across Asian countries.

3. **Japan**

a. **The Women's Network, Disabled People's International, Tokyo**

www.independentliving.org/docs5/nakanishi.html

www.dpi-japan.org/english/e-report.html

Established in 1981, Disabled People's International (DPI) is an international network of DPOs working in cross disability issues. The member organizations, also called national assemblies, are from 135 countries (Disabled People's International, 2010). Headquartered in Canada, DPI has five regional offices in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Eighty percent of its members are from developing countries. DPI's

mission is to promote disability rights and PwD's integration in the social, political, and economic sectors.

DPI has not specifically mentioned the gender aspect of disability in its strategic goals but WwD issues are integral in DPI activities. Furthermore, DPI has a Women's Committee formed in 1985 that responds to women specific disability issues. By educating disabled women about laws and policies made nationally and internationally from which they can benefit, DPI empowers them in areas of information and knowledge. A quick study of the DPI web sites of different Asian countries, however, revealed that few countries like Japan have an active women's network that focuses on WwD issues. For example, Yuho Asaka – a Japanese WwD, successfully attracted media attention in 1995 by openly criticizing the Japanese “eugenic protection law” which allowed hospitals to conduct hysterectomies on WwD, especially those with psychiatric and intellectual disabilities, without their knowledge and consent. The Women Network of DPI Japan then launched an advocacy campaign to protect WwD's reproductive rights. In collaboration with lawyers and other agencies, the network later succeeded in forcing the Japanese government to abolish the eugenic law.

DPI is the largest network of DPOs. However, it does not specifically mention the gender aspect of disability in its strategic goals. It is evident that DPI cares about WwD specific issues and activities to address gender are integral to its activities. Recently, for example, DPI has developed its Gender Equity Policy. The Women's Network is an integral part of DPI that raises the gender and disability issues.

4. **South Korea (Republic of Korea)**
 - a. **Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea,**
Seoul

<http://cowalk.or.kr/cw/eng/sub01.htm>

<http://cowalk.or.kr/cw/eng/sub04.htm>

Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea

(RIDRIK) is primarily a research institute that has extended its activities into service delivery.

This institute “researches and investigates problems associated” with PwD. However, it uses the phrase “differently abled persons” for PwD. It has expanded its programs from doing research to assisting PwD in finding employment, accessing medical and occupational services, participating in the disability rights movements, and developing mutual networks with other PwD and disability agencies. Another important program of this institute is to educate the public about the disabilities and disability rights. In addition, RIDRIK publishes *Walking Together*, a monthly magazine about disability issues and the lives of PwD.

RIDRIK claims to use research as a tool to increase the social welfare and rights of the PwD by establishing and protecting their human rights. Although it has eight separate program units to carry out its activities, no program has activities specifically focused on women with disabilities. Yet WwD issues are well integrated into program activities. According to Kim (2010), a South Korean disability scholar, RIDRIK conducted a national survey on the status of WwD in South Korea. This survey and a public presentation of its findings brought WwD issues into national attention, which further became the instrumental factor for the establishment of Korean Differently Abled Women United.

b. **Korean Differently Abled Women United**

www.kdawu.org/kdawu/intro_main.asp

Established in 1999, Korean Differently Abled Women United also known as South Korea Women with Disabilities Association is a coalition of several organizations working for WwD issues in South Korea. This organization aims to empower WwD through education, research, awareness, and training on national and international women disability rights and policies. It supports and promotes the Independent Living Movement, encourages WwD participation in activities within Korea and global. It addresses issues related to violence against WwD and participation in finding and retaining employment. It also promotes and organizes WwD participation in sports and health related activities.

This organization conducts research on policies related to WwD rights and advocates relevant agencies to make amendments as necessary. Since this is the network of all disabled women's associations in South Korea, it represents all South Korean women with disabilities and works to elevate their issues from the local level to the level of national policy.

5. **Afghanistan**

a. **Development and Ability Organization, Kabul**

www.daoafghanistan.org/women.htm

The Development and Ability Organization is basically a DPO, established in 2004 that conducts advocacy, research, and various kinds of trainings for PwD. In fact, it considers itself as the leader in raising the awareness of Afghani PwDs about their rights and teaching the techniques of self-advocacy. Also known as the Afghan Disability Union, its other major activities include providing trainings on management and income generation to DPOs and individual PwDs along with employment support programs. In addition, it also

operates an orthopedic center in Khost province. It covers a large area of Afghanistan, including Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Kunduz Mazar-e-Sharif, and eastern provinces.

WwD issues are inclusive in this organization. Due to severe gender restrictions in general, women have limited access to public space in Afghanistan. Such restrictions increased under Taliban rule. That is why, it has a special focus on including women with and without disabilities in its program activities. Conducting trainings on different disability and health issues is its main activity. It encourages and promotes female trainers to join this organization to ensure women's participation. Also, WwD are given special preference and necessary accommodations, for example, allowing women to bring their children to trainings, training women at women's only venues in their own locality rather than in more public or distant places. Such arrangements greatly help to increase the participation of WwD.

Its main current funding collaborators are United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

This organization is a well established and resourceful disability organization in a nation where war-inflicted disabilities swell the disability population. Its efforts to provide opportunities for women to participate in its trainings and activities despite the severe restrictions on their movement are notable.

b. **Organization Development for Disabled Women, Kabul**

No website page of this organization was found. Information was collected from

http://development.thinkaboutit.eu/think3/post/empowering_disabled_women_in_afghanistan and <http://ahrdo.org/partners/ip.html>

This is a women's only DPO that has been working to increase awareness among WwD about their disability rights through trainings on disability and human rights, capacity building, income generating programs, and organizing literacy programs especially for women with and without disabilities.

The funding and program collaborators of this DPO are local, national, and international agencies. One of its major collaborators is Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization in the area of art-based initiatives programs, particularly in the participatory theatre methodologies. The Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization also provides technical assistance in the areas of organizational development and capacity-building with a focus on participatory theatre. The Polish Embassy in Afghanistan and Polish Humanitarian Action are the other funders that have been supporting a project of tailoring and basic literacy training to WwD.

The formation of women's DPOs in Afghanistan, where Taliban rulers strictly confined women's activities to their home, is itself an achievement. It looks like this small organization is gradually gaining momentum in uniting Afghani women with disabilities and increases their awareness about the availability of disability related services, improve access to information on disability issues and rights, as well as strengthen the skills and confidence of WwD.

6. **Bangladesh**

a. **Inclusion of Women with Disabilities into Mainstream Development Process Project, Centre for Services and Information on Disability, Dhaka**

Information was gathered from the Yearly Progress Report on Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in to Mainstream Development Process Project, of the Centre for

Services and Information on Disability (Centre for Services and Information on Disability, 2008) and www.csid-bd.org/glancee.htm.

Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) is a disability training organization that provides a mix of services ranging from trainings, implementing community-based rehabilitation services and facilitation of self-advocacy activities by PwD and their families. Established by a group of social workers in 1997, CSID aims to raise public awareness and provide CBR services by close collaborating with the government, disability organizations in Asia, and national and other international NGOs. CSID emphasizes CBR services to meet its mission objective of creating a barrier-free, rights-based inclusive society for PwD.

Major activities of this project are to empower WwD by making them aware of their rights and gender specific disability issues, increasing access to medical treatment for their impairments, and encouraging them to be active in the public arena. Basic activities start from sensitizing WwD and their families about their rights and how to protect these rights, making them aware of reproductive health and hygiene, problems with the dowry system and early marriage through discussion meetings, workshops, celebrations, and participation in disability sports events. The project also supports WwD to gain economic independence with grants for establishing small business, coordinating with local shops to orders and sell handicrafts or setting up small grocery stores. By referring WwD to specialized service providers, for example, eye hospitals to screen and treat visual impairments, or access mobility aids, the project helps them access medical rehabilitation whereas by encouraging them to actively participate in public settings such as national and international disability day rallies, international women's day, white cane safety day, and disability sports competitions, the project builds their self esteem.

CSID is certainly one of the most resourceful and influential disability NGOs in South Asia because of its larger structure, activities, and effective networks at the national and international levels. One of the unique features of this project is its emphasis on involving WwD in local neighborhoods to form their groups and address disability, poverty, and women's health issues simultaneously. Started in 2005, this project is one of the few initiatives of any disability NGO in Asia that solely focuses on WwD.

b. **National Council of Disabled Women, Raajshai**

www.add.org.uk/case_study.asp?ref=81

[www.disabilityrightsfund.org/grantees/2008/Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.html](http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/grantees/2008/Peoples%20Republic%20of%20Bangladesh.html)

<http://awdpbd.blogspot.com/2009/04/women-with-disabilities-marching.html>

The National Council of Disabled Women, also known as the Protibondhi Narider Jatio Parishad in Bangladeshi language, is a network of grassroots woman DPOs in Bangladesh. Its main objective is to raise awareness among WwD about their disability rights and to empower them to claim their rights and help build capacity through networking among DPOs and government agencies. To achieve its objectives, this organization uses community meetings, drama, and theater as tools to raise awareness about the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities amongst women leaders, DPO network members and governmental counterparts, building stronger organizations through better linkages to other stakeholders and outreach to organizations that are not focused on disability, including the Ministry of Children and Women's Affairs. It forms disabled women's self-help groups (SHG)

and trains WwD to empower them to protect and enforce their rights. This organization is well known in Bangladesh as the platform to end discrimination and injustice against WwD.

The Disability Rights Fund (USA) and Action on Disability and Development (UK) are its main international collaborators along with other local and national collaborators.

This agency is actively working to address the discrimination and social injustice faced by WwD in the Bangladeshi society. The unique feature of this organization is its mobilization of a grassroots movement of disabled women to increase awareness among WwD and the public about disability rights, social justice, and networking. In 2009, its president, Umme Kulsum Ranjana, who has a physical disability, was chosen as one of the recipients of the Bridge Builders—an initiative of Harvard University to recognize leaders who are doing significant work in their community.

c. **Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, Dhaka**

<http://wddfdb.org/profile.php>

Women with Disabilities Foundation is a woman DPO based in Dhaka with a mission of empowering women with disabilities in Bangladesh so that they can live with dignity and participate in building a discrimination free society. Established in 2008, its main activities include awareness raising, advocacy, lobbying, and organizing leadership training for WwD. It supports WwD to obtain an education, publish information in mass media to increase public awareness about WwD issues and achievements. It closely networks with governmental and NGOs in carrying out recreational and cultural programs for women with disabilities. Advocating and lobbying with concerned agencies in the private and government sectors to create employment opportunities for disabled women is another major activity.

Among its international collaborators, the Global Fund for Women is one of the major supporters along with other national and international agencies. Bangladesh Protibandhy Kalyan Somity is its major national collaborator.

This foundation asserts that it was established to “give a voice” to disabled women in Bangladesh. A major disability NGO, Bangladesh Protibandhy Kalyan Somity initiated its founding. While Bangladesh Protibandhy Kalyan Somity is an established, resourceful, and much larger disability NGO, the Women with Disabilities Foundation is a smaller grassroots effort entirely run by women with disabilities in a society where women have lower social status and fewer resources than men. The strong ties between the two organizations have been helpful for the foundation’s organizational development.

d. **Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity, Dhaka**

www.bpkgsbd.org/activities_wwds.html

www.bpkgsbd.org/index.php?view=26aca7941a99d90e3fbf6de4ac7100af608a5d2

Based in Dhaka, Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS) is a DPO established in 1985. It has a wide range of services focused on Bangladeshi PwD. It not only provides rehabilitation services to PwD and operates centers that make assistive devices, and conducts CBR trainings but also helps PwD obtain access to water and sanitation facilities (water tap, toilet). It has integrated programs for WwD that include awareness raising of WwD about their rights to education and other available services, programs to train and provide basic therapy plus mobility aids and financially support WwD in establishing their own small businesses or income generating activities at local levels. In addition, BPKS also organizes advocacy and awareness raising events on WwD issues through national dialogues on policy and

implementation, publicizing WwD issues with the community leaders, government, and NGOs in order to receive commitments from them on WwD inclusion and participation in mainstream societal activities and services.

One of its initiatives is designing a program named as Persons with Disabilities Self-Initiatives to Development, a human rights based approach to empowering PwD. Through forming and mobilizing grassroots DPO organizations to development that also consists of a WwD committee, this program includes activities like education support (assistance with school enrollment and school supplies), leadership development, and organizational management trainings to the local grass roots DPOs.

At the national level, it has served on the executive committees of various disability related government bodies such as National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Peoples, Disability Allowance Steering Committee, National Co-ordination Committee on Disability, National Co-ordination Committee on Aging, and National Disability Action Plan Implementation Steering Committee.

BPKS has an extensive network of national and international collaborators which are NGOs from the grassroots level up to district and national level disability organizations. For example, it has 1600 grassroots DPOs across 35 districts in Bangladesh. Its main international collaborators are Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Christoffel-Blindenmission, Caritas Australia, AusAID, European Union, One Family International-USA, CordAID Netherlands, and Mundi Cives Spain.

BPKS is effective in uniting and organizing PwDs because it has helped to form grassroots level self-help organizations and supported them in organizing to become bigger DPOs. For example, it founded a women's DPO that is, the Women with Disabilities Foundation

and the National Alliance of Disabled Peoples' Organizations—a national network of DPOs or assemblies of disabled people. Its unique feature is to design and implement the Persons with Disabilities Self-Initiatives to Development program for WwD self-empowerment at the local level.

BPKS is equally active in advocating disability policies. According to the organization's website, its 1995 draft national action plan on the National Policy on Disability was later approved by the Bangladeshi government. Similarly, it wrote the draft National Disability Act that later became the National Disability Welfare Act 2001. Overall, it is one of the most influential disability NGOs in Bangladesh.

e. **Young Power in Social Action, Dhaka**

www.ypsa.org/disc.php

<http://ypsa.org/selfhelp.php>

Young Power in Social Action is a non-government social development organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty and to empower poor and vulnerable populations to seek their rights. This mission led it to begin working on behalf of the disability population since 2001, with its work concentrated in the Sitakund sub-district of Chittagong. This agency created the Development Initiative for Social Change — a comprehensive service delivery and rights-based approach to address key factors of PwD community-based rehabilitation. According to the agency, this integrated approach was developed after conducting several local community level participatory surveys, which further lead to a participatory review and reflection process with the PwD, local government, and civil sectors to identify problems being faced by the disability population in Sitakund. The process involved further planning and budgeting for necessary activities, using the participatory approach.

Issues of WwD are included in its program activities that encompass providing trainings to disabled women on various kinds of income generating activities, for example, handicrafts and tailoring as well as training on leadership, disability rights, and assessing the effectiveness of government support services. WwD are also encouraged to interact regularly and meeting with other disability and women's organizations. Women rights organizations such as Bonny Shikha are in close coordination with Young Power in Social Action to include issues of disabled women in its program activities. This organization also strongly encourages WwD to form their SHG first and then supports them to establish organizations. So far, it has supported the formation of four organizations for WwD, including one organization of visually challenged beggars and another organization of sign language users. It has already helped to form a district level coordination committee of self-help organizations comprising of total 33 organizations of which four are women DPOs. A committee of 25 leaders is annually elected for this federation that plans disability related programs in Sitakund.

Its main financial collaborator for the disability program is the Action Aid Bangladesh. An important feature of Young Power in Social Action's disability program is the involvement of PwD in the program planning process ranging from identifying issues to implementing activities that address them. Another key feature is that it is not a disability NGO but it has been successful in mainstreaming disability issues into its programs. For instance, it collaborates with disability NGOs on initiatives such as establishing a digital talking book library with the Resource Centre on Disabilities. Similarly, it works closely with Bonny Shikha, a mainstream women rights organization, to involve disabled women in its program activities. Even within organizations working for women rights such a practice is uncommon as disability is still considered an isolated issue to be addressed separately.

7. **Bhutan**

a. **Drak-Tsho Vocational Training Centre for the Disabled, Thimpu**

www.draktsho-bhutan.org/

http://cloud1.gdnet.org/cms.php?id=organization_details&organization_id=3970

Popularly known as the Drak-Tsho, Drak-Tsho Vocational Training Centre for the Disabled is the first and only program in Bhutan that runs vocational courses. It was established in 2001 with the financial assistance of a NGO whose president is the Queen of Bhutan.

The focus of this program is to provide vocational training to disabled people 15 to 20 years old. The trainings are longer, generally of three years duration and fully accredited by the government. The trainings are in traditional arts and painting, embroidery, sketching, weaving, social skills, games and sports, computer literacy, and numeracy. Its main objectives are to empower trainees to be contributing members of the society through in vocational training, and thus, enhance their opportunities for employment.

It has no specific programs focused for disabled women. However, WwD receive special consideration to use the center's services. A separate women's hostel is available for WwD and their issues have been integrated.

Its current funding collaborator is the Youth Development Fund of Bhutan. However, Save the Children (USA), Peretti Nando Foundation and other partners provide technical and occasional financial support.

The center emphasizes providing vocational training and it has no program activities to increase awareness in society or among disabled girls and their families on disability issues. It

does not follow a rights-based approach. The age restriction (15 to 20 years) on enrollment is a barrier itself especially for women having disabilities. Firstly, WwD and their families have limited access to information; secondly, many families hesitate to send their young WwD to live outside the home; and when they are older, they no longer meet the program's age requirement.

8. **India**

a. **Society for Disabled Women, New Delhi**

<http://sdw.co.in/>

Established in 1994, this is a service delivery type of nonprofit organization as it has its own educational and vocational rehabilitation center. This organization's mission is to support the disabled population in New Delhi region, especially WwD, and their mainstreaming into other development activities in society. The overall goal is to instill a sense of "self-reliance and independence" in WwD through offering employment focused trainings and awareness raising programs on disability rights, health, hygiene, and environment. The WwD focused vocational trainings that this organization provides are typing, tailoring, embroidery, computer literacy, beauty care, and hair dressing. These vocational and professional training courses are 6 months long and are approved by Industrial Training Institute, New Delhi. It has own Vocational Training Center for Disabled Women and another center named as the Gyan Computer Literacy Centre which provides computer and English language courses to males and females with disabilities. It also provides basic medical services through health and disability screening camps and educates women on birth control, AIDS, and general health.

Through another program the Model Preliminary Education Program, this agency educates deaf and hearing impaired children especially girls. This is a five-year program and

follows and adapted version of the government curriculum. After the children graduate from the program, they are integrated into mainstream schools.

Encouraging the formation of similar women DPOs throughout the country is another activity that is conducting through disability awareness in order to help WwD become organized and empowered.

Its funding collaborators are the Sulabh International Social Service Organization, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Japan, and Trans Rural Trust UK including various local, national, and international disability NGOs are the program collaborators.

The Society for Disabled Women has a specialized vocational training center for WwD and conducts supervised follow-up to ensure the continuation of training by participants when faced with difficulties. It makes them aware of their human rights and disability rights, which include informing them about social and legal issues. Such a follow-up program is crucial to the overall success of trainings.

Integration of deaf and hearing impaired children into mainstream schools after the five year program is an effective approach. However, the follow-up measures for ensuring the required accommodation in the mainstream school settings are not specified. These measures are essential to prevent the children from becoming confused and frustrated in the mainstream schools, leading them to drop out in the absence of an accessible education environment such as availability of sign language interpreters.

b. **Rehabilitation Aids Workshop by Women with Disabilities, Bangalore**

www.unescap.org/esid/psis/publications/spps/13/chap7.htm

www.rawwd.in/aboutus/index.html

Established in 1997 by Mobility India, Rehabilitation Aids Workshop by Women with Disabilities (RAWWD) is a manufacturer of orthotics, prosthetics, and rehabilitation devices. The major aids manufactured in the workshop are calipers, walking aids, belts and braces, artificial limbs, and splints.

RAWWD runs programs exclusively for WwD. It trains them in the manufacture and repair of rehabilitation aids and appliances so that more women technicians are available to address the needs of women and children with disabilities. It addresses the financial barrier faced by WwD from low income groups by giving them priority when selecting trainees. This helps the most vulnerable group of WwD to access RAWWD services. Through the regular trainings and work exposure within and outside the organization, it promotes equality for WwD and helps them to become economically independent, self-reliant, and integrated into the mainstream society.

The financial and program collaborators of RAWWD are Cheshire Homes, Mobility India, Action on Disability & Development (UK), Disability Development Partner, and Dhvani Foundation including the individual support as well.

This organization was a project of Mobility India, which later turned into an organization specifically targeting WwD. Now, RAWWD is one of the strongest partner organizations of Mobility India. It is first of its kind in India and in South Asia region which has produced a pool of female technicians with disabilities. The trainings help them to become economically contributing member in their family that helps to increase their self-esteem and quality of life.

Furthermore, by entering the usually male dominated profession of rehabilitation technician, these trained WwD make services accessible to WwD who have cultural barriers to using the same services provided by male professionals. The organization has thus successfully introduced a new area of vocational rehabilitation for WwD other than the traditional ones like tailoring, handicrafts, and micro-businesses.

One important and unique feature of this organization is that its manufacturing workshop is entirely run by women and the program itself is financially self-sustaining.

c. **Association of Women with Disabilities, Kolkata**

www.awwdindia.org/projects.html

The Association of Women with Disabilities is a cross-disability women's DPO that operates programs with three major objectives: capacity building of WwD through education, economic independence, advocacy, lobbying, networking, and mobility independence. Its major program activities include financial support for WwD to pursue higher education, providing skills-based trainings like tailoring and revolving loan support for income generation activities such as goat-rearing, selling women's clothing and household items, rice cultivation, small grocery and tea shops, conducting awareness raising programs, and advocacy initiatives. For mobility independence, this organization offers home-based rehabilitation activities, provides basic physical and occupational therapy trainings including similar services delivery at its office.

It also supports WwD in organizing and forming their own self-help groups with occasional trips for education and entertainment. Its activities aim to fulfill its single mission: empowering WwD of all ages through building their capacity so that they lead independent and quality lives. According to its website, this DPO has five current projects: (1) creating spaces for

WwD to communicate and advocate for their rights in India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh; (2) empowerment and capacity building of girls and WwD to facilitate their mainstreaming in urban slums; (3) building WwD advocacy capacity through orientation and training in leadership, advocacy, gender, human rights, and social mobilization; (4) empowerment and mainstreaming in the district of South 24 Parganas; and (5) equal rights for girls and WwD.

Department for International Development, Pangea Foundation, Fund for Global Human Rights, Abilis Foundation, Les Enfants De Calcutta et du Monde, and Irish Aid are its funders. Several local, national, and international agencies are its program collaborators which also include regional women rights organizations.

A unique aspect of this organization's programs is that they focus on the urban slums. Typically, disability NGOs are more focused on rural areas. Addressing WwD issues in urban areas is equally important and necessary. Another distinctive feature of this organization is its efforts and success in collaborating with women rights organization in an effort to mainstream WwD issues into the larger set of women's issues. Accordingly, it participates in the International Women's Day in collaboration with women's NGOs like Maitree to highlight WwD issues and to support the rights of women from other marginalized groups, such as Dalits (the untouchable caste), those with different sexual orientations and persons affected by HIV/AIDS. All of its program activities use a rights-based approach for the empowerment of WwD rather than a charity-based approach. The WwD themselves actively work as rights and advocacy activists for WwD.

d. **Delhi Foundation of Deaf Women, Delhi**

www.dfdw.net

This nonprofit women's DPO started as a deaf club and in 1973 became an organization for the deaf. It was established by four deaf women with the aim of "Help deaf women to help themselves" through rehabilitation services for deaf in India. It provides a mix of services, awareness raising and advocacy with the objective of improving the educational, personal, and spiritual development of deaf women.

Self-employment and vocational training for deaf women, including matrimonial assistance services are its major focus areas. Its self-employment training programs include: book binding, batik, leather crafts, embroidery and crocheting, tailoring, doll making, and beauty culture (beautician and hairdresser). Through its own Computer Centre for the Deaf, it trains deaf people in basic computer skills, desktop publishing, reprography, and manual typewriting along with information technology and secretarial skills. In addition, it runs refresher courses in English and sign language and provides matrimonial services, guidance, and counseling for those who want to get married. Organizing talent and beauty contests such as Deaf Child Talent competition, Ms. Delhi Silent Queen and Princess Beauty contest, and sports and cultural festivals of deaf women are its other major activities to bring deaf women into mainstream society. It also conducts leadership trainings, deaf awareness campaigns through rallies, regular and theater workshops, meetings, and educational tours. Through an innovative program called Pranay Milan Sammelan, it facilitates the deaf men and women to meet each other along with their families to assist in finding marriage partners.

In addition, this organization's early intervention center Naya Savera provides services for early detection of deafness, speech therapy sessions, guidance to parents of deaf in managing their children's needs, finding pre-school, and other required services.

Funded by several local and national corporate, public and government agencies, and individuals, it has been able to persuade the local and national corporate sector which is impressive. Few of its funders are Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Ramjethmalani Foundation, Steel Authority of India Limited, Delhi State Government, and Volunteers in Service to Education in India.

This organization has an extensive focus on self-employment skills and related trainings along with advocacy of deaf women's rights. The matrimonial assistance to deaf women, theater for the deaf by the deaf, deaf beauty pageants, sports days, and cultural celebrations especially, for deaf women reflect its inclination towards the cultivating artistic expression among PwD, which is not widespread in the South Asia region.

Its collaboration with the National School of Drama is a unique approach for spreading deaf issues through theater and opens up possible employment opportunities in theater for deaf women.

e. **The Banyan, Chennai**

www.thebanyan.org/html/about.html

www.thebanyan.org/html/projects.html

The Banyan began in 1993 as a response to the crisis facing two young women when they encountered the sheer lack of facilities for helping a homeless woman with mental illness. Realizing the complete lack of support to homeless people with mental illness, Banyan was founded. It now not only intervenes in crisis situations but also assists with post-

crisis circumstances. This organization is a blend of medical and social services delivery, training, research, and advocacy in the field of mental health of women.

This NGO offers a mix of prevention and rehabilitation with delivery of community awareness, policy advocacy, and research with a residential facility (six to twelve months) for women with mental health issues depending upon progress and relocation prospects. Through its health care centers (inpatient and outpatient facilities), it provides treatment, care, and rehabilitation to mentally ill people and actively engages itself in mental health policy development, advocacy, and research. Currently, this agency operates the following projects: Adaikalam, Community Mental Health Project, Community Living Project, the Banyan Enterprise, and the Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health.

Adaikalam is a transit-care centre for women with mental illness who are rescued from the streets. This facility uses a holistic approach involving psychiatric, psychological, and alternative therapies of music, dance, art, and occupational therapy to assist women recover. To lead a productive life after the medical intervention is over, they receive vocational training. The center further assists the women find employment, obtain legal assistance, and finally, rehabilitate them within their family or community.

The Community Mental Health Project is the Banyan's community outreach program that provides psychiatric medication and counseling services to women and men with mental illness in rural and urban areas. Conducting awareness programs on mental health issues and providing disability allowance to families having a member with mental illness are its main activities. Community Living Project provides long term care for women with mental illness and no families or place to go. The Banyan Enterprise is a vocational training center along with small businesses entirely run by the Banyan's clients. Block printing, embroidery, incense making, and

pickle production are few such businesses that provide employment and income to people with mental illness. The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health is the educational and research wing of the Banyan that aspires to increase and nurture trained human resources in the mental health field. It provides training to mental health professionals and local community leaders with the goal of developing a community-based mental health system.

Corporate clubs and associations, individuals, and state government including its foreign chapters such as Friends of the Banyan – USA are the funders for The Banyan. However, the majority of funding comes from individuals as donations through a Monthly Membership Scheme, fundraising events, local and national corporations, and the Tamil Nadu government. The Sir Ratan Tata Trust is a major collaborator that provides a monthly disability allowance of Rs. 250 per family to 400 families affected by mental illness. This benefit helps families to provide care for their loved ones and reduces the financial burden of a family member with mental illness.

This organization uses a socio-medical approach to treat mental illness and provides shelter to homeless women with mental illness. It offers a mix of prevention and rehabilitation with delivery of community awareness, policy advocacy, and research with housing in a residential facility (six to twelve months) for women with mental health problems, the length of stay depending upon progress and relocation prospects. A rehabilitation center that offers both curative and preventive aspects of medical treatment while maintaining a social aspect in for homeless women with mental illness is rare in Asia. Agencies working in this sector are either completely focused on medical treatment, for example, mental health hospitals, or are often limited an awareness raising role like most of the CBR organizations. The collaboration of the Banyan with the Sir Ratan Tata Trust is an exemplary joint venture between a disability NGO

and the corporate sector. Strong networking is thus one of the positive aspects of this organization.

In addition, the Banyan takes a holistic approach to addressing the mental health issues combining preventive and curative treatment along with its efforts to influence public policy.

f. **Twilight Claims Project, Anjali, Kolkata**

www.anjalimentalhealth.org/twillight_claims_prgram.php

www.anjalimentalhealth.org/future_focus.php

Anjali is an NGO working to mainstream mental health care into the general healthcare system through raising public awareness on the issue. It is a nonprofit with service delivery in community-based and clinical settings. Twilight Claims is an Anjali project that started in 2004 to raise awareness of issues related to mental illness through educational, advocacy, and lobbying for policy change. At the institutional level, it works in three state run mental health hospitals.

This project aims to improve treatment and post-treatment care of patients, especially of women in mental hospitals and in family settings, to increase public awareness and the formation of mental health-focused human rights groups. To achieve its objectives, it provides mental health related trainings to community leaders, including women who later become activists in protecting women with mental illness in their communities from violence they otherwise experience because of their stigmatization. The project addresses mental health issues from a gender perspective and strengthens communication between men and women about these issues. Using this community-based approach, the project expects to create a network within local communities and mental healthcare agencies for treating and rehabilitating people with mental illness.

Its funders are the Global Fund for Women, West Bengal state government, Ford Foundation, and several local and national agencies.

The intervention in state-run mental health facilities to ensure the protection of human rights of mentally ill people, especially women, is the key feature of this project. The duration of the intervention, from the beginning of treatment through the post-treatment rehabilitation period is also distinctive. It is somewhat similar to the Banyan Tree in terms of working approach, that is, offering a blend of clinical and social services. Its partnership with state-run mental health hospitals can be considered as an example of successful collaboration of government and non-government sectors. Notably, this project has no activities that address the socio-economic issues of people with mental health problems.

- g. **Building the Capacity of Women with Disabilities in India: Promoting the Rights to Health and Employment, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center, Orissa**

www.riglobal.org/advocacy/featuredprojects.html

www.smr.orissa.org/content.php?id=64

Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center is a service delivery and community-based NGO established in 1985 by a person with a spinal cord injury aiming the rehabilitation and equal rights for the people with spinal cord injury. It uses adapted modern rehabilitation techniques with the final goal of integrating the PwD to home, community, and work environments.

Focusing on the economic empowerment of disabled women, it is running a two year project, Building the Capacity of Women with Disabilities in India: Promoting the Rights to Health and Employment. Through this project, this center aims to support 320 disabled women

identified by the survey. It facilitates and prepares these women to utilize the government sponsored micro-credit loan program through individual counseling to determine their interests and skills, give relevant trainings up to four months, increase awareness among WwD about their rights, and to organize WwD by forming SHGs. In addition, the project trains WwD in self-advocacy to demand their inclusion in the government's Reproductive Health Care program. The project also trains local government officials and workers about WwD health, economic, and social needs. It hopes these activities will economically and politically empower selected WwD and increase their access to health care services.

The funder for this project is Rehabilitation International-USA. Several national and international funding agencies are SRMC's partners.

Utilizing the existing government health and micro-credit programs for the empowerment and inclusion of disabled women is the most striking feature of this project. In addition, training local government employees and not just disabled women about disability rights and other issues aims to facilitate the inclusion of WwD in the community.

As Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center claims, this project is the first of its kind in India that promotes the inclusion of women with disabilities. It is, however, modeled after successful initiatives by mainstream women's groups in Africa, Bangladesh, and other parts of India.

h. **Visually Impaired Women's Empowerment through Shruti-Drishti,**
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune

www.cdac.in/html/aai/shruti_drishti.asp

Established in 1988, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing is a leading government institute working to strengthen India's technological competitiveness by

designing, developing, researching, and deploying products and solutions in the electronics and advanced information technology sector.

Visually Impaired Women's Empowerment through Shruti-Drishti is one of several projects of the center that empowers women who are blind or are visually impaired. Shruti Drishti is a software application with text-to-speech and text-to-Braille system integrated with Braille embosser, tactile reader, and Braille keyboard. This system thus, technologically capacitates them by providing access to internet information through speech and Braille assistive technologies. A total of 40 girls and co-ed blind schools across the country have been included as the beneficiary of this project. A three day training on the system's operation is provided to special education teachers or computer instructors at these 40 schools along with distribution of the software package. The system enables visually impaired and blind people to browse the Internet using minimum key combinations.

The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, central government of India, state government of West Bengal, and Media Lab Asia are the funding and program collaborators for this project.

The idea of empowering women with disabilities through technology itself is innovative in developing countries where governments do not give priority to disability issues. This Indian government project thus has certainly helped hundreds of women who are blind or visually impaired to overcome technological barriers and access internet information to become technologically empowered. In addition, trained computer instructors and special education teachers also have received opportunities to become sensitized about visual disabilities and the accessibility issues. Such an exposure can be expected to result in an increased awareness among

the concerned school teachers and students which is the indirect outcome of the Shruti Drishti project.

i. **Blind People’s Association, Ahmadabad**

www.bpaindia.org/Activities.htm

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEMPowerment/Resources/14645_Blind-Ppl-web.pdf

The Blind People’s Association is a well-known organization that provides services in special education, training, employment, community-based rehabilitation, integrated education, research, and human resource development for people with visual, hearing, and other physical impairments, mental illness, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities as well as services for the elderly. This association is well-resourced in terms of programs, physical assets, and human resources. Apart from its CBR program for people with disabilities and the senior population, it runs specialized and integrated schools for young people with various disabilities, a national rehabilitation engineering institute, a computer training center, an electronics training center, a bakery, and food products division for WwD, several other vocational courses including the employment and placement service.

This organization supports the local disability organizations in organizational development and capacity building. For example, it has been supporting the Blind Women’s Association. Its integrated and inclusive approach has a clear focus on WwD’s economic empowerment. The specific programs include a bakery and food products division for women with disabilities, vocational trainings, and a women’s residential facility for blind and visually impaired women. Residential support enables these women to pursue educational and vocational

training, in its various centers. Vocational training to work as a beautician and hairdresser is provided for deaf women.

The state Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ma Krupa Charitable Foundation, Positive Sight, Indian American Education Foundation, Give Foundation, HDFC Bank, and individual donors are the major funders for this association's WwD programs.

Primarily a training and research institute, this organization has established itself as a major service provider of CBR, Braille and mobility aids, secondary and higher secondary education, physiotherapy, and technical institute. It runs vocational training schools and academic programs for the blind including technical institutes for the deaf and people with physical disabilities. Although programs for WwD are largely integrated into its major programs, a few of this association's programs focus specifically on WwD. Considering its substantial infrastructure and human resources, such WwD specific programs may be smaller in scope but they significantly impact the lives of disabled women and their families. Furthermore, its focused involvement in supporting a separate woman DPO, that is, the Blind Women's Association is important for advancing the causes of blind women.

j. **Blind Women's Association, Gujarat**

www.bpaindia.org/Blind%20Women.htm

Founded in 1995, the Blind Women's Association is a women's only DPO in Western India that work exclusively for the causes of blind and visually impaired women. It has been supported by the Blind People's Association right from its establishment and both organizations are close collaborators in many programs for blind and visually impaired women.

Its major focus is to economically empower blind and visually impaired women so that they can gain economic independence. Different kinds of skills-based vocational training are

given to blind women such as making artificial flowers and bouquets, incense sticks, terracotta lamps, wicks, door mats, and decorative Dandiya sticks (used in traditional Gujarati dance). It provides funding and assists blind and visually impaired women obtain low-interest bank loans for establishing small-scale businesses such as a public telephone center and small shops.

This organization also helps to minimize the financial barriers of blind and visually impaired women by offering scholarships, educational supplies (school uniforms, books, and notebooks), food, and medicines. It regularly organizes state level workshops in different regions focusing on the issues of blind women and supports them in participating in national level workshops.

One of this organization's special programs is its Marriage Bureau, a match-making program for blind and disabled persons that assists them in finding marriage partners and providing supports after marriage. It also operates an Entertainment Club that organizes and promotes cultural and sports competitions for the blind and visually impaired women's entertainment and to increase awareness about their issues in society. The competitions also support blind and visually impaired women explore and celebrate their potential and abilities.

Funding support is largely from the Blind People's Association, local and state government, and individuals.

This organization has comprehensive programs for blind and visually impaired women focusing on their economic empowerment. The programs include not only skill-based trainings but also assist women who want to become self-employed in accessing financial support. However, it is difficult to fully assess the impact of these programs as there is almost no data on program outcomes or case stories about women obtaining support or becoming self-employed through the organization's help. The organization's plan to establish a residential center for

elderly blind women who have no family or shelter sounds ambitious as it will require considerable funds to build and operate. If the facility is built, it would be an important resource for homeless women with visual disabilities.

k. **School for Disabled Girls, Vijaya, Orissa**

http://vijayaorissa.org/?page_id=60

www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=851

Vijaya was established in 1996 with the vision of empowering people from marginalized groups (such as “backward” and “tribal” as per Indian laws) by improving their socio-economic, health, and educational conditions. Through supports like food, shelter, and healthcare for homeless, aged, disabled, and financially poor people, and providing vocational trainings of various kinds to them, Vijaya aims to empower members of these vulnerable groups, especially women. It runs two rehabilitation centers, one is Swadhar for women who are aged or widowed having no other means of living and the other is a school for WwD.

The School for Disabled Girls is exclusively for women having disabilities related to speech, hearing, and vision. According to Vijaya, this school is one of the three institutions in India that provide residential, educational, and vocational services to women having speech, hearing, and vision related disabilities. According to its 2011 report, total 75 WwD reside in this school. The school plans to operate a computer training centre, health centre for treatment of exclusively disadvantaged women and children, and a vocational training centre with workshop facility for candle making, phenyl preparation, screen printing, diary, poultry, and floriculture.

The central government is the major funding partner for this project. In addition, Asha Foundation, the Orissa state government, other organizations, and individuals are also its funding and program partners.

Vijaya emphasizes gender equity in its all program activities and offers positive discrimination for women who are in need. Its two major programs—the special school for WwD and the Swadhar both are exclusively for women.

Its school for WwD is a model school in India. There is no doubt that a residential facility with special educational and vocational provisions for women having hearing, speech, and vision disabilities can make a significant impact on their efforts to be empowered. Though Vijaya is yet to implement the vocational and educational component in a fully fledged version, the residential facility itself is an important support for a large number of WwD, providing them with a safe place to live and pursue their education. The most distinctive feature of this program is its combination of academic and skill based trainings at the same time in the same setting. Such arrangements certainly help WwD to become educated and productive.

9. **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

a. **Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation, Tehran**

<http://en.vrf.ir/index.aspx?siteid=82&pro=adduser>

Established in 1992 as a NGO, Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation mainly provides clinical screening and rehabilitation services (primarily physical and occupational therapy) to children and adolescents with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Through its six rehabilitation centers located in different Iranian cities, this foundation provides early child intervention, diagnosis, and screening of disabilities in newborns and clinical rehabilitation of children and adolescents with learning disabilities or cerebral palsy. It

has a male only vocational center that helps men with intellectual disabilities become engaged in work and integrate into mainstream society. It provides some financial assistance to parents of eligible PwD to start their own cooperative workshop after the completion of their training. Through two separate day centers for men and women with intellectual disabilities, a team of occupational, speech, physical therapist and psychologist teach and help PwD in improving their physical and cognitive skills. In addition, it conducts training and research that to enhance the quality of rehabilitation services in its centers. It trains therapists locally or internationally adapting modern rehabilitation techniques.

This foundation is one of very few disability NGOs in Iran. The WwD issues are inclusive especially in cases of young girls with disabilities because it provides clinical rehabilitation services to all children having disabilities. The only WwD specific program is the female-only day center where WwD are taught to improve their physical and cognitive skills.

Although this organization has separate vocational centers for men and women with disabilities, it focuses on the preventive and curative aspects of disability through its clinical rehabilitation program. So far its only disability advocacy work is the production of a film to convey positive images of PwD and to reduce negative attitudes towards them. The exclusion of WwD from male-only vocational training center reflects the larger cultural context of traditional Muslim values that restricts interaction between women and men in public settings.

10. **Maldives**

a. **Care Society, Male**

www.caresociety.org.mv/web/eng/profile.html

Care Society is a cross disability organization with the mission of inclusion of people with disabilities in society by promoting opportunities for their education,

training and employment, and raising awareness on disability issues. Its other objectives are to support the capacity building of community based organizations and assist people affected by natural disasters like the tsunami. It works locally by involving community groups and individuals with disabilities, using local resources. Initially established as the Young Ties in 1998, by a small group of social workers, this organization started its fully fledged CBR disability program in 2000.

WwD issues are included in activities at its centers, which include education programs, counseling services, mixed sessions of physical, occupational, and speech therapies and vocational training classes. In addition, the Care Society assists in the formation of self-help groups of WwD and nondisabled women, running social clubs, awareness raising sessions on disability issues, disability management, and addressing the issue of violence against women. It provides training and counseling to women with and without disabilities on psycho-social skills, gender violence, and conflict resolution.

Its major funding partners are Handicap International and FIDA International. The South Asian CBR Network, Maldivian network on Violence Against Women, and local business community are its program and financial collaborators.

Care Society appears to be gender sensitive in its program planning and implementation because of its general focus on women. WwD and women without disabilities are offered trainings on skills and leadership development. Its work in disability prevention through different rehabilitation interventions and disability awareness including capacity building of PwD and organizations make its program approach holistic.

It also has helped to form an NGO of parents, Care Parents Forum, to address their concerns and educate other parents about disability issues. This indicates its program approach

extends to the family level and that it respects parents' knowledge and parent-to-parent teaching. Its close coordination with women's organization such as the Maldivian network on Violence Against Women is one of its strongest features.

11. **Nepal**

a. **Blind Women Cricket Committee, Kathmandu**

www.nepalblindcricket.50webs.com/Blind_women_cricket.htm

The Blind Women Cricket Committee is a women branch of the Cricket Association of the Blind, Nepal that was formed in July 2009. The Cricket Association of the Blind was founded by a blind Nepali army officer who was encouraged to establish it after he received training on Blind Cricket. The Blind Women Cricket Committee is composed of women players who have visual impairment, which makes it is WwD group within a DPO.

This organization's primary goal is to foster empowerment and sportsmanship among Nepali blind women by increasing opportunities for socialization, building capacity, and gaining national and international exposure through blind cricket. It also promotes cricket playing among women who are blind or/and visually impaired and to create favorable environment by reducing barriers by providing training, scholarships, and counseling to blind or visually impaired women to play blind cricket. In addition, it also conducts door-to-door counseling to parents in order to talk to them about their daughters' potential and encourage them to allow their daughters to play. It also organizes awareness programs about women's blind cricket through radio, press conferences, and social campaigns. It facilitates finding jobs and scholarships for blind women cricketers in need. It also conducts regional and national cricket tournaments for blind women in Nepal. Apart from sports, advocating for the rights of women with visual impairments is its another important activity.

The major funding partner of this organization is the Global Fund for Women. This is the only agency of its type and mission in Nepal. In a society where disability is highly stigmatized and women's ability is under-recognized, advocating for blind women's cricket playing might be seen as irrelevant or even ridiculous. In such a scenario, it continues to encourage more disabled women to participate in sports and has been organizing blind women's cricket tournaments in Nepal. Promoting disability awareness and the capacity of women with vision disabilities through sports is a novel activity for both the sports world and mainstream society.

b. **Nepal Disabled Women Association, Kathmandu**

www.ndwa.org.np

Established in 1998, Nepal Disabled Women Association is a cross disability women's DPO in Nepal. It mainly provides services like advocacy and raising awareness about the rights of WwD, develops their leadership and capacity building, ensures their integration and participation in community developmental process, operates a WwD residential facility, and supports them to achieve economic independence. Its services target women with all kinds of disability conditions.

This DPO organizes informative programs for WwD and their families on available legal and health services and disability issues. Through awareness raising, it promotes access to formal and non-formal education services, including advocacy for a barrier-free educational environment that includes trained teachers and accessible classrooms and sponsors workshops and outreach sessions to school staff and government officials. In addition, it conducts advocacy with policymakers so that they can be better informed about issues and policies concerning the rights of WwD and children.

Besides the advocacy program, it also works in the areas of vocational rehabilitation and entrepreneurship development of WwD. For example, through the saving and credit groups, WwD or parents of children with disabilities are supported in obtaining skills-based vocational training and loans to start income generating activities like raising goats or poultry and tailoring. It also coordinates with other agencies for job placement and loan support. Providing scholarship support to WwD for higher education and housing support to WwD coming to Kathmandu in search of employment and higher education are its other major activities.

Abilis Foundation, Finland embassy, Swedish agency, and Ministry of Women and Social Welfare are its major funding partners.

This organization is the largest women's DPO in Nepal. It is well-recognized by the government, consistently receiving government funding for its residential facility for 30 WwD. Although this housing is not free, the fees are modest for disability-friendly housing. In fact, this facility is important for the social rehabilitation of WwD as it provides secure and accessible housing and gives WwD a sense of security and empowerment. Another example of its effectiveness in Nepali disability context is its recognition as disabled women trainers for their inputs on the formation of the constitutional assembly.

c. **Disabled Rehabilitation Center, Kathmandu**

<http://drcnepal.com/?obj=home>

Disabled Rehabilitation Center is a disability NGO that was established by a group of disabled and non-disabled individuals in 2000. It is mainly a service delivery organization whose mission is to provide healthcare, education, and shelter for children with physical disabilities and those facing economic difficulties. It provides inclusive housing services, covers the costs of attending school, general healthcare, including corrective surgery to

children with physical disabilities and those who have economic hardship. The current data shows that 50 women and children with disabilities receive complete residential and educational support from this center.

Although this center was established primarily to support disabled children, it later started to also support young and adult women with physical disabilities. In 2007, it began to provide separate housing and a vocational training center for WwD, where skills-based training such as sewing, knitting, cooking, and basic computer literacy courses are provided to WwD and women from low income families. Currently, the center provides vocational training for 25 women with and without disabilities.

Its major financial supports are local individuals and entrepreneurs such as Ice Land Trekking and Expedition and Explore Nepal. Its only foreign funders are the Dutch businesses, Sponsortrek Netherland and Wilde Ganzen. In addition, the local hospital collaborates with this center to provide healthcare services to its residents.

The most significant aspect of this organization is its success in mobilizing local resources, that is, involving local residents and entrepreneurs in its fund-raising campaigns. Most importantly, it has engaged a group of local women in door-to-door fund raising, which is an important achievement in Nepal. This shows its strong network with local community as well as its effective program implementation that helped it to gain community recognition.

One area that would benefit from further attention, however, is its focus on providing charity services to children and women with disabilities. It does not have a single program for raising awareness or advocacy on disability issues. Its horizon is currently limited to the curative rehabilitation aspect of disability.

d. **Sungabha Sustamanasthiti Mahila Byabasaik Taalim Kendra,**
Kathmandu

This organization does not have a website. Information was collected from the organization's brochure and other secondary documents.

This organization was established in the late 1990s by a mother of a daughter with Down's syndrome who wanted to an appropriate educational setting for her daughter. Soon other mothers of daughters with disabilities joined this initiative and several young women with intellectual disability came to be involved with this organization. Also known as the Mentally Retarded Women's Vocational Training Center, it is basically a vocational and day care center for women with intellectual disability and Down's syndrome.

Its major objective is the capacity building of women with intellectual disability and/or Down's syndrome and educating parents of WwD and the public about disability issues. Its main activities are vocational trainings (embroidery, making dolls, puppets, envelopes, and candles), trainings on folk dance, and playing musical instruments. It provides training and day care services in a friendly, secure home setting; programs are entirely run by women to avoid any possible sexual abuse of WwD in the center. In addition, it encourages WwD in the center, along with their parents and especially their mothers to participate in public events with musical and performances and crafts exhibitions.

This center has no specific funding partners although it collaborates with local disability and private sector donors for its program activities. Donations from local small businesses are its main source of funding. In addition, parents of WwD and other individuals provide financial support and volunteer at the center.

Since this organization was founded by a mother of a daughter with Down's syndrome, it has been successful in mobilizing other parents especially, mothers of disabled daughters to become involved in the center. Thus, the center is effective for raising awareness among parents about the need and importance of empowering their disabled daughters. The organization has established its presence in the community through participation in local and regional events by giving dance and musical performances and displaying their handcrafts. It would be beneficial to extend its activities to a larger scale to raise awareness among parents nationwide. However, this has not occurred yet due to insufficient funding and underdeveloped management. The agency has not yet attracted the attention and support of the government and other funding agencies.

12. **Sri Lanka**

a. **Aabadha Sahitha Kanthawange Sangamaya, Talawa**

<http://akasasl.blogspot.com>

www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/ability/download/srilanka-1.pdf

www.jicafriends.jp/projects/asiaandpacific/srilanka/006kamala/001b.html#content

Formerly known as Sri Lankan Federation of Women with Disability, Aabadha Sahitha Kanthawange Sangamaya refers to the Association of Women with Disabilities in Sinhala language. This organization was established by a group of six Sri Lankan women in December 1995. It is a women's DPO that addresses WwD issues exclusively including issues of mothers having children with disabilities. Its programs, however, serve both women and men with disabilities and their families.

This DPO mainly focuses on the economic independence of WwD through vocational and employment trainings. Its major activities include helping WwD or mothers of children with disabilities to achieve economic empowerment by providing training in areas such as sewing, home gardening, carpentry, bicycle repair, dressmaking, inland fishing, fish net weaving, and animal husbandry through its vocational training center. The training courses at the center last up to two years in duration and lead to certification. Using its microcredit fund endowment system, this organization also helps WwD or mothers with disabled children to start their own micro-businesses. Supporting WwD to become organized and united is its another activity which it does by establishing four elected WwD peer groups at local community level and together forming larger self-help groups called as Divisional Networks. Currently, it has 3,200 members, 13 Divisional Networks that discuss their members' needs, and take collective action for possible solutions. It also provides housing through a residential facility for WwD in need.

The overall goal of this organization's program is to change the negative attitudes of society and families of WwD by developing skills and abilities to strengthen leadership qualities of WwD and address rehabilitation and preventive measures to minimize their disability conditions. It also operates a five acre plantation of traditional medicines, where WwD and their families work along with nondisabled people.

Its funding partners include several agencies such as, Solidarity, Human Rights, Inclusion and Accessibility, Handicap International, Care Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka-Canada Development Fund, Global Fund for Women, Department for International Development (UK), and the Sri Lankan government.

One of this organization's unique aspects is its use of Women Empowering Women model by creating support networks that allow them to be familiar with available services and

their rights — and to exercise those rights to gain access to the services, skill development trainings, and self-employment opportunities. Such use of WwD through local WwD peer groups for their own overall empowerment encourages them to take leadership role in improving their life conditions. This approach not only enhances self-awareness among these women but also contributes to the success of any grassroots development initiatives.

The Sri Lankan government also acknowledges this organization's contribution and its founding president has been included in the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, advising body in the social welfare ministry. In addition, the organization's president was involved in the national committee that drafted the Sri Lankan National Policy on Disability in 2003.

b. **Sukhita Home, Sukitha Child, Galapatha**

<http://sukhitachild.org/Project.html>

Sukhita Home is one of the charity projects run by Sukhita Child which is a Scotland, UK based charity organization and whose staff are unsalaried volunteers. Established in 2006, this organization's major activities involve providing medical rehabilitation, educational, and residential support to children in need. Currently, its program focus group is Sri Lankan children in need and HIV affected children in Kenya.

The Sukhita Home is located in Galapatha (Southern Sri Lanka) and according to its 2006 report provided shelter to 87 girls and 3 boys with mental health issues or learning difficulties. The majority of these children were abandoned by parents who were unable to afford to take care of them. The tsunami of 2004 resulted severe financial hardship along with an increased incidence of mental illness among people of the affected Sri Lankan areas, creating further difficulties for families with disabled children. By focusing support on young girls with mental

and intellectual disabilities, the Home thus has adopted an integrated and inclusive approach to support them. The Home provides its residents the means for basic survival —food, shelter, and clothing.

Sukhita Trust Fund, Scotland is Sukhita Home's sole funding agency. However, it also has close ties with local Buddhist and Christian groups. The Sri Lankan government and individual donors also support the Home.

Although the Sukhita Home currently operates using a charity approach with no particular agenda of empowering young women with mental illness and learning disabilities, its residential support has enabled them to survive in a safe environment. Perhaps in time the Sukhita Home will expand its program focus beyond meeting survival needs and include activities that empower the young women with disabilities. Through strong networking with Sri Lankan disability agencies, the Sukhita Home has the potential to offer activities that empower its female residents socially and economically.

c. **Women's Development Centre, Kandy**

<http://womendev.org/rehabilitation>

Women's Development Center was formed in 1986 as a NGO with the mission to work for a favorable environment that reinforces the better position of women in mainstream society with a focus on crisis intervention for female victims of violence. The current focus expanded to address disability issues with a focus on WwD as well through its centers, special school units, and home visits.

This center's disability program uses the CBR approach. It includes providing mixed therapy services of physical, occupational, speech, and counseling to individual PwD through home visits, rehabilitation training, and therapy services intervention. It has ten CBR centers

around Kandy and four special units are integrated into mainstream schools. The WwD focused program focuses on the economic empowerment of WwD. This involves trainings and micro-loan support to WwD so that they can be either be self-employed or find jobs. Its vocational training center trains WwD in skills ranging from weaving, sewing, doll making, cookery, candle making, housekeeping, woodwork, animal husbandry, and home gardening. The Women's Develop Center also operates another project to foster women's entrepreneurship called *Sthree* (women in Sinhala language). Although *Sthree* has no direct activities focusing on WwD, it helps to sell the products made by WwD in the vocational center.

The Sri Lankan government through the Ministry of Social Services is its main funding collaborator including several international funding agencies. A variety of local and national organizations are also strong program collaborators.

With a current staff of 150, the majority of whom are women affected by violence, this organization's geographic coverage includes eight districts in the central, northern, and eastern areas of the country. It has comprehensive programs addressing disability issues. The programs range from disability rehabilitation to income generating activities, entrepreneurship, advocacy, and awareness raising about women rights, running one of largest shelters in Sri Lanka for women victims of violence and operating a shelter home for 90 children with disabilities. Its WwD specific program is focused on providing skills-based training to WwD and providing loan support to run micro businesses. Such an approach appears to be appropriate in a society where poverty and exclusion make WwD vulnerable to further abuse. The shelter facilities have been providing the basic survival support to women affected by violence and WwD. Overall, this organization seems to be working effectively to improve the living conditions of WwD and its programs seems to empower them both socially and economically.

d. **Central Council of Disabled Persons, Bandarawela**

www.ccodp.org

Central Council of Disabled Person was established in 1981 by a group of PwDs. Its program structure makes it both a CBR and a training organization. Its program activities focus on the socio-economic empowerment of PwD but other activities have a wider range such as from preventive, curative, and corrective disability conditions to strengthening the leadership qualities of PwD and spreading disability awareness messages throughout society and advocating for their integration into the society.

To improve socio-economic conditions, it provides skills-based trainings on animal husbandry, poultry, cultivation of mushrooms, flowers, fruits and vegetables, production of sweets, envelopes, handicrafts, vegetable seed, yogurt, mobile stalls of fruit and vegetable, fish, plant nursery for export, bakery, welding workshop, sewing clothes, packing spices and tea leaves, barber shops, brick making, bicycles maintenance, and basic computer skills.

It serves PwDs with gender-inclusive programs. With the ultimate goal of WwD's integration into mainstream society, its program includes awareness raising activities about the discrimination against WwD, activities that encourage their increased participation in social activities, building, and improving their abilities for decision-making. The WwD mostly receive training on the land cultivation, sewing, and making of handicraft products. Upon completion of training, they receive loans to start their own micro-business.

It has been active in supporting PwD obtain housing assistance from the Housing Scheme for Rural Disabled project that is a joint venture of the Ministry of Social Services and the National Lottery Board. As this DPO claims, it is successful in helping 151 PwDs obtain ownership of land by facilitating with the government. In addition, it networks with local

community people for donations of labor or construction materials to PwD for housing development.

The Sri Lankan government is its close program collaborator and has allocated 40 acres to this organization. Financially, this DPO is self-sustaining through its program called Enterprises Development Program. Through this program, PwD produce and sell wheelchairs, timber furniture, garments, and handicrafts. The income is used to fund the program activities. In addition, it also receives occasional donations from philanthropic organizations but it has no regular funding support from any foreign agencies.

The most distinctive feature of this DPO is its financial sustainability as it is self-funded through its Enterprises Development Program. Almost each disability agency in developing countries either run on donations or is highly dependent on foreign funding agencies. Therefore, it is a significant achievement for a disability agency.

Another fact that makes it significant is its emphasis on the economic rehabilitation of WwD and its use as a tool for social integration of WwD. In families where poverty and disability cause and intensify each other, this is a promising approach for empowering PwD and their families.

e. **Sri Lanka Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled,**

Colombo

<http://slfrd.org>

The Sri Lanka Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled was established in 1988 by a group of 65 PwD volunteers interested in increasing opportunities for vocational training and employment for PwD. This organization began to operate its programs in

1996 after it completed registration with the Sri Lankan government. It is primarily a manufacturer and vendor of wheelchairs and tricycles at the local and national levels.

It owns the Rehab Lanka vocational center which has three sections: metal or welding workshop, woodwork workshop, and garment workshop. The first two workshops are for male individuals with disabilities whereas the garment workshop is only for WwD. The welding and wood work sections produce a variety of mobility devices such as wheelchairs (folding and non-folding, tennis, dance, commode, special wheelchairs, tricycles, and supportive seating wheelchairs for children and adults), hospital chairs, beds, and walkers. The center's separate tailoring section focuses on capacity building of WwD, and it is inclusive of WwD in its other program activities.

The government and international funders such as SHIA-Sweden, Motivation Charitable Trust, and United States Agency for International Development are its major financial collaborators. In addition, it has a number of foreign and national agencies as the program partners.

In terms of its programs, the key feature of this organization is its emphasis on employment of PwD with equal focus on WwD as the path to socioeconomic empowerment. It appears that WwD are not given opportunities for training in the metal and woodwork workshops and are limited to garment work. However, it is necessary to consider the cultural context where tailoring is traditionally regarded as a female profession and metalwork and woodwork as male professions.

As an organization, it is widely recognized as the manufacturer and supplier of mobility aids in Sri Lanka. Its products conform to standards and are entirely made by PwD for the disabled community. With the major disability organizations as buyers of its products, this

organization is financially self-sufficient. These buyers include Handicap International, Motivation Trust, Ministry of Social Services, Ranaviru Sevana, and Colombo Friend in Need Society. Thus, the agency's twin hallmarks are its financial self-sufficiency based on the production of mobility aids.

13. **Pakistan**

a. **Society for Disabled Women, Faisalabad**

<http://sdworg.tripod.com/index.html>

The Society for Disabled is a women's DPO established by a small group of WwD in late 1990s that provides community-based services around issues of disability and sexual harassment to women with or without disabilities. Its mission is to empower disabled women and children so that they have the capacity for independent living. Its program activities are run out of the head office based in Faisalabad and it has two branch offices in other localities of Faisalabad.

Its programs focus on three major areas of rehabilitation: vocational, medical, and education. For vocational rehabilitation, its sewing center trains WwD in sewing and helps them to sell their products locally. In addition, it provides sewing machines to financially poor WwD so that they can earn money by making clothes at home. It also trains and supports WwD to run business such as small grocery stores. As per medical rehabilitation, it conducts home based basic physical and occupational therapy, eye camps, checking of sugar levels of WwD, and coordinates with government hospitals for medical treatment of disabled children in need. For education, it encourages the young WwD to attend primary school and assists in creating an environment that supports disabled children complete primary education. It also conducts

awareness raising and counseling activities, focusing on women with or without disabilities and their families and addressing issues such as disability prevention and sexual harassment.

The local government and local individuals are the main financial and program collaborators of this organization.

Established by a small group of women with disabilities, this DPO is now run jointly by women with and without disabilities. From a small rural self-help group, it has now expanded into a fully fledged CBR organization in Faisalabad area. Even without regular funding from foreign agencies, it successfully obtains program support from individual donations of local community members. For example, sewing machines provided to WwD were donated by the local individuals. Its emphasis on the economic empowerment of WwD appears to be highly relevant to their socio-economic status.

b. **Afghan Women Welfare Department, Peshawar**

www.globalfundforwomen.org/component/content/article/13-asia-and-oceania/93-afghan-women-welfare-department-
<http://afghanwomenconnect.org/>

Established in 1989, Afghan Women Welfare Department is one of the very first local organizations in Afghanistan that was founded by Afghani women. It is a community-based development agency with a focus of providing activities to build skills and capacity for the economic empowerment of Afghani women living in refugee centers in Pakistan. Its program activities were though closed down by the Taliban, but gained momentum after Taliban rule was over.

The major activities of this agency are skills development trainings such as kitchen gardening, carpet weaving, poultry farming, sewing, and embroidery. The agency also offers

classes about reproductive health, literacy, basic computer skills, and English at centers in Peshawar, Jalalabad, and Kabul. It also conducts awareness classes for women on women's rights.

WwD issues are inclusive and integrated in its regular activities. In addition, it also gives priority to those women whose husbands have disabilities while giving trainings and other microfinance support. The trainings include skills development in vocational as well as basic sales and marketing. It believes that vocational trainings empower women to earn a living, which can improve their status in family and society.

The Global Fund for Women (USA) is its main funding partner for the programs specific to WwD.

Afghanistan has been a battlefield since the 1980s with the Soviet invasion and the rise and end of Taliban rule. The current war also has caused many individuals and their families to live with disabilities. The war has also caused Afghans to become refugees in the bordering country, Pakistan. In such a difficult scenario, the establishment of this agency in Peshawar, a Pakistani city, to serve Afghani refugees makes good sense. Its program activities are helping empower the Afghani women with disabilities who in refugee camps through its training and awareness raising programs. Providing trainings on marketing skills is an innovative approach as focus is more typically on training in skills needed to produce items for sale rather than in the skills needed to market and sell products.

c. **Promotion of Women Empowerment and Rehabilitation - Association for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Disabled, Peshawar**

<http://www.rcpdpak.org/profile.htm>

www.rcpdpak.org/services.htm

www.hedon.info/docs/BP46-3-Rahman.pdf

<http://www.rcpdpak.org/power.htm>

The Association for the Rehabilitation of Physically Disabled began its work in a two rented rooms in 1985 and now it has its own 50 bed rehabilitation center. It conducts both institution based and CBR activities for people with physical disabilities. It is therefore, a service provider of CBR services at community and center levels, a training center for vocational, physiotherapy, and orthopedic courses and a residential medical center.

Its programs have a focus on people with physical disabilities. Issues related to WwD are both integrated and exclusive in its program activities. Its major activities are awareness raising programs for WwD on their rights, helping them to achieve financial independence through various types of vocational trainings such as dress making, tailoring and embroidery, carpet weaving, machine and hand knitting, and beautician. In addition, a canteen is also in operation by a group of WwD. After the completion of vocational training, it provides the required equipment or tools such as sewing machines to WwD for starting their own business.

Various national and international agencies are its financial partners. They include: Global Fund for Women, National Vocational and Technical Education Commission, and Italian and Dutch organizations.

Realizing the importance of the special attention needed to address the empowerment of WwD, this organization launched the Promotion of Women Empowerment and Rehabilitation

project. Its prominent feature is a focus on activities that lead to the financial independence of WwD. So far the organization has been using skills development and vocational programs as the means to empower WwD. To ensure WwD's participation, it gives priority to WwD for physical rehabilitation activities such as providing required mobility aids, corrective surgeries, and physical or occupational therapies. Such a positive bias in favor of WwD is arguably necessary in Pakistan's male dominated society, where males typically have better access than females to public and private resources. Such social norms make it even more difficult for women with disabilities to access services.

d. **Darakhshan Resource and Training Centre, Pakistan Foundation**
Fighting Blindness, Rawalpindi

www.pffb.org.pk/rehab.html

Formerly known as the Pakistan Retinitis Pigmentosa Society, the Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness was established in 1988 at the initiation of a woman medical professional who had Retinitis Pigmentosa, a genetically transmitted eye disease leading to blindness, by her family, friends, and ophthalmologists. Its initial aim was to find a cure for this disease and support other people with the disease. Later this agency started supporting only women with vision disabilities. The establishment of Darakhshan Resource and Training Center in 1990 was a significant initiative in this direction.

The major objective of this center is to provide economic empowerment to women with disabilities. It provides a combination of basic education (Braille, computer literacy, and mobility training) and vocational training around income generating skills such as tailoring, knitting, textile designing, embroidery, leather work, glass painting, beautician courses, preparation of greeting cards, candles, and decorative flowers. Upon completion of the

vocational trainings, WwD in need are provided free equipment so that they can start working at home.

In addition to education and training WwD, the Darakhshan center also provides free transportation, which is crucial for WwD who have no means of transportation or are home bound or dependent. It also conducts community awareness programs on disability. The trainees of the center participate in local, national, and international women's programs and enjoy excursions that increase the visibility of both the center's activities and its program participants.

Retina International is its main collaborator. Local and international funders provide additional financial and program support.

The Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness is a service delivery NGO which is basically dedicated to medical research on eye diseases. But by operating a vocational training center exclusively for women with disabilities, it has extended its program focus from medical to social and has helped several WwD become technically skilled and economically independent. This shift of focus from medical to social is a defining feature of this organization. It has supported WwD to become productive member in their families and societies and to increase their self-reliance.

Another feature of this agency is its close networking with the Pakistani corporate sector. The Askari Commercial Bank Limited, Attock Refinery Limited, Deutsche Bank, and DHL Pakistan are a few of several such corporate members.

e. **Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation, Faisalabad**

www.awampk.org

Established in 2006, the Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation has a single aim of eliminating all kinds of barriers that hinder empowerment of women regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, or financial status.

This organization organizes several outreach activities on raising awareness on women's rights and disability rights, conducting trainings, seminar, workshops, and public forum on various women related issues, focused group discussions, theater performances, rallies, demonstrations, and legal aid services. In regard to disability, it provides awareness and leadership training to WwD as its major activity. The major theme of trainings is to unite and educate WwD and increase awareness about rights as persons with disabilities. In addition, it highlights accessibility issues faced by WwD to inform the government and community and advocate removal of barriers. Its advocacy program consists of consultation meetings, group discussions, trainings, workshops, seminars on the International Disability Day, and publicizing interviews of WwD in mainstream media.

In the programs of Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation, WwD issues are well integrated and inclusive which is indeed a very positive aspect given that disability is often excluded in general women organizations. A women's organization with a specific program for WwD is uncommon among women's organizations. Several disability activists have criticized the feminist movement and women's organizations for excluding WwD.

The funding partners of this agency were not specified on its website. However, it has strong ties with disability organizations at the national and international level, for example, Network of South Asian Women with Disabilities, Association of Women with Disabilities of

India, Women with Disabilities of Australian, Healthlink Worldwide, and Liaison for Enforcement of Human Rights.

f. **National Training of Women with Disabilities on Peer-Counseling, Islamabad**

<http://ircd.net.pk/about/>

<http://ircd.net.pk/first-national-training-of-women-with-disabilities-on-peer-counseling-concluded-today-in-murree-today/>

<http://labourwatchpakistan.com/wp-content/plugins/as-pdf/generate.php?post=1285b>

The Independent Living Centers and DPOs organized this national training of women with disabilities on peer counseling in Pakistan. Conducted in March 2011, an aim of this training was to sensitize society about the importance and positive aspects of WwD integration into society. The training had as its core objective the empowerment of women with disabilities through building their capacity as peer counselors for other WwD by promoting peer-counseling and forming peer support networks at community level.

The training was organized by the Capital Independent Living Center, Pakistan in collaboration with the Pakistan Disabled Peoples' Organization, National Forum of Women with Disabilities, Pakistan including the National Forum of Women with Disabilities Pakistan and Pakistan Disabled Peoples Organization. The training was exclusive to WwD and their skills development as the peer counselors. Forty WwD from eleven Pakistani cities attended this training. The content of the training focused on the introduction of the concept of peer counseling, its benefits and how to develop peer counseling skills.

The funding partner of this initiative was the Asia Pacific Network of Independent Living, Japan.

Though the organizer, Capital Independent Living Center, claimed that the training as the first of its kind ever conducted in Pakistan, the Human Care Association of Japan had conducted a similar training for people with disabilities, including WwD, in Pakistan. However, the organizers claim is based on the fact that this was a national training and WwD from across the country attended. The training is certainly an excellent step towards enabling Pakistani WwD to become peer counselors and become role models for other WwD.

Another important aspect of the training was the joint collaboration of local and regional disability NGOs such as South Asia Disability Forum, DPI Asia Pacific, Milestone Society, and Special Talent Exchange Program. The organizer was itself an Independent Living Center, which along with other disability stakeholders conducted this training.

14. **Cambodia**

a. **Action on Disability and Development Cambodia, Phnom Penh**

www.addcambodia.org

Action on Disability and Development (ADD) Cambodia is one of the country programs of Action on Disability and Development International (UK), which is a nonprofit disability organization based in the UK since 1985. ADD Cambodia began its disability program in 1995. It has three focus areas: mainstreaming disability issues; strengthening the capacity of DPOs; and monitoring the implementation of disability legislation. It addresses these areas by providing technical assistance and trainings to the DPOs and other government or NGOs.

The issues related to WwD are inclusive in the ADD Cambodia's programs. This is reflected quite strongly in its support to women DPOs such as the Kampong Speu Disabled Women's Forum. Located at the Kampong Speu province, the Kampong Speu Disabled Women's Forum is a grass root disability NGO. With the ADD Cambodia's support, it has gained strength in the areas of institutional and program development and management. Promoting and encouraging the participation and inclusion of WwD, children with disabilities in regular community activities and highlighting WwD specific issues in different programs organized by DPOs at the province level are major activities of the Kampong Speu Disabled Women's Forum.

The funding collaborators of ADD Cambodia are mainly ADD International and the Cambodian government.

Few disability NGOs working internationally have integrated disability and gender into their programs to the extent of ADD International. Its Cambodian program has focused on the gender aspect of disability by promoting and strengthening the organizational management capacity of women DPOs like Kampong Speu Disabled Women's Forum. Its 2005 annual report makes clear that ADD Cambodia's most significant achievement is the formation of local women DPOs and their development in Cambodian provinces. This achievement is important for the empowerment of WwD because demonstrates that WwD are organizing themselves to increase awareness of and address their issues.

b. **Women with Disabilities-Cambodian Disabled People's Organization,**
Phnom Penh

www.adb.org/gender/working/cam001.asp

www.cdpo.org

The Cambodian Disabled People's Organization is a coalition of Cambodian DPOs and claims to represent all Cambodian with disabilities. Established in September 1994, it is the Cambodian program of the DPI. As per the general program nature of DPI, this DPO also acts as the advocacy agency on behalf of the PwD rather than as a service provider. Advocating for disability rights and increasing awareness and capacity building are its major activities.

WwD issues are inclusive in its program activities. This particular project focuses exclusively on WwD, aiming to empower WwD through developing support networks, helping them to identify and utilize technical and training resources, establishing or strengthening the WwD self-help groups, and increasing public awareness about WwD specific issues. These activities are conducted through the WwD groups called Active Women's Groups by means of meetings, workshops, and seminars to increase public awareness about the social and economic issues related to WwD.

The Asian Development Bank is the major funding partner for this project, with the Cambodian Trust as another key funding and program collaborators.

This WwD specific project of this DPO has one unique aspect: support for the formation, development, and mobilization of local women groups for WwD causes. Such use of local self-help groups for issues concerning WwD is a type of peer teaching or counseling. As per the ADB report, this project had significant impact on the lives of WwD and also in the Cambodian

government arena. The Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs acknowledged the local women's groups' efforts by asking their opinions in important workshops and events, including the report of the Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination against Women's Report. The participation of over 100 WwD in the 2001 International Women's Day rally can be considered a sign of the mainstreaming of disability and WwD.

c. **Cambodian Handicraft Association for Landmine and Polio Disabled,**
Phnom Penh

www3.online.com.kh/users/wthanchashop/

www.culturalprofiles.net/Cambodia/Units/808.html

www.outreachinternational.co.uk/cambodia/projects/disabled_womens_art_and_craft_project.html

The Cambodian Handicraft Association for Landmine and Polio Disabled is a women's DPO based in Phnom Penh and Preah Dark. Established in late 1990s, this DPO's objective is to provide vocational rehabilitation to women affected by landmines and polio.

Its major activities include providing training, manufacturing and selling silk, leather, and other handicraft products. The trainings include a one year program in traditional tailoring and weaving and small business management. It provides trainings in its three workshops where production of raw silk also takes place. Subsequently the raw silk is hand dyed and hand woven to make silk fabric, traditional Cambodian as well as modern dress fabric and scarves. The leather goods include handbags, wallets, string purses, clutch bags, etc. When the one year of training is complete, graduates are supported in searching for jobs in villages.

This DPO is a very good example of best practices for the purpose of the vocational rehabilitation of women affected by disabilities. The focus on training marketable skills and job

placement assistance make this an exemplary program. The overall program enables WwD not only to become productive but also to increase their self-esteem. Furthermore, the program makes the organization self-sustaining and contributes to preserving Cambodia's traditional textile arts.

15. **Indonesia**

a. **Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia, Jakarta**

www.hwpci.org

<http://hwpcipusat.wordpress.com/about/>

www.disabilityrightsfund.org/grantee/asia/indonesia/2010/indonesian-association-women-disabilities-hwpci.html

The Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia (HWPCI) was established in September 1997 by a group of WwD in Jakarta with the support of the Indonesian government. Its founding was due to international exposure such as 1995 training seminar organized by the UNESCAP exclusively for WwD. HWPCI is the acronym for the Indonesian name of the Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities. Its major objective is to increase the visibility of WwD and promote networking among themselves, disability organizations, and other mainstream organizations with the goal of empowering WwD in Indonesia.

Major activities conducted by the HWPCI are leadership development and skills trainings for WwD at the national and international levels, disability awareness-raising among women and human rights NGOs within Indonesia, distribution of mobility and other assistive devices (prosthetic hands, feet, hearing aids), and even nutrient intake among children with disabilities whose families are in financial need. Its other activities include the establishment of a

cooperative in collaboration with the government, advocacy for physical accessibility in public buildings, and networking with different agencies for job opportunities for WwD. However, its major focus is to facilitate educational opportunities for WwD and make them aware of their rights through meetings, workshops, and the publication and distribution of translated documents of international disability laws or policies such as the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It educates not only WwD and the community in general but also government officials at local and state levels.

The funding collaborators of HWPCI are the Disability Rights Fund (USA) and the Indonesian government.

The HWPCI is the first and largest organization committed to the empowerment of WwD. The establishment of this organization involved collaboration with the government and its partnership with government agencies has proven helpful in launching its programs. Program reports indicate that several WwD have had opportunities to travel within and abroad to attend trainings or seminars. Its ongoing program activities have helped to increase the visibility of WwD in Indonesia. It appears to have good partnerships and coordination with other organizations, for example, the launching of the national program, Movement of National Public Accessibility 2000. Similarly, it conducted accessibility surveys in 85 public buildings of Jakarta in collaboration with other agencies such as the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Planning, and the Indonesian Association of Architects.

16. **Laos**

a. **Lao Disabled Women's Development Center, Vientiane**

<http://sites.google.com/site/laodwdc/>

www.kundefoundation.org/index.php?page=86

Founded in 2002, the Lao Disabled Women's Development Center is the only one of its kind in Laos that conducts programs exclusively for WwD. It emphasizes WwD's skill development and economic independence as the tool of their empowerment. It is basically a vocational training center that also functions as a woman DPO. This center conducts skills-based trainings of up to 6 months duration for WwD and provides post-training services such as job placement. The center's vocational trainings include sewing, weaving, paper-making, and basic computer literacy. The center has its own women dormitory where trainees can stay during their course.

The Kunde Foundation-UK is the main funding and program partner of this DPO. In addition, it also generates revenue by selling its handicraft products in Laos and abroad.

The strong emphasis on employment through teaching skills, marketing, and entrepreneurship make this DPO unique. Although it also works to increase advocacy for WwD rights in the mainstream Lao community, the economic focus is stronger than the political aspect of its disability agenda. This makes this organization more like a training center rather than a women's DPO. However, its focus on providing skills based training and entrepreneurship has made the organization partially self-sustaining in financial terms, itself an achievement in a developing country like Laos.

17. **Malaysia**

a. **Persatuan Wanita Kurang Upaya Malaysia, Selangor**

<http://awwdm.blogspot.com/>

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/1/14/nation/7795702&sec=nation>

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://awwdm.blogspot.com>

The Persatuan Wanita Kurang Upaya Malaysia is a women's DPO working for the rights and advocacy for WwD specific issues in Malaysia, also known as the Association of Women with Disabilities Malaysia. Apart from disability awareness and rights for WwD, it has been advocating on accessibility issues specific to WwD. For example, one of its major undertakings is its campaign to launch a public cab service exclusively for WwD, calling it *By Women, For Women*. The campaign aimed to provide safe transportation services for WwD who need help getting in and out of the taxi due to their disability conditions. Since Malaysia is a predominantly a Muslim country where direct public interaction between male and female is culturally proscribed, women driven cabs are considered a safer transportation mode for women especially WwD who are more vulnerable due to their disability conditions and who need assistance while using transportation services.

The Malaysian government and private sectors are its funding and program collaborators. Based on the limited information available about this organization, it appears to be one of the more influential disability NGOs in Malaysia. A campaign to pressurize the government for specialized transportation service to be used by only WwD is an innovative advocacy effort. The government agreed to provide the service but made it inclusive for women without disabilities.

18. **Myanmar**

a. **Zion Disabled Women's Development Center, Yinthway Foundation,**
Yangon

www.yinthway.org/cottage-industries/zion-disabled-womens-development-center

Earlier named as the Network Early Childhood Resource Center,

Yinthway Foundation was established in 1999 basically to support the primary educational initiatives run by faith based organizations in Myanmar. Now its major objective is to provide Early Childhood Care and Development training, workshop, and materials to families and organizations for the holistic development of children and strengthen the provide Early Childhood Care and Development networking in Myanmar. In addition, it provides educational toy-making workshops to families and organizations.

It has no explicit programs for WwD. However, it supports the Zion Disabled Women's Development Center. It is one of the five cottage industries (or vocational centers) operated by Yinthway Foundation that manufacture early childhood education materials. WwD in the Zion center produce a variety of wooden educational play materials which are sold to the Foundation and other organizations with early childhood education programs.

Though the 2000 report of the Japan International Cooperation Agency says that no women's only DPO or WwD focused programs exist in Myanmar, the Zion Disabled Women's Development Center can be considered a good example. The center has provided facilities for WwD to gain skills and earn money.

19. **Philippines**

a. **Women with Disabilities Leap Social and Economic Progress Inc.,**

Cainta Rizal

<http://wowleap2000.tripod.com/index.html>

The Women with Disabilities Leap Social and Economic Progress Inc. is a women's DPO and its mission is to support WwD's access to resources that are instrumental to their participation in the social and economic activities. For example, it links WwD to basic rehabilitation services, education, training, employment and other opportunities. It also provides or facilitates leadership trainings for WwD and training organizations. In addition, it offers home-based employment activities for WwD that include making of liquid dishwashing soap, powder detergent, and fabric softener.

It has close program and financial collaboration with other disability NGOs of Philippines such as the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disabilities.

Social and economic opportunities for WwD have been one of the major program areas for this agency. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of this program is its focus on the home based employment opportunities for WwD.

b. **Differently-Abled Women's Network-Philippines, Quezon City**

<http://international.egmont-hs.dk/suca/>

www.pia.gov.ph/?m=12&sec=reader&fi=p061221.htm&no=37

<http://rdurmiendo.brinkster.net/panibagong/project-grants-by-proponent.html>

The Differently-Abled Women's Network-Philippines is the national coalition of women with disabilities that was formed by a group of WwD in 2001. It is actually

the women's committee of the Katipunan ng Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc. (KAMPI), which is the national federation of disabled peoples organizations. KAMPI is also a member agency of the DPI from Philippines.

The Differently-Abled Women's Network's aim is to ensure full access of WwD to rehabilitation, that is, educational, medical, and vocational services and to empower them to have equal status in society as men with disabilities. By conducting disability awareness raising activities and advocacy campaigns for the equal access of WwD in rehabilitation both locally and nationally through conferences, workshops, rallies, and meetings, it brings WwD issues into mainstream society. Another of its important tasks is to ensure that WwD's opinions and their issues are well represented in KAMPI's planning and implementing phases of projects. It also supports PwD to operate mobile stores.

Its major funding partners are the Abilis Foundation and AusAid. The Differently-Abled Women's Network has been active in promoting and developing WwD leadership. For example, one of its members, Venus Ilagan, became the first woman chairperson of DPI Asia-Pacific. It was also one of the 59 winners of the Panibagong Paraan, which is the Philippine version of the World Bank's Global Development Marketplace.

c. **Filipino Deaf Women's Health and Crisis Center, Quezon City**

<http://fdwhcc.webs.com>

The Filipino Deaf Women's Health and Crisis Center is a women's DPO established in 1999 and is dedicated to empowering deaf women in the Philippines. It is an advocacy organization that provides counseling and/or medical support to deaf women affected by violence and abuse. It runs a special shelter home for deaf women affected by abuse, violence, and other crises. In addition, it addresses issues of reproductive health and sexuality of

deaf women. It also provides legal, financial, spiritual, and vocational training assistance. Its advocacy program consists of raising awareness and promoting equal treatment in hiring and workplace accommodation.

The Philippine Federation of the Deaf is its major funding and program collaborator. The organization's Rainbow House is one of the significant programs of its kind for deaf women. The organization has strong ties with the Philippine Federation of the Deaf, particular around the Rainbow House project. Its other services of educational, economic, mental, social, and spiritual support to affected deaf women help lower barriers to their participation in mainstream society.

d. **Filipino Deaf Resource Center, Quezon City**

www.phildeafres.org/busy.htm

www.phildeafres.org/index.htm

Established in 2001, the Filipino Deaf Resource Center is a research-based advocacy organization for the empowerment of the deaf in Philippines. Major programs of this center include development and dissemination of Philippine sign language, interpretation services and deaf culture, employment opportunities for deaf and deafness related health, technology, and policy advocacy.

WwD issues are included in its program activities. However, there are two programs focused on deaf women. The programs are devoted to increasing awareness related to sexuality and reproductive health issues among deaf women and advocacy for the rights and medical treatment of deaf women and children survivors of abuse.

The Philippine Federation of the Deaf, Filipino Deaf Women's Health and Crisis Center, and Support and Empower Abused Deaf Children are the program collaborators of this center for its women specific program activities. In addition, Majudiri Y Foundation-Malaysia, Asia

Foundation, and Philippine universities such as the University of the Philippines are its funding and program partners.

This organization is primarily a research and advocacy center for deaf, although it runs specific programs for women in the areas of sexuality and reproductive health. Its activities on information sharing, doing research, and providing medical and counseling services to affected Deaf women contributes to the visibility of issues faced by Deaf women. For this purpose, its collaboration with other like minded organizations such as the Philippine Federation of the Deaf and Filipino Deaf Women's Health & Crisis Center seems quite meaningful.

20. **Vietnam**

a. **Strengthening of Business for Women with Disabilities, Inclusive Development Action, Hanoi**

<http://ideavietnam.org>

<http://ideavietnam.org/detailed-news.aspx?id=31&mode=en>

Strengthening of Business for Women with Disabilities is one of the projects run by the Inclusive Development Action (IDEA), a training and advocacy organization in the area of disability issues. According to IDEA (2010), its mission is to “promote inclusive and barrier-free national development by providing information advice and training to PwD, NGOs and international agencies” (para. 3) in Vietnam. It works to fulfill its mission through monthly meetings, discussions with stakeholders and other nonprofits, disseminating information, training, conferences, and seminars. IDEA is the implementing agency of Disability Forum Vietnam, the information network of Vietnamese people with disabilities and organizations.

In general, IDEA program activities include WwD related issues. But the Strengthening of Business for Women with Disabilities project was specific to WwD as it aimed to provide basic business knowledge and skills to WwD. With such training, it was assumed that the WwD were able to improve their quality of living. As the 2008 IDEA reports, 10 groups of WwD benefited in the first phase of year 2008. The project was completed in 2009.

The Embassy of Ireland was its main funding partner for this project and the Hanoi Women's Union was its program partner. Its other program partners are local, national, and international organizations.

The key feature of this program is the inclusion of WwD groups within different women's unions in Vietnam. Mainstream women's unions such as the Hanoi Women's Union and Vietnam Women's Union have established clubs or groups of WwD within their union which was possible through IDEA's efforts to include WwD. The programs' focus on developing and strengthening WwD's business skills is also another important feature.

b. **Disability Resource and Development, Ho Chi Minh Open University,**
Ho Chi Minh

<http://drdvietnam.com/en/page/splash>

http://drdvietnam.com/page/vi/CLB_phunukt

The Disability Resource and Development is an information resource and training center based at the Ho Chi Minh City Open University. The center's main objectives are to raise awareness about disability issues, support the capacity building of individuals having disabilities, their families, caregivers, and disability organizations through information sharing and dissemination, trainings, seminars, and scholarship to students having disabilities and employment assistance such as providing information and training on vocational or business

skills, and how to set up small businesses. Developing a workforce specific to disability from the social work students' pool is its another major activity. In addition, it provides peer counseling on concerns such as ortho-prosthetic appliances, special education classes, accessible vehicles, and rehabilitation.

The issues related to WwD are inclusive in the center's activities. However, it has separate WwD groups such as the Disabled Women's Club that holds monthly meetings where WwD share and discuss their difficulties, challenges, and ways to tackle those situations. This WwD club also provides peer counseling, cooking classes, trainings on domestic violence, HIV, leadership, marketing, fundraising skills, management, and organizational skills. It also runs sign language and English classes for WwD. In addition to the club's primary activities, a pilot mentoring program for WwD was launched in 2010.

Local, national, and international agencies are its funding and program partners, including the university's professional women's network, Ford Foundation, Voluntary Services Overseas, American Chamber of Commerce, VeitMinds, and Irish Aid.

Since the Disability Resource and Development is based in a university, it has strong educational and training resources for its WwD specific program. For example, it developed and introduced a training course on Social Work with PwDs at the Ho Chi Minh City Open University. There is a scholarship and mentoring program for college level and younger students with disabilities to access higher education. Its collaboration with local women's groups such as the university's professional women's network is significant considering WwD are not included in the activities of women groups.

21. **Programs in Joint Collaboration**

- a. **Accessing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to empower women and children with disabilities in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, Wellesley Centers for Women**

Report on Building Bridges Between and Across Human Rights

Communities in Bangladesh and Nepal to Advance the Rights of Women and Children with Disabilities (Wellesley Centers on Women, 2009)

www.wcwonline.org/content/view/1831/299/

www.wcwonline.org/content/view/2026/299/

Accessing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to empower women and children with disabilities in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal was an initiative of Wellesley Center for Women. Established in 1995, this center is located at Wellesley College and is the largest social science organization in the U.S. that focuses doing scholarly research and field projects relating to gender with aim of influencing people, policies, and programs.

This was a pioneering project because of its attempt to mainstream rights of women and children with disabilities into the women rights movement. The project was carried over to Bangladesh and Nepal by building action task forces, convening seminars, developing advocacy manuals, and providing technical assistance to constitutional reform, law, and policy. The project was launched mainly to bolster the initiatives to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Beginning with the formation of conference preparation working groups, one national conference was organized in each of these two countries where more than 200 participants from a wide range of organizations participated in each conference. Task forces on different themes

were formed on the basis of conference recommendations which were supposed to monitor and push the disability related agenda ahead including the implementation of the CRPD.

Funded by the Open Society Institute, the Wellesley Centers for Women was the main implementer of the project.

Though there were no community level program activities carried out, this project's significance lies in its innovative approach to combining issues pertaining to the rights of women and children with disabilities with more general human rights issues. Considering the isolation of WwD issues from the mainstream women rights movement, one major aspect of this project was the active involvement of two prominent women's legal organizations from the selected countries. The Forum for Women Law and Development of Nepal and the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association of Bangladesh were the implementers of the project. Involvement of prominent women law organizations for WwD rights agenda in countries like Nepal was an important achievement in and of itself.

At the time of the project launch, Nepal was involved in drafting the Constituent Assembly. As the project report states, the conference was a "major breakthrough" for the work of the Constituent Assembly (Wellesley Centers for Women, 2009, p. 27) to make disability issues of women as inclusive. Though a single conference cannot be said to bring about radical improvements in the situation, the project initiatives in Bangladesh and Nepal definitely acted as catalysts by examining the intersections of rights conventions, disability, gender, and disability sensitive lawmaking.

b. **Network of South Asian Women with Disabilities**

www.nsawwd.org/initiative.php

www.healthlink.org.uk/projects/disability/wwd.html

The Network of South Asian Women with Disabilities is a network of organizations working on WwD, women and health issues in South Asia. This network was initiated in 2008 by the Association for Women with Disabilities of India, Association of Women with Disabilities of Sri Lanka, Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable of Bangladesh, and Healthlink Worldwide of UK. The network is an online forum for WwD from South Asian countries to sharing information, opinions, and discussions.

Its major project is Creating Spaces for WwD to Communicate and Advocate for their Rights in India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. It aims to develop a comprehensive and relevant research agenda related to policies and situations concerning WwD in the participating South Asian countries. This further leads to informing the government and key stakeholders through meetings and seminars so that they are aware of WwD conditions and become more involved in implementing policies that address WwD issues. Other major activities include strengthening WwD leadership skills through regional trainings, developing national networks of WwD in each country, launching WwD specific advocacy activities relevant to country, and improving documentation on WwD issues.

While all South Asian countries are program partners of this network, Department for International Development (UK) is its funding partner and Healthlink Worldwide has been providing technical assistance.

Since most of the South Asian countries have similar socio-economical conditions and cultural values, such a regional initiative focused on opening the dialogue among the

development and disability individuals and organizations by exchanging skills, experience, and resources is significant and can have a strong impact on the WwD movement in the region. The baseline surveys on the situation of WwD in India, Bangladesh and Nepal are outcomes of the initiative which have contributed to making the WwD's issues more visible. In addition, the joint trainings organized at the regional level have brought WwD closer and created a common platform to exchange their concerns and ideas. The program activities have certainly strengthened the voice of WwD and enabled them to more effectively claim their rights individually and collectively for equal opportunity and participation.

C. **Programs by Themes**

Disability programs in Asia largely have been conducted by nongovernmental organizations. However, only a few focus on gender issues. For this study, 57 programs were identified as having either exclusive or inclusive program activities that focus on the empowerment of women with disabilities. Any program or activity that aims to increase WwD's awareness and participation that could potentially lead to increased scope for decision-making or increased access to power were included in this study. Thus, if program activities increased options for WwD's empowerment then they were considered tools of empowerment. Such tools can eventually lead to WwD's acquisition of power in their family and society. Table V below gives an overview of identified programs by themes.

TABLE V
CATEGORIZATION OF IDENTIFIED PROGRAMS BY THEMES

Name of Programs	Disability Awareness	Socio-economic Empowerment	Rights and Advocacy	Health Promotion and Rehabilitation	“Fixing” Disability
Guangzhou Association of Disabled Women, Guangzhou	-	X	X	-	-
Beijing Maple Women's Counseling Center, Beijing	-	-	-	X	X
Association of Women with Disabilities, Kowloon	X	-	X	X	X
The Women's Network, Disabled People's International, Tokyo	X	-	X	-	-
Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea	X	X	X	X	-
Korean Differently Abled Women United, South Korea	X	X	X	-	-
Development and Ability Organization, Kabul	X	X	X	-	X
Organization Development for Disabled Women, Kabul	X	X	-	-	-
Inclusion of Women with Disabilities into Mainstream Development Process Project, Centre for Services and Information on Disability, Dhaka	X	-	X	X	X
National Council of Disabled Women, Raajshai	X	X	X	-	-
Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, Dhaka	X	X	X	-	-
Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity, Dhaka	X	X	X	X	X
Young Power in Social Action, Dhaka	X	-	X	-	-
Drak-Tsho Vocational Training Centre for the Disabled, Thimpu	-	X	-	-	-
Society for Disabled Women, Delhi	X	X	-	X	X
Rehabilitation Aids Workshop by Women with Disabilities, Bangalore	-	X	-	-	-
Association of Women with Disabilities, Kolkata	X	X	X	X	X
Delhi Foundation of Deaf Women, Delhi	X	X	X	X	X

TABLE V (continued)
CATEGORIZATION OF IDENTIFIED PROGRAMS BY THEMES

Name of Programs	Disability Awareness	Socio-economic Empowerment	Rights and Advocacy	Health Promotion and Rehabilitation	“Fixing” Disability
The Banyan, Chennai	X	X	X	X	X
Twilight Claims project, Anjali, Kolkata	X	-	X	X	X
Building the Capacity of Women with Disabilities in India: Promoting the Rights to Health and Employment, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center, Orissa	X	X	X	X	X
Visually Impaired Women Empowerment through Shruti-Drishti, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune		-	-	-	X
Blind People’s Association, Ahmadabad	X	X	X	X	-
Blind Women’s Association, Gujarat	X	X	X	X	-
School for Disabled Girls - Vijaya, Bhadrak, Orissa	-	X	X	X	-
Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation, Tehran	-	-	-	X	X
Care Society, Male	X	X	X	X	X
Blind Women Cricket Committee, Kathmandu	X	X	X	-	-
Nepal Disabled Women Association, Kathmandu	X	X	X	-	-
Disabled Rehabilitation Center, Kathmandu	-	X	-	X	X
Sungabha Sustamanasthiti Mahila Byabasaik Taalim Kendra, Kathmandu	X	X	X	-	-
Aabadha Sahitha Kanthawange Sangamaya, Talawa	X	X	X	-	X
Sukhitha Home, Sukitha Child, Galapatha	-	-	-	X	X
Women’s Development Centre, Kandy	X	X	-	X	X
Central Council of Disabled Persons, Sri Lanka Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Colombo	X	X	-	X	X
Society for Disabled Women, Faisalabad	X	X	-	X	X

TABLE V (continued)
CATEGORIZATION OF IDENTIFIED PROGRAMS BY THEMES

Name of Programs	Disability Awareness	Socio-economic Empowerment	Rights and Advocacy	Health Promotion and Rehabilitation	“Fixing” Disability
Afghan Women Welfare Department, Peshawar	X	X	X	X	-
Promotion of Women Empowerment & Rehabilitation-Association for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Disabled, Peshawar	X	X	X	X	X
Darakhshan Resource and Training Centre, Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness, Rawalpindi	X	X	-	-	X
Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation, Faisalabad	X	-	X	-	-
National Training of Women with Disabilities on Peer-Counseling, Islamabad	X	-	X	X	X
Action on Disability and Development Cambodia, Phnom Penh	X	-	X	-	-
Women with Disabilities-Cambodian Disabled People’s Organization, Phnom Penh	X	-	X	-	-
Cambodian Handicraft Association for Landmine and Polio Disabled, Phnom Penh	-	X	-	-	-
Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia, Jakarta	X	X	X	X	-
Lao Disabled Women’s Development Center, Vientiane	-	X	X	-	-
Persatuan Wanita Kurang Upaya Malaysia, Selangor	X	-	X	-	-
Zion Disabled Women’s Development Center, Yinthway Foundation, Yangon	X	X	X	-	-
Women with Disabilities Leap Social and Economic Progress Inc., Cainta Rizal	X	X	X	-	-
Differently- Abled Women's Network-Philippines, Quezon City	X	X	X	-	-

TABLE V (continued)
CATEGORIZATION OF IDENTIFIED PROGRAMS BY THEMES

Name of Programs	Disability Awareness	Socio-economic Empowerment	Rights and Advocacy	Health Promotion and Rehabilitation	“Fixing” Disability
Filipino Deaf Women's Health & Crisis Center, Quezon City	X	-	X	X	X
Filipino Deaf Resource Center, Quezon City	X	-	-	X	X
Strengthening of Business for Women with Disabilities, Inclusive Development Action, Hanoi	X	X	-	-	-
Disability Resource and Development, Ho Chi Minh Open university, Ho Chi Minh	X	X	-	-	-
Accessing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to empower women and children with disabilities in Bangladesh, India and Nepal	X	-	X	-	-
Network of South Asian Women with Disabilities	X	-	X	-	-
Total for each theme	46	39	40	28	26

IV. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicated a few surprising tendencies among the programs being implemented. The emphasis tends to be focused on raising or increasing awareness, especially related to preventing disability and improving health. The target audience for awareness activities tends to be females both with and without disabilities. This suggests the inclusion of disability into larger gender issues such as reproductive healthcare programs. However, it also reflects a dominant cultural bias that views women as being responsible for causing their child's disability and is accordingly the "caregiver" of the family member with disability. Within this cultural framework, men are considered as being not responsible for the child's disability and thus, activities or tools that have preventive disability components usually were found to exclude men. The Society for Disabled Women of India for example, educates women on birth control, AIDS, and general health issues but men are not included in the activities. This encourages laypeople to assume that women are the ones responsible for giving birth to children with disability, and therefore, they are targeted for the educational and awareness activities. Program planners often forget that though women need to be educated, men also need education. Gender roles appear to strongly influence the design and implementation of disability programs.

This study found that a variety of implementation approaches such as the CBR, inclusion strategies, center or institution-based activities, and rights-based efforts were used in these programs. CBR had been the most widely used approach in almost every developing Asian nation. Although several programs had a mix of inclusive and center-based approaches, CBR has been found to be integrated into their programs. For example, Blind People's Association of

India has well-resourced rehabilitation facilities for blind and physically disabled and a computer center, but it uses a CBR approach for its outreach activities.

A number of initiatives on the empowerment and inclusion of PwD, ranging from local self-help groups to programs funded by WHO and other global agencies, are found in most Asian countries, but there were comparatively few special initiatives to improve the lives of WwD. This finding also helps explain the absence in the literature of a single systematic study or compilation summarizing WwD initiatives. It reflects the fact that programs for WwD programs have not been a priority. Only the ILO has conducted a studies related to the vocational rehabilitation and employability of WwD. ILO, in fact, has been quite inclusive in addressing disability issues as promoting, “rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues” are its core objectives (ILO, 2010, para. 2). For example, between 2002 and 2007, it implemented the *Promoting the Employability and Employment of People with Disabilities through Effective Legislation* project in eleven Asian countries in two phases. But WwD and their issues were not included in the project activities. According to ILO (2009) factsheet related to that project, its third phase is going to have programs focused on WwD to bring WwD perspectives into the disability legislation through an increased partnership with the government, employers, and DPOs.

The following section describes further findings of this study and is divided into the six topics: employability and vocational rehabilitation; structural inclusion; barriers to accessibility; disability in the women’s agenda; women with disabilities in development; and caregiving.

A. **Employability and Vocational Rehabilitation**

As discussed earlier, poverty is both a cause and an outcome of disability. In Asia, WwD tend to be more affected by poverty than their male counterparts so economic empowerment has

a significant impact on WwD's lives. To increase their employability and income generation, a variety of vocational or skill-based training are made available to WwD. Such vocational training is supposed to bring economic independence to WwD enabling them to support themselves and contribute to their family's income. Ideally, by becoming a productive family member, their status and social acceptance would increase. However, WwD are not fully able to achieve these goals, in part because of the ways vocational trainings operate.

Vocational trainings for WwD is typically restricted to skills that are traditionally associated with women's home-based handicraft such as embroidery, tailoring, and candle making, that is, low-paid work that is unlikely to generate the level of income needed for self-sufficiency. In addition, these trainings help WwD to acquire only one skill in the training area, for example, in tailoring, they may learn only cutting fabric and sewing clothes, and not a wider skill set such as purchasing raw materials, marketing, and selling products. This narrow range of vocational training is not conducive for making substantive changes in the lives of WwD.

Therefore, vocational training needs to be more attentive to teaching WwD skills that produce higher value products as well as including the full range of knowledge and skills they need to earn a living as independent producers. A more holistic approach would help trainees benefit more from vocational training. Once the training is over in most current vocational training for WwD, the participants still lack the full range of skills necessary to earn a living.

B. Structural Inclusion

The study shows that in Asia the issue of disability is not priority, unlike other sectors of public policy such as the physical infrastructure, economy, education, or health. Because the disability population is so marginalized, policy makers, and development actors do not include disability issues on the development agenda. PwD have limited means for advocating on behalf

of their social and economic empowerment. Prevailing socio-cultural practices in Asia discriminate against PwD, which makes their situation even worse. This structural exclusion is caused by factors such as caste system (where some groups are labeled “untouchable”), pervasive bias against females, cultural beliefs that valorize the male as the sole breadwinner, denigrating attitudes toward WwD as being asexual and pitiful, disability as a stigmatized condition, and PwD as incapable of being economically or socially productive. This structural exclusion is further intensified for specific sectors of the WwD population, for example, those from low castes. This type of exclusion makes it difficult for WwD and PwD groups to empower themselves. The Nepal South Asia Centre (1998) also found that:

Because of various political, economic and cultural reasons, fundamental human capabilities are *unevenly distributed* not only at the global scale but within countries as well. Distribution of such capabilities generally remains skewed in favour of particular human-geographical and social groups. Some groups are structurally excluded from using and enhancing their capabilities.
(p. i)

Structural exclusion of WwD is particularly evident in the context of the job market. The lack of educational opportunities to the majority of WwD results in their lower literacy rate, which in turn makes them unable to fulfill educational requirements for better paying jobs. Broadly speaking, this causes WwD to be excluded in a systematic way, making them almost non-existent in the higher paying job market. In the absence of WwD who meet the educational criteria for the jobs, men with disabilities obtain jobs that are said to be reserved for WwD because men with disabilities have better access to educational opportunities.

Most of the programs identified in this study are attempting to address structural exclusion through awareness activities. Such activities target both WwD and member of the larger society. This work requires vigorous and sustained attention because ignorance about

WwD is widespread and societal attitudes and prejudices change slowly. Street drama, seminars, sports and extracurricular competitions, videos, radio jingles, and puppet shows are some of the tools programs are using. However, policy advocacy and educational activities need to occur on many levels—international, national, regional, and local. Furthermore, local activities need to reach the individuals with disabilities and their families.

Suggested recommendations for reducing and ending structural discrimination include: more educational opportunities for WwD, affirmative action in hiring, trainings, and increased disability rights awareness activities directed to the public (particularly men), WwD, and stakeholders such as funders and government agencies. These activities would increase the visibility of WwD in educational institutions, the workplace, and the larger society.

C. **Barriers to Accessibility**

There is no secret that the invisibility of WwD is due to accessibility factors at different levels. Inaccessibility can be on the sensory level such as in communication, the environmental level such as physical facilities, the social level such as in social gatherings and public events, the personal level such as a lack of confidence in one's capabilities, and at the fundamental civic rights level such as access to education and healthcare. Because they are women, WwD are more likely to face barriers in disability accommodation. Among the 57 programs studied, only one addresses WwD specific accessibility issues. The Hong Kong based Association of Women with Disabilities advocated and succeeded to get accommodating screening beds in local hospitals.

Overcoming accessibility barriers specific to WwD at all levels is a labor intensive process given current social conditions. Vigorous efforts will be required to change discriminatory social practices and public policies. Mandated universal design would be ideal. To bring this about, efforts are required at all levels from the government and concerned

organizations to families and the individuals with disabilities. Cultural and religious preferences also need to be accommodated to ensure social acceptance. Government agencies and NGOs are working in the disability sector and their stakeholders can facilitate empowerment by considering issues that are especially important to WwD. WwD also need to work on their own behalf; formation of local self-help groups and women DPOs can be therefore important for strengthening their voices against discrimination. Empowerment is not possible unless WwD become aware of their rights and become organized.

D. **Disability in the Women's Agenda**

The first World Conference on Women in 1975 made no mention of women with disabilities. It was not until 1985 that WwD had a presence at the World Conference on Women and succeeded in including WwD as one of the groups of vulnerable women that needed to be addressed (Mathiason, 1997). The major human rights document for women, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, included WwD only in late the 1990s due to the advocacy of organizations like DPI. The majority of the programs identified in this study do not collaborate with women-focused organizations. Out of 57 programs identified, only four conduct WwD specific activities in partnership with women's organizations aiming to mainstream WwD and their issues into the agenda. This confirms the global fact that women's movements exclude or ignore WwD and their issues. Despite the extreme vulnerability and oppression of the population, the issue of disability is widely neglected in feminist movements.

In this regard, Lloyd (1992) noted that:

It has been argued here that the 'simultaneity' experienced by disabled women is being denied in two ways. Firstly, they are rendered virtually invisible by the women's movement. Secondly, they are rendered peripheral by the disability movement.

To describe some disabled women thus does not mean that such women do not recognise and express their problems and

concerns, but that the lack of any socio-political analysis which fully embraces their situation leads to alienation from existing political movements, be they the women's movement, the disability movement or party politics. (pp. 216 - 218)

Lloyd (1992) argues further that WwD can claim the “centrality” in the disability and feminist agendas through increased visibility and participation in the society. There should be more program partnerships between disability organizations and women’s organizations. Opening dialogue about common issues through sensitizing women organizations, the gap may be gradually filled. Women’s disability should not be an isolated issue separated from the women’s movement. For that purpose, women DPOs need to actively lobby with women organizations.

E. **Women with Disabilities in Development**

Before the women’s movement gained momentum, the “development” agenda focused on men and their needs largely because the policy makers and development experts were male (Kabeer, 1994). Development programs started including women only after the women’s movement became more influential in the late 1970s, followed by the inclusion of the disability theme in the development agenda. With the rise of NGOs in Asia in the early 1990s, developmental programs started including a disability agenda. However, WwD are still not common “beneficiary” groups across developmental programs. In addition, the development organizations working in the disability sector also lack a focus on WwD. For example, Handicap International has been doing significant work to improve the life conditions of PwD in Asia. But this study found that none of its programs are implementing a WwD focused program. Its sophisticated landmine programs in Cambodia, physical rehabilitation and social empowerment projects in Nepal benefit WwD. Yet there was not a single program focusing on WwD. At the

local level, patriarchal attitudes and social practices across Asian societies and a stigmatized attitude towards WwD, contribute to the lack of WwD social empowerment projects.

Thus, it is evident that WwD and their issues are highly marginalized within the disability and developmental programs. Not only mainstreaming of disability issues to development work is required but also WwD themselves and their issues need to be included so that they could improve their life conditions. WwD inclusive program activities can be beneficial but specific activities targeting WwD are essential for their overall development.

F. **Caregiving**

In Asia, where the majority of societies are collectivistic in character, providing caregiving to disabled family members is assumed to be the women's familial obligation to her family. The consequence is a significant loss of opportunities for education, social interaction, and outside employment.

I have personally witnessed my mother in this situation and she was the sole care provider until I was old enough to support her. I do not remember her going beyond home or attending social or cultural events in neighborhood because her time was devoted to taking care of my brother who has multiple disabilities. The social stigma attached to disability and the "blame" for giving birth to a child with disabilities made it even more difficult for her to appear at social events. At that time, none of our family thought of her personal needs. Even today, many mothers like her having a child or family member with disabilities set aside their personal needs or/and emotional self-care.

Concern for caregivers is still a relatively new (and less important) topic in most Asian countries. This study did not come across any information on programs or projects specific for caregivers' well-being. Out of 57 programs identified in this study, none of those had a single

component addressing caregiving issues. The prevailing collectivistic family structure and women's sense of duty to look after their family member with disability create an expectation for providing care without support or compensation. Thus paying family caregivers is an unfamiliar policy concept in Asia. If there is a policy provision of government support to women caregivers, then families might consider WwD as of less of a burden, at least from an economic perspective. Implementing such a policy might be costly to the government but it is possible to collaborate with families, disability NGOs, corporate, and other development NGOs to explore options.

G. **Limitations of the Study**

This study did not include programs on HIV/AIDS. Four programs were identified but those have greater focus on medical treatment and no specific activities were focused for women living with AIDS.

Language inaccessibility affected the identification of programs. Several Asian programs have no online presence in English. Programs in Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Vietnam, Japan, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia have websites in their native languages. Google translator application was used in these instances to collect information.

Since China has censored Google, it was difficult to identify Chinese programs using the Google search engine and the Chinese search engine, Baidu, was employed and the material translated via Google translator.

The range of topics was limited. This study excluded programs or projects that did not have a focus on the social, economic, and political empowerment of WwD. Therefore, academic or theoretical reviews related to WwD, descriptive studies of the status of WwD on varying indicators were not included.

Finally the accuracy of the information could not be verified. Since this study included 26 countries across the Asia region, validating the information would require resources far beyond what was possible for this study.

H. **Concluding Thoughts**

The many social, economic, political, and environmental disadvantages experienced by PwD are intensified by gender based discriminatory attitudes for WwD in Asia. There have been many initiatives focused on the empowerment and inclusion of people with disabilities generally, ranging from local self-help groups to programs funded by global agencies like the World Health Organization. However, few programs focus exclusively on WwD within Asia. In order to broaden awareness about these initiatives, this study sought to identify and document such programs. A total 57 programs were identified and analyzed in order to provide a framework and resource for organizations that are working for and with WwD.

The study's analysis found that gender plays an important role in designing and implementing empowerment programs. Often, programs work against their own stated purpose. The dominant cultural belief that women are responsible for causing a child's disability and must be the "caregiver" of family members with a disability is often strengthened by programs that target only women. This is counterproductive since men are the usual decision makers in the family, and not reaching them means their decisions are not fully informed by program information. Furthermore, Asian policy makers and development designers are mostly men who give low priority to disability and thus, their "development" agenda mostly exclude WwD.

Such exclusion is structural but practices can be improved through education, training, employment, and the formation of self-help groups. Increased program partnerships between women's DPOs and women's organizations can make disability a common issue for all women

regardless of their disability status. Recognition of the importance of women's caregiving would help dispel the stigma of disability as a family burden.

I present this thesis as a starting point for a discussion about increasing the visibility of disability issues for women among researchers, organizations for disability and women, and governments at all levels across Asia. The descriptive summaries and program analysis can serve as a framework and resource for those interested in working on behalf of WwD. It is my hope that the simple sharing of ideas can encourage new program initiatives for the empowerment of WwD.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	Nepal	Nepal	Nepal	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Organization or Project Name	Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA), Kathmandu	Sungabha Sustamanasthiti Mahila Byabasaik Taalim Kendra (SSMBTK), Kathmandu	Disabled Rehabilitation Center(DRC), Kathmandu	Inclusion of Women with Disabilities into Mainstream Development Process Project, CSID, Dhaka	BangladeshProtibandhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS), Dhaka
Focus	Services for women with cross disability conditions: Advocacy & awareness for rights of WwD, Leadership & Capacity building, Integration & participation, Hostel for WwD in capital city, Support to economic empowerment	Services for girls/women with Intellectual Disability &/or Down's Syndrome: Capacity building of girls/women having ID/DS, Advocacy & awareness of WwD issues among parents of WwD and in the public/government sectors, Encourage WwD's participation in everyday societal events and daily life	Services for young girls & women with physical disabilities: Provides inclusive services of Housing (residency support), Education, Health & Corrective surgery to children with physical disabilities (47 children including girls with disabilities)	Services for women with cross disability conditions: Increased awareness & accountability of families & civil society towards promoting and protecting rights of WwD, Making WwD rights sensitive & active in demanding their rights, Enable the WwD to live a dignified and standard life	Services for all PwD with specific programs for WwD: Aware & empower WwD for their rights to education & other available services, Train & provide basic therapy plus mobility aids services, Train & support for income generating activities at local levels
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Integrated/ Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Exclusive	Integrated
Organization Type	DPO	Service provider disability vocational center	Service delivery (not an advocacy organization) center	Mixed of services provider, training & advocacy	DPO, Service Provider & CBR training center

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	Nepal	Nepal	Nepal	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Main Activities¹	<p>Awareness raising & advocacy in policy forming & implementing for WwD & CwD rights (workshop, seminar, outreach sessions for public, government agencies)</p> <p>Aware WwD, their families on available legal, health services & issues and advocacy for those (Promote their access to formal & non-formal education services, barrier free environment such as trained or aware teachers availability, accessible classroom (workshop, seminar, outreach sessions to school staff, government, public), Scholarship for higher education, WwD/parents of CwD for small entrepreneurship development, vocational skills & employment Residential support Leadership & management training to NDWA staff & other WwD</p>	<p>Capacity building & self-support through various vocational trainings (embroidery, making of doll, puppet, envelope & candle) in a safe home settings run by entirely women, Trainings on folk dance & playing musical instruments,</p> <p>Provides Day care services to girls/women with ID/DS in a friendly, secure home setting to avoid any possible sexual abuse,</p> <p>Encourage center girls & WwD along with their parents (especially mothers) to participate in public events for musical performances, crafts exhibitions</p>	<p>Skill based training delivery - sewing knitting & computer course for WwD and women of low income,</p> <p>Hostel –residential support for WwD & women of low income</p>	<p>Sensitizing & Discussion sessions on-reproductive health and cleanliness, negatives of dowry system & early marriage,</p> <p>Enable to identify problems & take ‘action points’ using local resources (simple drawings like problem tree) on mapping on accessibility, Life-River situations,</p> <p>Economic support (grants for small scale business setups, coordinate with local malls to get orders & sell (handicrafts-greeting card, net bag, embroidery works),</p> <p>Support in medical rehabilitation by referring to specialized service providers (eye hospitals to screen & treat, to get mobility aids),</p> <p>Participation in public settings & to help build the self esteem (national & international disability day rally, white cane safety day, divisional & national sports competitions of PwD)</p>	<p>Uses the human rights based approach named as PSID (Persons with Disabilities Self-Initiatives to Development),</p> <p>Through forming & mobilizing GDPOD that consists of a WwD committee. Activities include: education support (school enrollment & school supplies support), Leadership development and organizational management skills training at local GDPOD centers,</p> <p>Advocacy & awareness raising of WwD issues through national dialogues at policy and implementation level, Highlighting WwD issues in order to receive commitments from them WwD inclusion and participation in mainstream societal activities & services.</p>

¹ Only activities related to WwD are included here.

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	India	India	India	India	Pakistan
Organization or Project Name	Rehabilitation Aids Workshop by Women with Disabilities (RAWWD), Banglore, India	Association of Women with Disabilities (AWWD), Kolkatta, India (5 Projects as listed below)	Blind People's Association (BPA), Ahamadabad	Visually Impaired Women Empowerment (VIWE) through Shruti-Drishti, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, India	Promotion Of Women Empowerment & Rehabilitation (POWER) -- Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled, Peshawar
Focus	<p>Promote equality for WwD to become economically independent, self-reliant and integrated into the mainstream society,</p> <p>Train WwD in the manufacture & repair of rehabilitation aids and appliances so that more women technicians would be available to address the needs of women with disabilities & children The major aids manufactured in the workshop are callipers, walking aids, belts and braces, artificial limbs and splints.</p>	<p>Creating spaces for WwD to communicate and advocate for their rights in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh,</p> <p>Empowerment and Capacity Building of girls & WwD to facilitate their mainstreaming in urban slums,</p> <p>Building their advocacy capacity through orientation and training in Leadership, Advocacy, Gender, Human Rights, and Social Mobilization, Empowerment & mainstreaming in the 24 Parganas, Equal rights for girls & WwD</p>	<p>Women hostel for Blind women,</p> <p>A bakery and food products division for disabled women</p>	<p>Shruti Drishti is a Text-to-Speech & Text-to-Braille system integrated with Braille Embosser, Tactile Reader & Braille keyboard. It is a web page browser developed for visually impaired users. Removes technological barriers and provides access to information through speech and Braille assistive technologies.</p>	<p>Aware WwD on their rights,</p> <p>Empower & take actions for WwD inclusion and financial independence through vocational trainings and support to run own micro business.</p>
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Integrated / Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Exclusive	Exclusive & Integrated

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Organization or Project Type	Manufacturer of orthotics, prosthetics, and rehabilitation devices	Women DPO	Training & research institute, Blended services of CBR and institution (Braille & mobility aids, secondary & higher secondary education, physiotherapy)	Service provider	Service Provider, training center (vocational, physiotherapy & orthopedic) & CBR services, School
Main Activities²	Priority (trainee selection- WwD & of low income families), Holistic approach for capacity building (training given from purchasing of machines and tools & raw materials to contacting hospitals and other private practitioners for clients, need assessment and taking care of the clients, keeping accounts and all other related matters)	Home based rehabilitation- services delivery & training, Support WwD to pursue higher education-finance, advocacy, awareness raising, Skill based training-tailoring and Loan support for income generating activities - selling sarees & household items, rice cultivation, goat rearing, Forming self-help groups of WwD, Advocacy & awareness raising on WwD issues and WwD excursion trips	Residential support for Blind & women with visual impairments to pursue their educational and vocational trainings in BPA centers, Vocational trainings (beautician, hair care) to Deaf women	Technologically capacitating WwD through a 'Text-to-Speech & Text-to-Braille' system known as Shruti Dristi in 40 Girls/Co-Ed Blind schools across the country.	Financial independence and empowerment of WwD through vocational trainings like- dress making, tailoring and embroidery, carpet weaving, machine & hand knitting, beauty clinic Conduction of POWER canteen, Assist needy WwD to set up their business by providing tool once the training is over
Funded by	Cheshire Homes, Mobility India Action on Disability & Development, UK, MIBLOU- Switzerland, Disability Development Partner, VA-Tech corpus, Dhwani Foundation & Individual support	DFID, Pangea Foundation- Italy, Fund for Global Human Rights- USA, Abilis Foundation- Finland & FGHR- USA, Les Enfants De Calcutta et du Monde- France,& Irish Aid	State government (Department of Social Justice & Empowerment), Ma Krupa Charitable Foundation Inc. ,Positive Sight, Indian American Education Foundation, Give Foundation, HDFC Bank, & Individuals	Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communication & IT, Govt. of India and WML (a govt. of West Bengal undertaking) sponsored by Media Lab Asia	ALF (Italy), SLF (Netherlands), Global Fund for Women, , INFAQ (Pakistan), National Vocational & Technical Education Commission (NEVTEC), Local Individuals
Unique Features	One MI project turned into an organization as RAWWD which later became MI's one of the	Focused in right based issues & its advocacy by WwD themselves, Programs focused in urban slums	Runs schools, academic programs for Blinds to technical institute for people with physical disabilities and Deaf. But no other specific programs	Technology use to empower WwD (Blind & visually impaired women)	Special focus for WwD empowerment through their financial independence

² Only activities related to WwD are included here.

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

	strongest partner organizations. First of its kind in India-produced a pool of female technicians & thus produced a new area of vocational rehabilitation other than traditional -ones like tailoring, handicraft etc. Workshop is run entirely by women and self-sustaining.		for WwD.		
Links	www.unescap.org/esid/psis/publications/spps/13/chap7.htm , www.rawwd.in/aboutus/index.html	www.awwdindia.org/projects.html	www.bpaindia.org/Activities.htm http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEMPowerment/Resources/14645_Blind-Ppl-web.pdf	www.cdac.in/html/aai/shruti_drishti.asp	www.rcdpak.org/services.htm www.hedon.info/docs/BP46-3-Rahman.pdf
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing		Ongoing
Country	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Joint South Asian Program	Japan
Organization or Project Name	Aabadha Sahitha Kanthawange Sangamaya (AKASA), Talawa	National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW), Raajshai	Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM), Faisalabad	Accessing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to empower women and children with disabilities in Bangladesh and Nepal	Women's Network of Japan National Assembly of Japan (DPI Japan), Tokyo

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Focus	Bottom-up approach to development of WwD mainly through their economic independency (various vocational & employment skill based trainings), Mobilization & organize rural WwD through peer groups to aware & help other WwD, Operating own 5 acres traditional medicines plantation, Housing (dormitory) support to WwD	Raise awareness among WwD about their disability rights and empower them to claim that, Capacity building through networking among DPOs and government agencies	Unite WwD and educate/aware them about their fundamental rights, Highlight WwD accessibility problems at different public places, To identify the obstacles in the way of development of WwD,	To focus on the intersection of rights of women and children with disabilities in Bangladesh and Nepal along with the women rights (A paradigm shift to bring the women's rights movement together with the disability rights movement)	Mainly advocacy work on WwD visibility and rights : Campaign to protect the reproductive rights of PwD, especially those with psychiatric and intellectual disabilities, Called for action to ensure that sterilization would not be permitted on wombs of women with physical and mental disabilities.
WwD Issues	Exclusive plus inclusion of issues relating to mothers having children with disability	Exclusive	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Exclusive	Exclusive
Organization Type	Women Self-Help group and a NGO	Network of grassroots DPOs in Bangladesh	Women organization	Rights awareness and empowerment advocacy program	An advocacy activity of DPO

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

<p>Main Activities³</p>	<p>Empowerment through local WwD peer groups of 3-7 which constitute larger district level groups,</p> <p>Up to 2 years courses/training to WwD in sewing, home gardening, carpentry, bicycle repair, dressmaking, inland fishing, fish net weaving and animal husbandry through AKASA's vocational training center,</p> <p>Use of revolving loans-fund to support WwD or mothers having children with disability for setting their own micro-businesses,</p> <p>Support to change the negative attitudes of WwD among them, families & society,</p> <p>Encourage & support to take steps to minimize disabilities and to develop abilities, skills and qualities of leadership</p>	<p>Empowering WwD through community meeting, drama, theater to raise awareness about the CRPD amongst women leaders, DPO network members and governmental counterparts,</p> <p>build stronger organizations through better linkages to other stakeholders,</p> <p>outreach to organizations not focused on disability, including the Ministry of Children and Women's affairs</p>	<p>Leadership training program for WwD</p> <p>Sensitization and advocacy through consultation meetings, group discussions, trainings, workshops, seminars on International Disability Days,</p> <p>Publicizing interviews of WwD</p>	<p>Through building action task forces, seminars, developing advocacy manuals and providing technical assistance to constitutional reform, law and policy making and litigation to challenge discrimination.</p>	<p>Advocacy campaigning along with the lawyers to create pressure on government to change the 'eugenic law'.</p> <p>Established in 1981, DPI is an international network of DPOs working in cross disability issues. The member organizations also called as national assemblies, are from 135 countries (2010). Headquartered in Canada, DPI has five regional offices in Asia/Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean in which 80% of its members are from developing countries.</p>
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³ Only activities related to WwD are included here.

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Funded by	DFID UK, Global Fund for Women, Healthlink UK, Government, Aid Foundation, Sri Lanka-Canada Development Fund, Care Sri Lanka	Disability Rights Fund (USA), Action on Disability and Development (ADD Bangladesh)	Not mentioned in the website.	Open Society Institute, conducted by Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) in collaboration with Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh and Forum for Women Law and Development, Nepal	Not mentioned in the website.
Unique Features	Women empowering women through a support network that allows them to exercise their rights and gain access to services, skills training and self-employment	Running a grass root WwD movement to aware about disability rights, networking & social justice	Women organization which has specific program for WwD which is uncommon among women organizations.	Emphasis on the accessing & practicing women disability rights.	The government finally admitted that the law was based on the outdated eugenic concept & revised the law.

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

inks	http://akasasl.blogspot.com/ www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/ability/download/srilanka-1.pdf www.jicafriends.jp/projects/asiaandpacific/srilanka/006kamala/001b.html#content	www.add.org.uk/case_study.asp?ref=81 www.disabilityrightsfund.org/grantees/2008/Bangladesh.htm http://awdpbd.blogspot.com/2009/04/women-with-disabilities-marching.html	www.awampk.org http://awampakistan.org/index.html	www.wcwonline.org/content/view/1831/299/ www.wcwonline.org/content/view/2026/299/	<p>Human Rights and Sexual Abuse: The Impact of International Human Rights Law on Japan lida, Keisuke Human Rights Quarterly, Volume 26, Number 2, May 2004, pp. 428-453 www.independentliving.org/docs5/nakanishi.html</p> <p>www.dpi-japan.org/english/e-report.html</p> <p>Excerpts from article: Development and Self-Help Movement of Women with Disabilities by Yukiko Nakanishi-President, Asia Disability Institute, Chairperson, DPI-Japan International Committee, 2001-02</p>
Status	Ongoing		Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	India	Indonesia	Cambodia	Cambodia	Cambodia
Organization or Project Name	Blind Women's Association (BWA), Gujarat	Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities (HWPCI), Jakarta	Cambodian Handicraft Association for Landmine and Polio Disabled (CHA), Phnom Penh	Action on Disability and Development(ADD) Cambodia, Phnom Penh	Cambodian Disabled People's Organization (CDPO),
Focus	Advocacy and training	Rallying, uniting and empowering all WwD of Indonesia, Aims to promote the physical and emotional welfare of WwD, Develop linkages and network among WwD both nationally and internationally	Vocational trainings to WwD and financial independence	Strengthening the capacity of DPOs including women DPOs, Mainstreaming disability issues and monitoring the implementation of disability laws Inclusion of women & children with disabilities into the DPO activities and in community	Empower WwD and strengthen their voices, Raise public awareness & self identification of needs & skills of WwD Aware the society about the priorities, roles and active participation of WwD in both community activities and in the CDPO
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive	Exclusive
Organization Type	Women DPO	Women DPO	Women DPO	Disability NGO	Women DPO

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

<p>Main Activities⁴</p>	<p>Trainings on making artificial flowers and bouquets, incense sticks, terracotta lamps, wicks, door mats, decorative dandiya sticks etc., Cash & material support to the children of blind women of need, Helps blind women to gain self-employment by giving loans for such trades as petty shops, and other small-scale businesses from the Institute's funds, Survey of blind women from entire Gujarat state Organizing workshops in different regions of Gujarat for blind women, Provides clothes, grains, spices, medicines to blind women, Operates a Marriage Bureau for blind and disabled, Operates an Entertainment Club- various competitions like garba, light music, games sports, Plans to set up an Old Age Home for homeless blind women</p>	<p>Leadership, journalistic & productive skills training to WwD,</p> <p>Networking with government, women's NGOs, human rights, Distributing mobility & assistive devices including nutrient intake for children with disabilities from financially poor families,</p> <p>Establishing cooperative HWPCI named as "Padma's work" in government collaboration,</p> <p>Translate and publish national & international disability policies, Conducting surveys and seminars on accessibility,</p>	<p>Provide vocational trainings on producing silk, weaving and traditional tailoring of silk clothing, making of silk and leather products,</p> <p>Trainings on small scale business management</p>	<p>Addressing issues related to women and children with disabilities</p> <p>Lobbying and advocating,</p> <p>Highlight the WwD issues in different DPO programs in the province (meetings & discussion sessions)</p> <p>Capacity building of women DPOS such as Kampong Speu Disabled Women's Forum' (KSDWF)</p>	<p>Through the Active Women's Groups (AIG):</p> <p>Self identification of WwD issues by developing AWG or networks of support for them and assisting them to benefit from available technical and training resources,</p> <p>Self and public awareness raising about the rights and interests of WwD and relevant social, economical issues through meetings, trainings and workshops</p>
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⁴ Only activities related to WwD are included here.

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Funded by	BPA , local state government and individuals	Disability Rights Fund-USA and the Indonesian government agencies	Self-sustained with some support from the local government agencies	Action on Disability (ADD) International, UK and Cambodian government	Asian Development Bank
Unique Features	Comprehensive vocational programs for blind women focusing on their economic empowerment	First and largest women DPO in Indonesia, good collaboration with government	Handicraft training and marketing-sustainability	Inclusion of gender in disability agenda	Local AIGs (that is self help group) formation & mobilization for WwD cause (peer teaching)
Links	www.bpaindia.org/Blind%20Women.htm	www.hwpci.org http://hwpcipusat.wordpress.com/about/ www.disabilityrightsfund.org/grantee/asia/indonesia/2010/indonesian-association-women-disabilities-hwpci.html	www3.online.com.kh/users/wthancha-shop , www.culturalprofiles.net/Cambodia/Units/808.html , www.outreachinternational.co.uk/cambodia/projects/disabled_womens_art_and_craft_project.html	www.addcambodia.org/english/index.php?page=ksdwf_partners www.addcambodia.org	www.adb.org/gender/working/cam001.asp
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Country	India	Bangladesh	South Korea	South Korea	Philippines
Organization or Project Name	Society For Disabled Women (SDW), New Delhi	Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Dhaka	Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea (RIDRIK), Seoul	Korean Differently Abled Women, Seoul	Women with Disabilities Leap Social and Economic Progress Inc.(WOWLEAP), Cainta Rizal
Focus	Providing education for deaf children especially girls; WwD focused Vocational training; Awareness raisin among women in slums about sanitation, health & environment	Support WwD in getting various types of Income generating activities through trainings, Networking among women organizations	Research on issues related to PwD; issues related to WwD are integrated into its main programs	Focus on Independent Living Movement, Violence against WwD, Secure employment , Participation in health and sports activities,	Emphasis on economical independence through vocational trainings and small scale home businesses, Aware the society on disability issues of women and support for rehabilitation services

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

WwD Issues	Exclusive	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Integrated	Exclusive	Exclusive
Organization or Project Type	Service delivery-Rehabilitation center	Community development organization that is a general NGO	Research and service delivery institute	Women DPO and training organization	Women DPO
Main Activities	To promote mainstreaming of disability issues and PwD particularly, WwD through seminars, awareness sessions, lobbying and advocacy	Conducting various types of IGA, leadership trainings for WwD and strengthen the networking among women DPOs through regular meetings, Coordinate and support the women led organization like Bonny Shikha for joint initiatives about issues pertaining women and WwD	Researches to investigate problems associated with PwD, Uses research to increase the social welfare and rights of PwD through its 8 different specialized programs	Empowering WwD through education, research, awareness, training on women disability rights and policies development & revision, employment	Home based employment (liquid dishwashing soap, powder detergent and fabric softener), Linking WwD to basic rehabilitation services, education, training, employment & other opportunities, Developing leadership skills and encouraging active participation in community activities
Funded by	Sulabh International Social Service Organization, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Japan	Action Aid Bangladesh	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
Unique Features	Specialized vocational training center for WwD	Not a disability NGO but has strongly mainstreamed disability issues into its programs. Also, it has close collaboration with disability NGOs in initiatives such as establishing a digital talking book library with Resource Centre on Disabilities Good coordination with the women rights organization e.g. the Bonny Shikha	Research institute with inclusive services to PwD. Did first survey on the status of WwD in South Korea. The result led WwD issues into the limelight and also led to the establishment of Korean Differently Abled Women United.	Conducts research on policies related to WwD rights and pressurizes the concerned agencies to make amendments, if necessary. S	Focused on home based employment opportunities for WwD
Links	http://sdw.co.in/	www.ypsa.org/disc.php , http://ypsa.org/selfhelp.php	http://cowalk.or.kr/cw/eng/sub01.htm http://cowalk.or.kr/cw/eng/sub04.htm	www.kdawu.org/kdawu/intro_main.in.asp	http://wowleap2000.tripod.com/index.html
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	Hong Kong SAR	India	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Myanmar
Organization or Project Name	Association of Women with Disabilities (AWDHK), Kowloon	Building the Capacity of Women with Disabilities in India: Promoting the Rights to Health and Employment, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC), Orissa	Sukhita Home run by Sukitha Welfare Society, Galapatha	Women's Development Centre (WDC), Kandy	Zion Disabled Women's Development Center, Yinthway Foundation Yangon
Focus	Advocacy for the rights and inclusion of WwD in mainstream society, Educating WwD about their health issues and seeking for accommodating health facilities for their treatment	Self-advocacy efforts for WwD's inclusion in the government's Reproductive Health Care program, Aims to leverage existing resources and provide additional training to promote the economic self-sufficiency of WwD, their access to health care services and their ability to advocate for their rights and inclusion	Support children and young persons with and without disabilities affected by poverty, malnutrition or disease by providing food, shelter, education and medical supports; Focused support to those affected by the 2004 Asian Tsunami in Sri Lanka	Organizing, raising awareness in communities and building the capacities of women and strengthen their position in the society	Provide vocational training to WwD on making educational play materials
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Integrated/ Inclusive with clear focus on WwD		Exclusive
Organization or Project Type	Women DPO	SMRC is a service provider but this project is mixed of center and CBR services	Service provider and NGO	Women NGO for WwD and women victims of violence	Women NGO and a local manufacturer

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

<p>Main Activities</p>	<p>Policy initiatives for WwD's equal participation in social and political settings, Increase awareness of the importance of cervical cancer screening among WwD, Conducting talks & seminars on the prevention of cervical cancer and its special screenings for WwD in hospitals, Advocacy for WwD friendly healthcare settings and devices in a number of women health centers such as wheelchair users friendly gynecological check-up beds) Conducting leadership trainings on gender mainstreaming, Conducting research studies on WwD related topics</p>	<p>Raising awareness of health issues among WwD & promoting their access to the government's Reproductive Health Care program, Advocacy and leadership training to WwD Conducting needs assessments, skills trainings and assistance to get loans and run micro-business, Support in formation of village self-help groups of WwD</p>	<p>Provides food, shelter, education and medical support to 90 children (mostly girls abandoned by families) having mental health issues and learning difficulties.</p>	<p>CBR and center based services of rehabilitation training & intervention through 10 CBR centers around Kandy and 4 special units integrated into schools, Vocational Training Center in Ampitiya, Vocational & skill training plus micro- credit loans to WwD to set up own business Running the Sthree- an entrepreneur initiative</p>	<p>Training WwD on making wooden educational play materials, Producing and selling those materials to local and national NGOs working for children or schools</p>
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APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Funded by	Local agencies and individuals including the Hong Kong government	Rehabilitation International, USA	Sukhita Trust fund- individual donors locally & internationally, Sri Lankan government, Buddhist community	Sri Lankan government, National & international funders	
Unique Features	Successful advocacy for policy change such as wheelchair user friendly gynecological screening beds for WwD, Close coordination with women organizations	Utilizing the existing government health and micro-credit programs for the empowerment and inclusion of disabled	Sukhita Home is entirely supporting the girls (87 females, 3 males are the residents- according to the 2006 project report)	Has comprehensive programs from disability rehabilitation to IGA, entrepreneurship, advocacy of women rights & awareness raising, Runs one of the largest shelters for women victims of all kinds of violence and the largest shelter for children with disabilities (90 CwD living)	The 2000 JICA report says no WwD DPO or WwD focused programs exist in Myanmar
Links	www.awdhk.org/home.html http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://www.awdhk.org/organizer.html , http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://www.awdhk.org/images/07-08annual_repo.pdf	http://www.riglobal.org/advocacy/featuredprojects.html , http://www.smrkorissa.org/content.php?id=64	http://sukhitachild.org/Project.html	http://womendev.org/rehabilitation/	www.yinthway.org/cottage-industries/zion-disabled-womens-development-center
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	India	India	India	Afghanistan	China
Organization or Project Name	Delhi Foundation of Deaf Women, Delhi	Special Residential School for Disabled Girls- Vijaya, Orissa	The Banyan, Chennai	Development and Ability Organization(DAO), Kabul	Guangzhou Association of Disabled Women, Guangzhou
Focus	Self-employment and vocational training including matrimonial assistance services	Residential school for girls with disabilities	Socio-medical approach to cure mental illness and shelter especially to homeless women having mental illness	Developing and increasing the disability rights awareness and self advocacy among PwD	Rights and advocacy for WwD rights, equal participation, networking and healthcare support
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Exclusive
Organization or Project Type	Women DPO: A mixed of Service delivery and Advocacy	Center and Advocacy	Service delivery, Training and Advocacy	DPO with advocacy & training components including orthopedic appliances center	Women DPO: A mixed of Service delivery and Advocacy; the women section of the Guangzhou Federation of the Disabled

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

<p>Main Activities</p>	<p>Skill based trainings and support in self employment on book binding projects, batik workshops, leather crafts, embroidery and crocheting, tailoring , doll making, technical education: desktop publishing, reprography and manual typewriting, Technology and computer centre for the Deaf, trainings on secretarial skills, computer and Xerox, Trainings on English, sign language, leadership skills, Campaign on Deaf awareness, matrimonial services among Deaf, counseling, Recreational activities like talent & sports competitions, educational tours, beauty contest (Ms. Delhi Silent Queen and Princess), cultural festivals of Deaf women, Early intervention for kids having hearing impairments</p>	<p>Provide regular education and vocational trainings to WwD, Prepares them for afterschool life through counseling and exposure</p>	<p>Offers prevention systems, provide access to care and rehabilitation, deliver community awareness and instigate policy advocacy and research through its 6 programs: Adaikalam - Transit-care centre for women rescued from the streets, Legal aid clinic and hotline number services to answer mental health issues, Community Mental Health Project (urban and rural mental health services), Community Living Project (for clients requiring long term care), The Banyan Enterprise businesses run by the Banyan's clients), The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health(BALM)</p>	<p>Training is its main activity so highly encourages and promotes female trainers to join DAO so that women participation in trainings can be ensured. Seeks to ensure that half of the participants are women.</p>	<p>Provides rehabilitation and vocational trainings for WwD through its Disabled Rehabilitation and vocational centres, Job placement of WwD through the Disabled Employment Service center, Sports training & opportunities through its Center of the Paralympic Movement , Distributes assistive and mobility devices</p>
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APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Funded by	Several local & national private, public and government agencies and individuals, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Ramjethmalani Foundation, Steel Authority of India Limited, Delhi state government, Volunteers in Service to Education in India etc.	Orissa government, Asha Foundation and local organizations, individuals	Corporate clubs and associations, individuals and state government including its foreign chapters such as Friends of the Banyan – USA	UNMACA, WRA and OHCHR	Guangzhou Federation of the Disabled and local corporate agencies
Unique Features	Has extensive focus on self-employment skills and related trainings along with advocacy of Deaf women's rights. The matrimonial assistance to Deaf , theater on Deaf by Deaf, Deaf beauty pageants, Sports & cultural days esp. for Deaf women	Combination of regular education & vocational training at the same place	Offers mixed services of prevention, rehabilitation and rehabilitation with delivery of community awareness, policy advocacy and research with residential facility for women with mental health issues(one of very few programs in Asia region), Majority of funding from the Monthly Membership Scheme and state government, Credibility Alliance Friends of the Banyan – USA a nonprofit registered in USA raises funds and spreads awareness of The Banyan, India		Corporate Women DPO under the federation. More center based services

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Links	www.dfdw.net, www.dfdw.net/aboutus.php	http://vijayaorissa.org/ http://vijayaorissa.org/?page_id=60 www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=851	www.thebanyan.org/html/about.html , www.thebanyan.org/html/projects.html	www.daoafghanistan.org/women.htm	www.wdconference2010.org/en/ www.wdconference2010.org/index.php, www.gzadw.org.cn, http://www.gzadw.org.cn/Article/ShowClass.asp?ClassID=1
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Country	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Malaysia	Vietnam
Organization or Project Name	Drak-Tsho Vocational Training Centre for the Disabled, Thimpu	Central Council of Disabled Persons (CCoDP), Bandarawela	Sri Lanka Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled(SLFRD), Colombo	Persatuan Wanita Kurang Upaya Malaysia (PEWAKUM), Selangor	Disability Resource and Development (DRD) based in Ho Chi Minh Open University, Ho Chi Minh
Focus	Vocational trainings	Advocacy for rights and equal participation of PwD and increase awareness of WwD participation through rehabilitation services and IGA	Employment support, manufacturing mobility and assistive devices	Disability awareness, advocacy for the rights and equal participation of WwD	Promoting equal participation of PwD and information dissemination about different disability issues among PwD & in society
WwD Issues	Integrated as girls with disabilities getting services in center.	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Exclusive	Inclusive
Organization Type	service delivery	DPO & CBR- Training & Advocacy	DPO and service delivery(wheelchair & tricycles)	Women DPO	Information Resource & Training Center. Service delivery (peer counseling)

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Main Activities	Provides vocational trainings (traditional art and painting, embroidery, sketching weaving, social skills, games and sports, computer literacy and numeracy) to PwD so that they could have employment opportunities, Helps PwD to become more independent, confident and economically productive,	Awareness raising against the discriminations for being a WwD, Increase WwD's participation in social activities, decision making & integrate into the mainstream society through: rehabilitation services, micro credit, IGP (animal husbandry, vegetable cultivation, mobile stalls of fruit and vegetable peddling, plant nursery, production of sweets, bakery & dairy products, handwork products, welding workshop, sewing clothes, packing spices and tea leaves, barber shops, production of envelopes, brick making, recondition of bicycles & cement brick making)	Support finding employment for PwD, Advocacy for disability rights , Assist and improve the education PwD, Produces variety of wheelchairs (folding & non folding mobility, tennis, dance, commode, special wheelchair, tricycles), supportive seating, hospital chairs, beds, walkers	Advocacy for rights of WwD, Lobbying with the government for women's accessibility issues such as launching of campaign to set up a taxi service "by women, for women)	Has Disabled Women's Club (Club PNKT) that meets monthly to discuss & share difficulties and challenges faced by WwD in everyday life, Peer counseling: on issues like what, where & how about assistive devices, special education, vehicles and rehabilitation services, Assistance to PwD for job placement and advice for employers, Training & workshops in job skills, life-skills, leadership and fundraising , Sign language & English classes support group
Funded by	Various national & INGOs	Self funded through own program called Enterprises Development Program (EDP) and with donations from philanthropic organizations; No fixed grants from outside	Government and international funders like Motivation Charitable Trust- UK	Malaysian government agencies and local private sectors	Ford Foundation, VSO, VietMinds, Irish Aid, HCMC professional women's network
Unique Features	Emphasis on vocational trainings; Age restriction is a barrier for WwD	Special focus on economic rehabilitation & its usage as a tool for social integration of WwD, Self funded through EDP (where PwD produce wheelchairs, timber furniture, garment & handicrafts)	Main focus on Employment of PwD with equal focus on WwD, Self-sustained as major disability INGOs are its products buyers (HI, SHIA, Motivation Trust, Ministry of Social Services, Ranaviru Sevana, Colombo Friend in Need Society)	Strong advocacy	Strong educational element e.g. training course on Social Work with PwDs at HCMCO University, Has scholarship & Mentoring program for college level & younger students with disabilities in getting higher education

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Links	www.draktsho-bhutan.org/ http://cloud1.gdnet.org/cms.php?id=organization_details&organization_id=3970	www.ccodp.org	http://slfrd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=66:sri-lanka-foundation-for-the-rehabilitation-of-the-disabled	http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/11/14/nation/7795702&sec=nation, http://awwdm.blogspot.com/ , http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://awwdm.blogspot.com/	http://drdvietnam.com/en/page/splash , http://drdvietnam.com/page/vi/CLB_phunukt
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

Country	Vietnam	Pakistan	Nepal	Iran	Laos
Organization or Project Name	Strengthening of Business for Women with Disabilities -Inclusive Development Action (IDEA), Hanoi	Afghan Women Welfare Department, Peshawar	Blind Women Cricket Committee (BWCC), Kathmandu	Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation (VRF), Tehran, Iran	Lao Disabled Women's Development Center (LDWDC), Vientiane
Focus	WwD entrepreneurship development	Helping Afghani women refugees living in different camps at Pakistan through rehabilitation and vocational trainings	Promotion of cricket among Blind & visually impaired women, encourage them to play the sports	Early child intervention for disability prevention , day care and skills development for PwD	Advocacy & Skill training with employment services
WwD Issues	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Exclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive with no mention of WwD	Exclusive

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Organization Type	Training and Advocacy	Community based development agency that is general NGO	Women DPO	Service delivery & Training	Service delivery – vocational center
Main Activities	Provides information, advice and training to PwD & NGOs, Gives basic knowledge about business skills, what & how to participate in loans from credit institutions	Trainings on various IGA, basic sales & marketing and literacy programs among Afghani women refugees, Preference is given to WwD and women whose spouses are disabled & support for microcredit finance	Promote cricket playing among women who are Blind and visually impaired with favorable environment creation, scholarship, counseling and exposure	Separate specialized services for women with physical & intellectual disabilities, Early child intervention, Diagnostic & day care services, Training and research, Vocational skill/training services	Skills based trainings to WwD on sewing, weaving, paper making & computer literacy, Has own women dormitory
Funded by	Embassy of Ireland	Global Fund for Women	Global Fund for Women	Government and local philanthropic agencies	Kunde Foundation-UK, partially self-funded through selling its handicraft products
Unique Features	Focus on developing and strengthening WwD's business skills, The project also created a network of trainers as well as capacity building for staff and volunteers	Afghani WwD who are displaced in refugee camps getting IGA support	Advocacy for Blind and visually impaired women to play cricket, sports as a tool to empowerment		Core emphasis on employment through teaching skills, marketing & entrepreneurship.
Links	http://ideavietnam.org/about-us.aspx , http://ideavietnam.org , http://ideavietnam.org/tailed-news.aspx?id=31&mode=en	www.globalfundforwomen.org/component/content/article/13-asia-and-oceania/93-afghan-women-welfare-department - http://afghanwomenconnect.org/	www.nepalblindcricket.50webs.com/Blind_women_cricket.html	http://en.vrf.ir/index.aspx?siteid=82&pro=adduser	http://sites.google.com/site/laodwdc/ www.kundefoundation.org/index.php?page=86
Status	Completed in 2009	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Country	Afghanistan	India	China	Bangladesh	Joint South Asian Program
Organization or Project Name	Organization Development for Disabled Women (ODDW), Kabul	Twilight Claims project- Anjali Kolkota	Beijing Maple Women's Counseling Center, Beijing	Women with Disabilities Development Foundation(WDDF), Dhaka	Network of South Asian Women with Disabilities (NSAWWD)
Focus	Advocacy for equal participation and rights for WwD, increase awareness about WwD issues	Policy advocacy for the changes in mental health care and treatment system, Raising awareness and understanding about mental health among policy makers, civil society	Improve the mental health of women (rural & urban), children and families through psychological counseling, social services, gender and people-oriented research and policy advocacy	Advocacy for rights and equal participation of WwD in employment and in society	To provide a common platform to WwD of South Asian region so that they can share their experiences , skills and opinions, discuss their issues for potential solutions A regional initiative of Association for Women with Disabilities (AWWD, India), Association of Women with Disabilities (AKASA, Sri Lanka), Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV, Bangladesh) and Healthlink Worldwide –UK.
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Exclusive	Exclusive	Exclusive
Organization Type	Women DPO	Service delivery & Advocacy NGO (mix of community based & clinical settings)	Service delivery, Advocacy & Research- Nonprofit (mix of community based & clinical settings)	Women DPO	Network of organizations working on WwD, women and health issues in South Asia

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Main Activities	Strengthens the disability rights of women through engaging a variety of technical, capacity building & literacy programs, Increase awareness through variety of activities including the participatory theatre	Raising awareness of the issues related to mental illness through advocacy, lobbying for policy change and alliance building, Providing training to community leaders and women from same community where women with mental illness & victim of domestic violence live	Educates and train people on mental health issues, Provides psychological counseling to women on a variety of issues, Helps women in psychosocial adjustment (single parents, migrant women workers, post disaster, domestic violence, children of newly become citizens)	Leadership training for WwD, Educational support, Publish and distribute information materials about WwD using mass media, Create environment for WwD to participate in sports & cultural activities in collaboration with NGOs & government agencies, Strengthens national and international network for exchanging information, Advocacy for employment opportunities for WwD	Internet forum of sharing news, views and ideas. Website is maintained in turns by the involved organizations
Funded by	Polish Humanitarian Action (PHA), Polish embassy in Afghanistan, Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO)	Global Fund for Women	Global Fund for Women; National & international agencies	Global Fund for Women; National & international agencies	Technical assistance by Healthlink Worldwide UK and financial support by DFID- UK
Unique Features		Comprehensive program for women with mental illness- from medical treatment to social rehabilitation.		Fully run by Bangladeshi disabled women, it has strong ties with BPKS-a major disability NGO for resources and operation.	Strengthens the voice of WwD and enables them to claim their rights either individually or collectively for equal opportunity and participation; A collaboration among four South Asian countries for the WwD empowerment

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Links	http://development.thinkabouit.eu/think3/post/empowering_disabled_women_in_afghanistan http://ahrdo.org/partners/ip.html	www.anjalimentalhealth.org/twillight_claims_prgram.php www.anjalimentalhealth.org/future_focus.php	www.maple.org.cn/%E5%85%B3%E4%BA%8E%E7%BA%A2%E6%9E%AB/%E5%AE%97%E6%97%A8%E5%92%8C%E6%80%A7%E8%B4%A8/tabid/77/language/en-US/Default.aspx ,	http://wddfdb.org/profile.php	www.healthlink.org.uk/projects/disability/wwd_activities.html http://www.nsawwd.org/initiative.php www.sarpv.org/programs/go www.healthlink.org.uk/projects/disability/wwd.html
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Country	Pakistan	Philippines	Philippines	Philippines	Maldives
Organization or Project Name	National Training of Women with Disabilities on Peer-Counseling, Islamabad	Differently Abled Women's Network (DAWN)- Philippines, Quezon City	Filipino Deaf Women's Health and Crisis Center (FDWHCC), Quezon City	Filipino Deaf Resource Center (PDRC), Quezon City	Care Society, Male
Focus	Peer counseling to WwD	Advocacy for the full access of WwD in education, medical and vocational services	Shelter, medical and counseling support to Deaf women affected by abuse & other crisis	Research, information and networking related to Deaf	Rehabilitation interventions (early child intervention, day care, vocational skills etc.) and support to parents for disability management of their children
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive with clear focus on WwD	Inclusive with special focus on women without disabilities too
Organization Type	A national level training organized by the Independent Living Center	Women DPO	Deaf women DPO	Service provider for deafness related services, researcher & advocacy organization	CBR

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Main Activities	Training on peer counseling exclusively for WwD	Conducting disability awareness raising activities locally and nationally through conferences, workshops and meetings, Advocacy campaigns for equal access of WwD in rehabilitation services	Advocacy, Medical/counseling services to Deaf women survivors of abuse, Shelter support to Deaf women in crisis situations	Increase awareness about sexuality & reproductive health issues among Deaf women, Advocacy for Deaf women and children survivors of abuse in coordination with the Filipino Deaf Women's Health & Crisis Center and Support and Empower Abused Deaf Children	CBR activities to minimize disability incidence and managing disability using different rehabilitation interventions through its Care Development center, Parent education programs, providing support & counseling services, forming self help groups, Supports parents in disability management, runs social club to encourage interaction of children with disabilities with outside environment Awareness raising on disability issues, violence against women Train women with and without disabilities on psycho-social skills, counseling, gender violence & , conflict resolution
Funded by	Asia Pacific Network of Independent Living, Japan	Abilis Foundation, AusAid	Philippine Federation of the Deaf	Philippine Federation of the Deaf, Filipino Deaf Women's Health & Crisis Center, Majudiri Y Foundation-Malaysia, Asia Foundation, University of Philippines	Handicap International, FIDA International
Unique Features	First national training of its kind and good collaboration and partnership of the Independent Living Centers with the disability NGOs at local, national and international levels	Strong emphasis to develop and strengthen on WwD leadership	Advocacy, counseling services to Deaf women affected by abuse & other crisis situations, Shelter home for such women		Special focus on women in general to protect them from violence in collaboration of Maldivian network on Violence Against Women, Helped to form a NGO of parents – Care Parents Form to address their concerns and educate other parents about disability issues

APPENDIX A (continued)
IDENTIFIED PROGRAM DETAILS

Links	http://ircd.net.pk/about/ , http://ircd.net.pk/first-national-training-of-women-with-disabilities-on-peer-counseling-concluded-today-in-murree-today/ , http://labourwatchpakistan.com/wp-content/plugins/as-pdf/generate.php?post=1285b	http://international.egmont-hs.dk/suca/ , www.disabilityworld.org/05-06_01/women/philippines.shtml	http://fdwhcc.webs.com/	http://www.phildeafres.org/busy.htm , http://www.phildeafres.org/index.htm	www.caresociety.org.mv/web/eng/profile.html
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Country	Pakistan	Pakistan			
Organization or Project Name	Society for Disabled Women, Faisalabad	Darakhshan Resource and Training Centre - Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness, Rawalpindi			
Focus	Empowering disabled women and children for independent living	Enable WwD to become self-reliant members of the family			
WwD Issues	Exclusive	Exclusive			
Organization Type	Mix of CBR, Women DPO & Service delivery	Dedicated in medical research and humanitarian services for the visually impaired in Pakistan			
Core Activities	Rehabilitation of WwD in 3 main areas: medical, vocational and education through its community awareness, counseling, basic therapy program activities,	Provide a combination of basic education (Braille, computer literacy, mobility training) and vocational training			
Funded by		Local & international funders, Retina International			
Unique Features	Established by WwD group, now functioning as CBR organization	WwD are financially & technically helped to be independent, income generator and self-reliant members of their family			
Links	http://sdworg.tripod.com/index.html	www.pfffb.org.pk/rehab.html			
Status	Ongoing	Ongoing			

APPENDIX B
LIST OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Types of Resources Available for Women with Disabilities	Title	About	For	By	Available at
Resource tool for Action	Disability Rights, Gender, and Development: A Resource Tool for Action	A global resource tool in helping to understand the intersections of gender and disability in development in connection with the UN disability policies such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CEDAW etc. especially how they complements and intersects with each other, Highlights the importance of gender perspective and disability rights perspectives in all development and policy making processes related to women and children	UN country offices, government agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions as background materials for education or training workshops for the development of new legislative, policy or programmatic initiatives on behalf of women and children with disabilities	Prepared by Rangita de Silva de Alwis, in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations and the United Nations Population Fund. Funded by UNFPA & Open Society Institute	www.wcwonline.org/pdf/Free/UNRPDWCWmanual.pdf
Practical Guidebook	Integrating Women and Girls with Disabilities into Mainstream Vocational Training- A Practical Guide	A global practical guide on Whats and Hows of including WwD into mainstream workplaces. It discusses issues relating to the seriously disadvantaged position of WwD, Was developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to implement the Agenda for Action of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and to the Platform for Action adopted by the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing.	Intended primarily for instructors and administrators in vocational training institutes in both the public and private sectors. Also useful for policy makers in vocational training as well as in employers' and workers' organizations.	Prepared by Foo Gaik Sim- a consultant, working with technical guidance and advice from Barbara Murray, Senior Specialist in VR, ILO East Asia Multidisciplinary Advisory Team	www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/ability/wwdforeword.htm , www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_107918.pdf
Disability Awareness in Action Resource kit	Disabled women: An International Resource Kit	Describes and addresses the obstacles that disabled women face, in order to facilitate equal opportunities.	It is targeted at disabled women, activists and organizations working on gender and disability	Disability Awareness in Action, UK	www.daa.org.uk/index.php?page=resource-kit-06 www.independentliving.org/docs2/daa6.pdf
Manual	Nations for mental health: a focus on women	An overview of various psychosocial conditions experienced by women, and policy and legislations that affect women with psychosocial disabilities. Includes suggestions for workplace interventions, increase awareness	Focused on women with mental health issues at global level	WHO	whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1997/WHO_MSA_NAM_97.4.pdf

APPENDIX B (continued)

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Types of Resources Available for Women with Disabilities	Title	About	For	By	Available at
Resource tool for Action	Disability Rights, Gender, and Development: A Resource Tool for Action	A global resource tool in helping to understand the intersections of gender and disability in development in connection with the UN disability policies such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CEDAW etc. especially how they complements and intersects with each other, Highlights the importance of gender perspective and disability rights perspectives in all development and policy making processes related to women and children	UN country offices, government agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions as background materials for education or training workshops for the development of new legislative, policy or programmatic initiatives on behalf of women and children with disabilities	Prepared by Rangita de Silva de Alwis, in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations and the United Nations Population Fund. Funded by UNFPA & Open Society Institute	www.wcwoonline.org/pdf/free/UNRPDWCWmanual.pdf
Practical Guidebook	Integrating Women and Girls with Disabilities into Mainstream Vocational Training- A Practical Guide	A global practical guide on Whats and Hows of including WwD into mainstream workplaces. It discusses issues relating to the seriously disadvantaged position of WwD, Was developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to implement the Agenda for Action of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and to the Platform for Action adopted by the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing.	Intended primarily for instructors and administrators in vocational training institutes in both the public and private sectors. Also useful for policy makers in vocational training as well as in employers' and workers' organizations.	Prepared by Foo Gaik Sim- a consultant, working with technical guidance and advice from Barbara Murray, Senior Specialist in VR, ILO East Asia Multidisciplinary Advisory Team	www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/ability/wwdforeword.htm , www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_107918.pdf

APPENDIX B (continued)

LIST OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Disability Awareness in Action Resource kit	Disabled women: An International Resource Kit	Describes and addresses the obstacles that disabled women face, in order to facilitate equal opportunities.	It is targeted at disabled women, activists and organizations working on gender and disability	Disability Awareness in Action, UK	www.daa.org.uk/index.php?page=resource-kit-06 www.independentliving.org/docs2/daa6.pdf
Manual	Nations for mental health: a focus on women	A manual that gives an overview of various psychosocial conditions experienced by women around the world and policy and legislations that affect women with psychosocial disabilities. Includes suggestions for workplace interventions, increasing awareness in media, government and society	Focused on women with mental health issues at global level	WHO	whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1997/WHO_MSA_NAM_97.4.pdf
Handbook	A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities	Explains how women with disabilities can take care of their own health, including how to advocate for better access to local health care services and health education.	Focused on WwD at global level	Hesperian Foundation	www.hesperian.org/publications_download_wwd.php
	Mother to be : a guide to pregnancy and birth for women with disabilities	This handbook includes the experiences of pregnant disabled women and discusses different aspects of pregnancy (whether to have a child, health care, nutrition, and exercises for pregnancy). It is aimed at and disabled women	WwD, concerned individuals, health workers, therapists and agencies who might need detailed information about WwD and pregnancy.	Rogers, Judith; MatsumurA, Molleen New York: Demos Publications, 1991, 410 p	

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