

Rehabilitation Issues In Ethiopia



State of rehabilitation care in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia there are above 20 million Persons with Disabilities living with different type disabilities
 - There has been encouraging progress in rehabilitation services development during the past two decades in the country.
 - However, the service coverage capacity and quality of standard is far behind and not coping with the growing disability prevalence due to chronic disease, congenital malformation, aging and conflicts.
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- There are 19 governmental and CSO owned rehabilitation centers exist in the country that are established mainly to provide physical rehabilitation services for specific group of disability and most of them are not fully operational due to lack of adequate administration structure, imported materials for production of assistive devices, absence of trained manpower and financial resource limitations.
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- Ministry of Women & Social Affairs transferred rehabilitation centers for MoH for better rehabilitation services
 - Comprehensive rehabilitation service is part of the health care system and MoH has developed a five years strategic plan.
 - For insuring social inclusion of PWDs and land mine victims after rehab MoWSA prepared a manual for psychological and social inclusion manual for rehab centres
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- In the year 2021/2022 about 43 thousand PWDs benefited from rehab services in Ethiopia
- Assistive devices provision is growing from time to time

Progress after transition from MoWLSA to MoH

- Physical Rehabilitation strategy developed
 - Service provision manual developed and implements
 - P&O education program curriculum developed and submitted to Addis Ababa university
 - National Assistive Technology list developed
 - To incorporate PR service data DHIS 2 (District Health Information Software) is under process
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Inclusive Development (CBR)

- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) takes place within the community and is part of community development, as a complement to the earlier concept of institutional based rehabilitation.
- The focus of a CBR program in Ethiopia is to not only empower persons with disabilities, but also strengthen capacities of caregivers and the community.
- Health, education, livelihoods, social and empowerment are the five components of CBR underpinned by the principles of participation, inclusion, sustainability and self-advocacy.

Challenges Encountered

- Absence of prosthetics orthotics and speech therapist professional in the labour markets limits centers to render full capacity and improved quality of clinical and technological services.
 - The unavailability of raw materials and components in the local market those are required for production of assistive devices limits the production quantity and developing new products with better technology.
 - It is hard to obtain foreign currency allocation for CSO owned centers to import equipments, raw materials and finished assistive devices.
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- Support on the socio-economical integration and follow-up of PwDs received physical rehabilitation services is not adequate.
 - Facing financial resource constraint, particularly on the provision of assistive devices which is very expensive.
 - Manufacturing Industries are not motivated to be engaged on the production of parts and components of assistive devices that could have been a big step forward on the development of local solutions.
 - The absence of national minimum standard for physical rehabilitation hinders to measure the quality of services.
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- Security problems in some parts of the country to reach target beneficiaries and communities.
 - The ever increasing price rise and inflation in the country limited the number of people to serve.
 - Increased number of person with disability in need of lower limb and upper limb services after the conflicts and war and limited capacity of the rehabilitation centers
 - Lack of resource to produce an appropriate wheelchairs and other assistive devices.
 - Staff turn over especially rehabilitation professionals .
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