Oral Communication

OC-580

Rehabilitation Perspective of a Developing Country

Topic: Infrastructure and Resources

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BACKGROUND

Bangladesh is a Highly Populated Country having over 169 million. 2.80% have at least one disability and 18% of disabled use assistive devices. Bangladesh ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007 and the Optional Protocol in 2008 and enacted the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013, Neurodevelopmental Disability Protection Trust Act 2013 and Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council Act 2018

Leadership & Governance

Rehabilitation is not addressed in the national health policy 2011 but disability is included in the new Operational Plan in the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program (2024-2029).

Financing

No budget allocated for rehabilitation by Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Social Affairs is providing Disability allowance with social safety net for rehabilitation.

Manpower

Scarcity of manpower in Rehabilitation service. About 300 physiatrist, 4500 physiotherapist, 200 occupational therapist, 150 speech therapist, and very little other professionals serving whole nation.

Service Delivery

Limited Rehabilitation services available at primary health care and multidisciplinary rehabilitation service available in few tertiary/secondary hospitals. There is no effectiv referral system for timely delivery of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation service primarily provided by government and someprivate/NGO.

Assistive Technology

There are no mechanism of provisioning Assistive products (AP) in tertiary, secondary, primary health care and community settings.

Health Information System

There is no agreed data set for rehabilitation services in the country, that country is routinely recording across facilities and levels of care.

No Rehabilitation information integrated into the routine health.

Challenges

- Challenges in policy implementation
- Shortage of workforce
- Lack of up-to-date data and evidence to

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- Stigma
- Lack of knowledge sharing, educational facilities, training and capacity building opportunities
- Procurement policy
- Limited funding for rehabilitation services and high cost of assistive products
- Limited referral network

Conclusion

- Multisectoral collaboration required to implement better rehabilitation services
- Government of Bangladesh can make a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities by developing a national disability policy, a national rehabilitation strategy, establishing a comprehensive rehabilitation system, and promoting assistive technology.

CONCLUSION

- Multisectoral collaboration needed for rehabilitation services
- Government of Bangladesh can make a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities by developing a national disability policy, a national rehabilitation strategy, establishing a comprehensive rehabilitation system, and promoting assistive technology.

Statement of Disclosures

None