

8. Partnerships with Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is a strategy for bringing about rehabilitation, poverty reduction, equalisation of opportunities, and social inclusion of all people with disabilities. CBR is implemented by people with disabilities themselves, supported by their families and communities, and other governmental and non-governmental services. CBR is delivered within the community drawing mainly on local expertise and traditional wisdom. It challenges negative attitudes and barriers in society towards people with disabilities.

A CBR programme may be able to provide you with valuable support in your teaching of children with special educational needs.



What can you do in your role as a teacher?

- Find out if there is a CBR programme working in your locality
- Talk with the head teacher and other teachers in your school about approaching the CBR programme
- Meet with the CBR programme to discuss how you could work more closely with them on identifying and supporting children with disabilities
- Find out whether they might provide training sessions for teachers and parents

Here's how schools can benefit from CBR programmes in their locality:

- CBR plays a major role in the early identification of childhood impairments and the provision of early intervention
- Families, teachers and the local community receive education on the causes and types of disability
- CBR can advise schools and families on making referrals to appropriate services
- Schools receive support by being linked with health, social and community services
- The CBR approach promotes positive attitudes to disability among families, communities and schools
- Teachers can receive advice on making classrooms, toilets and other areas of the school more accessible
- CBR programmes can advise on and help obtain adaptive appliances to be used in schools, e.g. walking aids to help children to be mobile, magnifiers for children with visual impairment and writing aids for children with poor fine motor control
- CBR staff can help devise therapy programmes to be run by families and schools
- CBR staff can coordinate the contribution of different sectors, including schools, to produce more effective support for children and families

Reference:

Adapted from:

Mariga, L., McConkey, R. and Myezwa, H. (2014) *Inclusive Education in Low-Income Countries: A resource book for teacher educators, parent trainers and community development workers*. Cape Town: Atlas Alliance and Disability Innovations Africa.
https://www.eenet.org.uk/resources/docs/Inclusive_Education_in_Low_Income_Countries.pdf

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