



Gaps in Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Development



Tamil Nadu State development Policy council

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INTRODUCTION

- Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA) is a premier organisation in the field of disability management focusing on rural areas, located in Ayikudy Village in Tirunelveli District in South Tamil Nadu, about 160 kms from Madurai.



The Gaps in Inclusion

It is the incompatibility between a persons' functional abilities and the environments capacity to access them results in disabling condition of a person. – Peter Rosenbaum, CanChild

Inclusion In

- Education
- Healthcare services
- Transportation
- Public utilities
- Places of common interest
- Information
- Work places

- **Government to formulate schemes & programs towards adequate standard of living of persons with disabilities, enabling them to live independently or in the community - UNCRP**



Understanding Disability

- The RPDA 2016 affirms the necessity for our country to implement the UNCRPD as a State party to the convention with its objectives as follows:
 - Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make ones's own choices, and independence of persons;
 - Non discrimination
 - Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
 - Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
 - Equality of opportunity
 - Accessibility
 - Equality between men and women
 - Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect of the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities



Understanding Disability

- Person with disability means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment, which in interaction with barriers hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others.
- Person with benchmark disability means a person with not less than 40 percent of a specified disability.
- Person with disability having high support needs means a person with benchmark disability, who needs high support.
- High support means
 - intensive support - physical, psychological or otherwise,
 - which may be required by a person with **benchmark disability** for **daily activities**, to take **independent and informed decision** to
 - access facilities
 - participating in all areas of life including
 - **education, employment, family, community, life, treatment and therapy.**



The Gaps in Covid 19 Support

- **Health Care measures**
- Proposed for persons with disabilities include the following:
 - **Free health** care for BPL families;
 - **Barrier free** hospitals;
 - **Priority attendance** & treatment;
 - **Awareness** campaign / dissemination of information on general health/hygiene and sanitation;
 - **Prevention** of occurrence of disabilities;
 - **Research** the cause for disabilities;
 - **Screen all children** on risk identification atleast every year;
 - Sexual & reproductive health;
 - Prenatal, perinatal and post natal care of mother & child;
 - **Health care during disasters;**
 - Emergency life saving medical facilities.
- **General Schemes**
 - **Support during disasters/conflicts;**
 - Livelihood support for women with disabilities;
 - Safe drinking water & accessible sanitation in slums & rural areas;
 - Unemployment allowance;
 - Care giver allowance to persons with high support needs;
 - Insurance schemes;
 - Quantum of assistance to be 25 percent higher for persons with disabilities compared to those without disabilities in similar schemes.



The Gaps in Positive Discrimination

- **5% Reservation & upto 5 years age relaxation for admission in Higher Education in Govt / aided institutions for persons with benchmark disabilities**
 - Identification of jobs for different categories of persons with benchmark disabilities by a committee comprising of persons with benchmark disabilities & to be reviewed periodically.
 - Every government establishment is to reserve 4% of its total vacancies for persons with benchmark disabilities.
 - Reservation would be 1% each for:
 - Blindness & low vision,
 - Deaf & hard of hearing and
 - Locomotor disability including CP, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy
 - 1% reservation would be carried out for:
 - Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability & mental illness and
 - Multiple disabilities from categories a to d including deaf blindness.
 - Incentives to employers in private sector if 5% employees are persons with benchmark disabilities
 - Vacancies allotted for persons with benchmark disabilities are to be notified with the special employment exchange.
 - **5% reservation for persons with benchmark disabilities in all relevant schemes & programs as follows:**
 - Allotment of agriculture land & housing with priority for women with disabilities;
 - Poverty alleviation & various developmental schemes;
 - Allotment of land on concessional rate, for promoting housing, shelter, setting up of occupation, business, enterprise, recreation centres & production centres.
- Anybody will be punished with an imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years with fine for the following offences:
 - Person with disability being
 - insulted / humiliated in a place of public view;
 - assaulted / exercised force/ dishonoured;
 - denied food / fluid knowingly by a person in charge;
 - child / woman with disability exploited sexually;
 - use of supportive device / limb / sense being knowingly injured, damaged or interfered;
 - in case of a medical procedure directed / conducted to terminate the pregnancy of a woman with disability without her consent; except in case of severe disability where such opinion is provided by registered medical practitioner with the consent of guardian.



Affirmative Actions Required

- As per the RPD Act,
 - The Government should conduct / support awareness programs
 - Rules on accessible standards for physical environment, transportation, information, communication & technology and other facilities / services.
 - Government must provide accessible facilities at bus stops, railway stations, airports; accessible roads; and accessibility in all modes of transport including retrofitting old modes of transport.
 - Government should ensure
 - personal mobility of persons with disabilities by providing incentives / concessions, retrofitting of vehicles and personal mobility assistance.
 - accessibility in information and communication technology so that audio, print & electronic media is made in accessible formats and
 - electronic goods / equipment and consumer products and accessories used by persons with disabilities shall be in universal design
 - Existing public buildings to be made accessible within 5 years as per the rules.
 - Any occupancy / construction of any establishment will not be granted permission / completion certificate if Rules on Accessibility Standards were not followed.
 - All services provided by Government or Private must be in accordance with the rules on accessibility framed by the Central Government within 2 years of its notification.
 - Government would develop human resource for the purpose of this ACT and conduct a need based analysis every five years and formulate plans for development / training of human resource for the purpose of this ACT.
 - All Universities to promote teaching & research in disability studies and formation of study centres for the same.
 - Government must undertake social audit of all schemes & programs with respect to their impact on persons with disabilities
- Empower the State Commissioner and give him the powers as per the RPD Act.
 - The State Government shall appoint a State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, who shall have special knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to rehabilitation. The State Commissioner shall be assisted by an advisory committee of up to 5 member experts from disability sector.
 - For discharging his/her functions, the Chief Commissioner, shall have the powers of a civil court (as per Code of Civil Procedure 1908)
 - The State Commissioner shall submit annual reports & special reports if any to the State Government. The State Government shall in turn provide the same at the State Legislative Assembly along with a memorandum of action taken
- Institute Special Courts as per RPD Act
 - A Special Court for the speedy trial of offences under this Act shall be ensured in every district by the State Government in agreement with the Chief Justice of High Court.
 - A public prosecutor or a practising advocate with a minimum experience of 7 years shall be assigned as special public prosecutor in every Special court. He/she can take fees as prescribed by the State Government.
- A State Fund for persons with disabilities shall be set up, utilised and managed by the State Government in prescribed manner provided by the State Government.



*Early Intervention
Therapy for Children
with Delayed
Development:
Enabling Access in
India's Rural
Communities*

Amar Seva Sangam

mVBR-EI Impact Transfer model



What is Early Intervention

“If children with developmental delays are not provided with appropriate early intervention, their difficulties can lead to lifetime consequences, increased poverty and profound exclusion” - WHO, 2012



CURRENT STATE SCENARIO

Social Problem



66% (66,000)

Children (age 0-6)

With Disabilities

No Access to EI Therapy



Root cause

- Lack of access to Early Intervention services for rural Tamil Nadu children with developmental delays
- Lack of awareness towards disability in women, parents of children with disabilities, students, teachers, community and society.



Barriers

Lack of Therapists

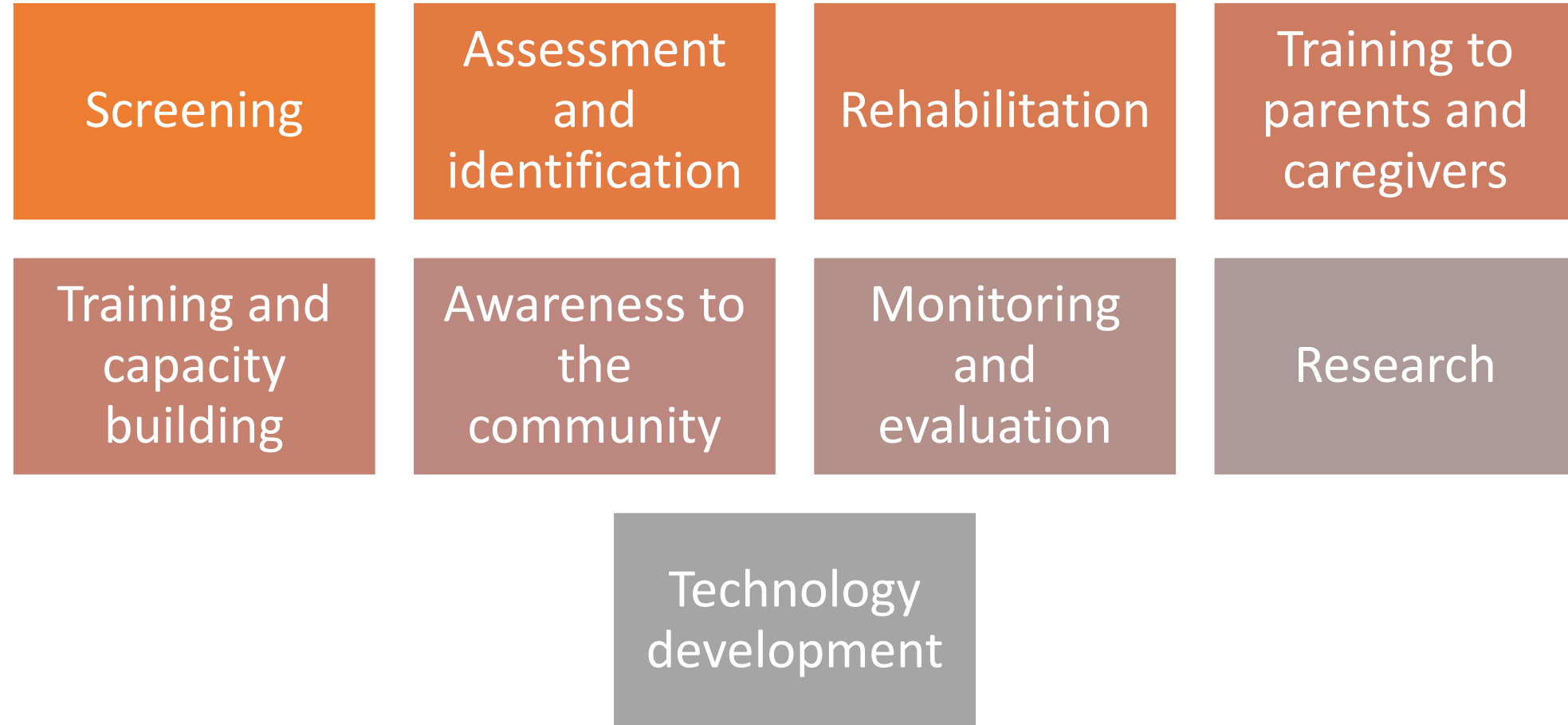
Remote Communities

Cost

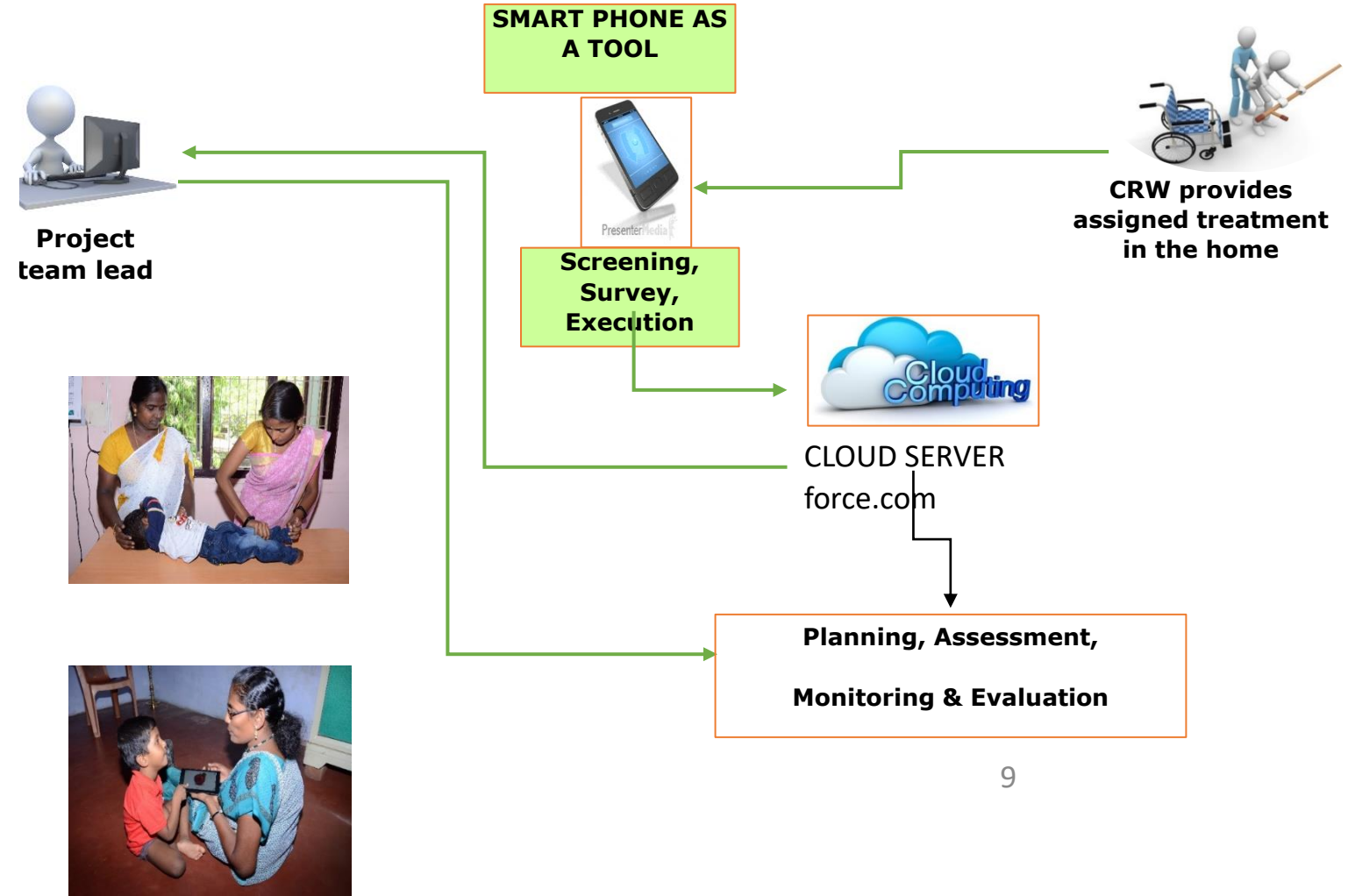
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THE COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT



Mobile Internet Technology



Program Outcome... Metrics



Highlights:

- 40,733 Children Screened for Delayed Development
- 1102 Children and their Families Reached
- 1919 Health Workers Trained
- 39,423 People with Improved Awareness on Child Development, Disability and Gender Rights
- 127 Jobs created, 117 for women

Key outcomes

- ✓ High Engagement – 87% Visit Compliance
- ✓ Improved Child Development
- ✓ Increased School Enrolment (75 % vs 55%)
- ✓ Decreased Caregiver Strain (74 %)
- ✓ Improved Family Empowerment (73 %)
- ✓ Improved Caregiver – Child Interaction (62%)

mVBR-EI app to be adopted by District Early Intervention Centres for 14,500 urban children



Model for Scaleup



ASSA as Trg. / Knw. partner



Govt. launch
mass prog.
At State
level

- ^ Training the community rehabilitation workers and capacity building
- ^ Handover mVBR-EI app to Govt. Free
 - ^ Maintain and support the app.
 - ^ Charge for training and support

Implement

- Own
- Thr. NGOs

Model for Scaleup



HEALTH

SCREENING & CENTER
BASED INTERVENTION
SCREENINGS



SOCIAL WELFARE

SCREENING



EDUCATION

POST SCHOOL
ENROLLEMENT



NUTRITION & CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

SCREENING
HEALTH CARE

Role of Amar Seva Sangam

- **Act as a Knowledge Partner**

- To work with Digital India Team to upgrade the current solution to meet enhanced process requirements
- Work with Central and State Governments' Health & Social Welfare departments to map Disability to Treatment to Goals to Evaluation Criteria
- To train Nodal Agencies of State Governments for implementation of Rehabilitation
- To help establish Governance framework and monitoring guidelines for measuring effectiveness of the program

