



2nd National Conference

**WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR
PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION
(INDIAN CHAPTER)**

REPORT

25th to 27th February 2005

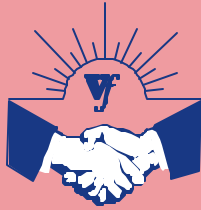


दान दे वरदान दे

**Organized By
VARDAAN FOUNDATION, BARODA**

**Supported By
Government of Gujarat
Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi.**

**A Diversified
Philanthropic Organization
Committed to
Deprived and Vulnerable Group of Society**



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**VARDAAN FOUNDATION
BARODA**

Vardaan Foundation a public trust, formed in 1997 with the motto to serve the people with both action cum research and other developmental activities from wide range of diversified field of operation. A sub unit named: Centre for Action Research and Developmental Studies (CARDS) was also established. The former is devoted to provide the services giving much impetus to behavioural science such as social work, psychology, education, communication etc. and other related science. While latter being the sub unit of it, is devoted for doing operation and action research, development of action plan and project strategy, monitoring and evaluation. The purpose of the Centre is to assist development programme of the region in conducting studies, implementation, management, evaluation, developing strategies and policies. In doing so, the CARDS collaborate with government and non-government research and training institutions or organizations at local, national and international level. For more detail visit us www.vardaan.org

GENESIS : Developmental activities are getting momentum all over the world. The stress on developmental activities and sweeping changes call for initiations of programme to understand the process, help vulnerable groups and individuals through social action and active intervention after research. The effectiveness of such activities can be enhanced if they are directed, channelised and undertaken with the service, research and developmental motto in mind. A non-profit charitable Public Trust (**Vardaan Foundation**) was established to conduct philanthropic activities for the deprived, needy and vulnerable groups of society with the help of like minded people; friends and professional colleagues from different disciplines of social and other sciences.

MISSION :

- ☞ To demonstrate skills in identifying community needs and promoting community participation;
- ☞ To articulate and force for policy reform, for different social sectors;
- ☞ To develop efforts for long term commitment and strong advocacy role;
- ☞ Position burning issues to offer key decision-makers a unique and compelling benefits or advantage;
- ☞ Refine positions to achieve a broader consensus. Minimize the opposition or find areas of common interest for doing action;
- ☞ To develop SMART (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ppropriate, **R**ealistic and **T**imely) objectives for different social services;
- ☞ Identify resources from corporate sectors, national and international donor agencies and plan to build coalitions and mobilize support. Seek out and work with appropriate partners, spokespersons and media.
- ☞ To provide all possible help to the needy and deprived community with the available resources

Board of Trustee Members: -

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**CENTER FOR ACTION RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES, BARODA**

THRUST AREAS :

Provision of services, such as health care, eradicating poverty, promoting social justice, literacy, and human safety, rural development, highlighting atrocities, corruption and negligence, and development of economic for socially and economically backward community;

Disaster relief, resettlement and rehabilitation for people suffering from old-age, mentally retarded, disabled, chronic disease (AIDS, Leprosy, TB, Malaria, etc) sufferer, drug addictions, famine, drought, war and other related natural and man-made catastrophe.

Creating more opportunities for women and children (especially girl child) to participate as equals in the development process is a priority. The strategies to bridge the gender gap are multifaceted and address prevailing attitudes and inequalities in existing situation in both urban and rural areas of our country.

Promote community participation for Biodiversity conservation to maintain the natural habitat that will advocate for any action.

Community participation, technical and educational assistance to enable local group to organize, solve local problems, establish local enterprises, and influence other agencies to provide better services.

Networking for experience sharing, program coordination and joint action on sector issues - with advocacy in support of critical policy and institutional changes. Research and information exchange for the function of development policies and programs.

Dr. Monika Sinha, M.Sc; Ph.D. Treasurer;
Social Worker and Research Consultant, Baroda

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The World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR) established in 1986 and having 46 – member International Board of Directors all over the world. The growth of the WAPR during the years reflected the increasing importance of the prevention and reduction of social disability as a framework for the long – term community care of people with severe mental disorders. Thus today WAPR is recognized as non-governmental organization with consultative status with the WHO, the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council, and the International Labour office. Moreover, it also maintains close relations with the European Commission and the African Rehabilitation Institute.

The Indian Chapter of WAPR was established with the tiring efforts of the Dr. Gopinath, Dr. Gopalakrishnan, and Dr. T. Murali under the leadership Dr. Sharda Menon (Padmabhushan), the founder member of WAPR organization during 1986 at Vienna near Paris. The first national conference of WAPR (IC) was held in the Bangalore during 2002. Vardaan Foundation hosted the second national conference of WAPR (IC) in Baroda from 25th to 27th February with the support of Govt. of Gujarat and Rehabilitation Council of India. Around 175 delegates from Karnataka; Kerela; Tamil Nadu; Orissa; West Bengal; Assam; Punjab, Haryana; Rajasthan, M.P, Maharashtra and other parts of Gujarat attended the conference. About 35 papers, 7 plenary sessions, and discussion with family member and other invited experts took place.

The eminent personalities like Dr. Sharda Menon (Padmabhushan) and Dr. Joyce Sirmoni attended the conference along with Dr. T. Murali; Dr. Mohan Isaac; Dr. Kiran Rao; Dr. Mathew Varghese and Dr. G.S. Udy Kumar from NIMHANS. Other experts were Dr. Anil Shah (Senior Psychiatrist); Dr. C.S. Buch; Dr. Vikas V. Ponda and Dr. B.H. Buch; (Psychiatrist Consultants) Dr. R.H. Bakre (Programme Officer MH); Mr. S.K. Verma and Mr. Subhas Apte (B.M. Mental School Ahmedabad; Dr. Bushan Punani (Blind People Association, Ahmedabad) and Prof. Aruna Khasgiwala (Faculty of Social work –MSU) ..etc.

Shri S.K. Nanda, Principal Secretary of the Food, Civil Supplies and consumer affairs (Former Principal Secretary of health and Family Welfare and main Architect of Mental Health Programme in Gujarat), inaugurated the conference and also released official souvenir of 2nd national conference of WAPR (IC) for Baroda. Dr. Sharda Menon gave Dr. Joyce Sirmoni lifetime award of WAPR (IC) for her outstanding contribution in the field of psychosocial rehabilitation. She was the first person to open rehabilitation center for mentally ill person in Bangalore in 1972.

In the presidential address Dr. T. Murali who empathized the needs and priorities of psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR) in India. He was with the view that medicines alone are not effective and due to availability of modern techniques; PSR is gaining momentum. This is also due to increasing awareness in the family and upcoming community facilities. The chief guest Principal Secretary of Food and civil supplies - Shri S.K. Nanada, emphasized to trained the professional for psychosocial rehabilitation and also pointed out that rehabilitation service should also be focused on preventive and Promotive side. Referring to WHO report on mental health, he predicted that among all mental disorder the proportion of schizophrenic patients would be doubled by 2020.

Prof. Isaac Mohan in his keynote address pointed out that PSR is grossly neglected area in India. He emphasized that rehabilitation is essential component of overall management of every person suffering from severe psychiatric disorders and the needs in this area in the immediate future will also be very high. Dr. Harshit Sinha organizing secretary and Founder Member of Vardaan Foundation emphasized that due to growing commercialization and market driven economy put a lot of mental stress on an individuals and it get aggravated by any sudden natural or man made disaster, there by putting an individual for a great need for PSR. He also pointed out that there is a symbiotic relation between Psychiatric and Psychosocial rehabilitation.

The conference for three days held many interesting plenary session on psychosocial rehabilitation. Dr. Kiran Rao had taken plenary session on psychosocial intervention in rehabilitation and community based rehabilitation; Dr. Bhushan Punani on Legal issues on Mental health; Prof. Mohan Isaac discusses the past, present and future challenges of psychosocial rehabilitation in India and also took an interesting session on challenges of Mental Health Research in Rehabilitation, Dr. Ila Pathak on Mental Trauma among women, Dr. T. Murali on disability assessment and Dr. Radha Krishnan people initiative in psychiatric treatment. Many interesting themes based papers were presented and discussed. Among them, the role of diversified institutions such as Social Defense; LIC and Income tax exemption to the family and their disabled wards were highly appreciated because peoples were not aware about such benefits availed to mentally ill person. During the second day about fifty family members with their disabled ward came to the conference to discuss their problems with the experts of NIMHANS and also from the city of Baroda.

Many interesting paper were discussed on family support psychiatric Rehabilitation and Post disaster needs for PRS. Dr. G.S. Udy Kumar had shared his recent experience on Tsunami disaster in Andaman and Nicobar Island. While Dr. Umasree from Bhopal UNICEF and Ms. Mona Sharma from NTSDRC of MSU had discussed the issues of psychosocial rehabilitation among the victims and schoolteachers in the post disaster situation of earthquake in Gujarat. Mrs. Alka Kakade from Sholapur had discussed issues pertaining to post disaster situation psychosocial needs after earthquake in Latur in Mahashatra. Prof. Aruna Khasigiwala and Prof M.D. Vyas from faculty of Social Science had discussed issues and challenges of rehabilitation in Gujarat, while Dr. R.H. Bakre and Dr. Rakesh Shah also discussed health and mental health care policy of Gujarat.

Since the Govt. of Gujarat is initiating 14 pilot projects on mental health, many NGO share their pilot experience on their respective mental health project. Mr. Bipin Desai from Atma Vishwaas Vidhyal, Valsad; Dr. Bakul Buch from Hartkesh Health Foundation, Junagadha, Dr. Harshit Sinha from Vardaan Foundation, Baroda; Dr. Saiyad from Department of Psychiatry, Civil Hospital Ahmedabad; Dr. Vivek from Department of Psychiatry, V.S. Hospital, Ahmedabad and Mr. Bharat from Blind People Association, Ahmedabad were among from Gujarat while Mrs. Anagha Ghosh from Shodana consultancy; Pune Mr. Manish Rawal from Samarpan Indoor and Ms. Mona Sharma from Sarthak Delhi were among some NGOs outside Gujarat sharing their point of view on psychosocial rehabilitation.

About a dozen of interesting poster session was also discussed on the various issues of mental health. One of the interesting poster that was in demand is related with developing a computer based psychosocial database - tried for the first time in India with the joint efforts of Dr. Harshit Sinha; Dr. B.H. Buch and Dr. K. Murlidharan on the behalf of the Vardaan Foundation. Within twenty-four hours, Dr. C.S. Buch had developed email club (logon www.group.yahoo.com and search WAPR (IC) for mental health professional interested in doing intervention and research in mental health.

The last day of the session was related with the policy issues, which was chaired by Dr. Amarjit Singh commissionerate of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Research from Government of Gujarat. In this session, Dr. Bhushan Punani highlighted legal issues in mental health. He discussed about the negligence of benefits to mentally ill persons availed under PWD act – 1995 and National Trust Act 1999 to other disability. He also stressed upon the mandatory process of certification for undertaking such benefits. He pointed out that after UP and West Bengal, Govt. of Gujarat had taken bold step to include the private expert in medical board for certifying disability. Dr. Isaac Mohan laid stress upon the challenges in mental health research. He laid stress more to generate interest amongst mental health professionals in the area of PSR; build research capacity in both GOs and NGOs; attract research funds / talent; lobby for specific allocation of funds for research in rehabilitation.

Summing up the session Dr. Amarjit Singh first of declare his concern and respect to all those professional working in the mental health. As per him, the rehabilitation process is very complex and difficult task that requires patience and dedications. He declared that state authority is in final stage for the finalization of Gujarat Mental Health Foundation as non-profit company and thereafter he feels that there would be no scarcity of the fund - provided that the quality of research proposals and interventions are unique for mental health programme in the state of Gujarat. He also said that the total governance of the non-profit company would be with the experts not by Govt. officials and will be encouraged to be operated in the partnership with NGOs. He also informed that very soon there would be concrete policy of the government for rehabilitation centers. He had informed that the state health budget has increased from 230 crore to 430 corers. In the valedictory function the WAPR (IC) along with Vardaan Foundation recognized the NGOs and individuals from Gujarat working in rehabilitation project in mental health by token prizes.

This conference has opened the avenue for all type of professionals; family members and the sufferers under common umbrella of WAPR (IC). The board members agreed to provide the necessary inputs to the state government for psychosocial rehabilitation. The WAPR (IC) had also declared that they would provide lot of IEC material and other technical inputs on their website and would also conduct refreshing course. At the end of the conference the eminent dignitaries Dr. Sharda Menon expressed her feelings in this way “ Gujarat is slowly – slowly leading as leader for the initiatives under taken for mental health rehabilitation services by GO and NGO and sooner or later Gujarat would be having hub center of rehabilitation for the sufferers of mental illness.

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The Rehabilitation Council of India was set up as a registered society in 1986. However, it was soon found that a Society could not ensure proper standardization and acceptance of the standards by other Organizations. The Parliament enacted Rehabilitation Council of India Act in 1992. The Rehabilitation Council of India become Statutory Body on 22nd June 1993. The RCI Act was amended by the Parliament in 2000 to work it more broad based. The Act casts onerous responsibility on the Council. It also prescribes that any one delivering services to people with disability, who does not possess qualifications recognized by RCI, could be prosecuted. Thus the Council has the twin responsibility of standardizing and regulating the training of personnel and professional in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education. The main objective of the RCI is

- To regulate the training policies and programmes in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
- To bring about standardization of training courses for professionals dealing with persons with disabilities
- To prescribe minimum standards of education and training of various categories of professionals/ personnel dealing with people with disabilities
- To regulate these standards in all training institutions uniformly throughout the country
- To recognize institutions/ organizations/ universities running master's degree/ bachelor's degree/ P.G.Diploma/ Diploma/ Certificate courses in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
- To recognize degree/diploma/certificate awarded by foreign universities/ institutions on reciprocal basis
- To promote research in Rehabilitation and Special Education
- To maintain Central Rehabilitation Register for registration of professionals/ personnel
- To collect information on a regular basis on education and training in the field of rehabilitation of people with disabilities from institutions in India and abroad
- To encourage continuing education in the field of rehabilitation and special education by way of collaboration with organizations working in the field of disability.
- To recognize Vocational Rehabilitation Centres as manpower development centres
- To register vocational instructors and other personnel working in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres
- To recognize the national institutes and apex institutions on disability as manpower development centres
- To register personnel working in national institutes and apex institutions on disability under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment In accordance with Sub-Section (1) and (3) of Section 3 of RCI

In accordance with Sub-Section (1) and (3) of Section 3 of RCI Act 1992, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India constitutes the General Council. The General Council is the supreme body and regulates the training policies and programmes, standardization of training courses for professionals dealing with disabled persons and their evaluation. This is followed up by executive committee, head by chairman and member secretary. At the lower hierarchy of the organization structure expert and zonal committee. The Council ensures that its recognized training institutions situated across the country adhere to the established norms and for this purpose the Council continuously monitors the quality of the training programme by adopting following policies:-

- Inspection of the Institution
- The feasibility of the Institution for grant of extension of recognition is assessed by a team of Visiting Experts nominated from the respective disability area.
- The Institutions desirous to conduct any of the Council's approved training are also assesses about their feasibility to conduct the proposed training programme in the field of special education and rehabilitation.
- Surprise Inspection & Mid -Term Report

The Council regularly carries out surprise inspections to monitor the quality of the approved training programme and violations identified are required to be rectified under intimation to the Council.

The recognized institutions are required to submit their mid-term report pertaining to the conduct of the approved training. The report contains the detailed information about the core & guest faculty, students admitted and other infrastructure facilities required in accordance with the RCI's prescribed norms. For other details

For Contact :

Rehabilitation Council of India

B-22, Qutub Institutional Area

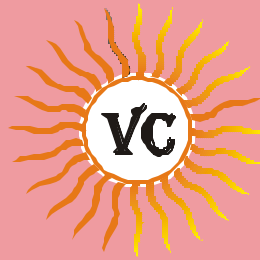
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Email Us:

varcon@indiatimes.com

vardaaninternational@indiatimes.com