

OBJECTIVE:

CDC (Child Development Center) was established in 1993 to help the developmentally disabled children. At the beginning CDC acted as a liaison between the Shishu Hospital and the neighboring Agargon basti. The major reason for this liaison was under utilization of the Shisu Hospital services by the Arargon basti due to the negative behavior of hospital staff towards these people. Through the center a community-based program which included regular visits to these households by the social workers and health service providers was established. It also helps establishing a trust between these people and the hospital.

In Bangladesh vast majority of disabled children in the country remain unrecognized. Childhood disabilities are responsible for a substantial drain on economic resources in households and gives enormous stress in families and the affected children themselves. CDC is one of the firsts such center within a national hospital in Bangladesh, which focuses primarily on disabled children belonging to families of the lower income bracket.

SERVICES:

A permanent “booth” for the community within the outpatients department of the hospital to serve the nearby slum population as well as people from different part of the country. Number of attendance to this service is around 600 per year and increasing every year.

Screening and early assessment of developmental delay and disabilities.

Diagnosis, treatment & rehabilitation of disabled children.

Door-to door visits by the social worker & community health visitors to the households, specially to identify the pregnant mother so that help can be provided to her during delivery, identification of newborns who need special care etc.

Facilitating the use of other services of the hospital by the community, as well as networking with services within the area: schools, garments factories, OBGYN and reproductive health clinics, legal networks etc.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Community based disability services helped reduce the number of seriously disabled children within the Agargaon Community from 13% in 1994 from a baseline population of 1000 children to 6% in 1996 from a baseline population of 5000.

Due to early intervention, not a single child died from meningitis in this

community in the past four years.

BUDGET:

A) The core staff includes one doctor, one health assistant and one community worker.

1) Physicians salary:

Tk 5000/month Tk 60,000/year

2) Health assistant's salary

Tk 3000/month Tk 36,000/year

3) Community worker's salary

Tk 1500/month Tk 18,000/year

4) Medicine

Tk 60/child Tk 60 X 600 visits per year = Tk 36,000/year

Total is Tk 1,50,000/year

B) CDC requests for throwaway preschool toys for the children of CDC and also for distribution to collaborative institutions outside Dhaka, e.g. Chittagong Ma O Shishu Hospital and Johurul Islam Medical College Hospital, Bajitpur, Kishoreganj.

Contact Person:

Bangladesh

Naila Z. Khan

Professor and Head

Shishu Bikash Kendro,

Child Development and Neurology Unit

Dhaka Shishu Hospital