

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY IN

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES 2012

INCEPTION REPORT

FOR CHESHIRE DISABILITIES

SERVICES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PT. MORESBY, NATIONAL CAPITAL

DISTRICT, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Papua New Guinea is a blessed country with the largest developing country in the South Pacific Region. It has 463,000 kilometers and 600 separate islands that make up one of the most diverse in the geographic, biological, linguistic and cultural wealth on earth. Papua New Guinea has about 5% of the world's biodiversity in less than 1% of the world's total land area.

The life expectancy for Papua New Guinea is 75 years of age compare to other countries in the world due to economic recovery. The infant mortality rate for Papua New Guinea is 43.28 deaths/1,000 live births: male 47.12 deaths/1,000 live births and female 39.28 deaths/1,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate for Papua New Guinea is 700-900/100,000 mm rate. The result of this is because rural areas suffer more especially women giving birth at home/villages than in urban areas where women being pregnant have access to hospitals and etc. This is the result due to lack of clinical awareness for pregnant women in the rural areas and road access to go to nearby clinics or hospitals. This one disadvantage causing high maternal rate in PNG which the health sector needs to take into consideration in reducing it by implementing more health awareness for pregnant women in the rural areas which the government needs to bring service to them to be more accessible to health services in their community. The literacy rate for Papua New Guinea is very low about 50%-69% as of age 15-24 years old amount is 64.1% for men and for women of age 15-24 years of age amount will be 59%. This the result why family and parent's refuse to send female to school because they are need to help them do gardens and house chores with the mentality of cultural believes than men. Men are resourceful and important in the society to develop the community and country as in cultural believes. Another reason for low literacy is no education and training services provided for both gender in rural areas due to lack of road access, manpower and resources available to rural areas disadvantage to government services in road/transport services. The other reason cause of low literacy rate in PNG is the lack of family planning and parents can't afford to support their kids to education or road access to have access to their learning programs. The overall reason for all this result is that Papua New Guinea

is currently experiencing an economic recovery, with improvements in several macroeconomic indicators.

2. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

1. LAWS CONCERNED WITH PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

There is no law concerning with persons with disabilities including intellectual disabilities in PNG of their welfare, health, education and job opportunities in place. Thus, the disability organizations are advocating more on it for the government to take the initiative to take disability in board in services provided in the country. Moreover, mostly business houses and NGO's take the initiative in funding disability movements in the country than the government either concerning the disability welfare in the country despite the conditions of the disability unlike overseas do likewise.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Financial assistance do come from donor agencies from overseas or locally from business houses and few government sector to bring development and services to disability sector. It is very rare seeking for funding concerning for people with disabilities including intellectual disability because of their attitude approach towards disability. Thus, is one common factor leading to poverty in case of disability issues in their respective community.

3. SERVICES INCLUDING CBR AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

This services I believe is provided in Cheshire disability Services in Papua New Guinea of the capital City; Pt. Moresby, National Capital District. Despite rural areas, there are disability agencies in Papua New Guinea known as 'Callan Services for helping disabled people in community.' They are located in few provinces of PNG to provide services and assistance for

people with disabilities. This service enables the less fortunate disabled people with their family in community to come to an understanding towards approach towards disability issues. CBR falls in line in providing services for disabled people in the community to achieve the needs in disability issues in their respective homes and community.

4. NUMBERS OF SERVICES AND THOSE BENEFICIARIES IN EACH DISTRICT (PROVINCE).

There are approximately less than 100 services provided for people with disabilities in their local community especially in the rural areas than in urban areas. It is expanding when there is a voice concerning disability movements in their respective community.

3. OUTLINE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

1. *Cheshire Home of Papua New Guinea is a Non-Governmental Charity Organization that provides a variety of services for people with various types of disabilities in and around Port Moresby.*

The primary aim of Cheshire Home is to make a positive difference to the lives of people with disabilities, their families and their carers; through creating opportunities and an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect.

"Cheshire recognizes that persons with a disability are more likely to experience higher levels of vulnerability than other members of the community"

We aim to serve the needs of people whose disabilities result in a substantially reduced capacity for; Communication, Social interaction, Learning, Mobility and Daily living skills

2. 1. RESIDENTIAL CARE

A 22 bed facility caters for 22 permanent residents with multiple disabilities who mainly come from less fortunate backgrounds. All residents' dietary, social, educational, physiotherapy and medical needs are met by the Home. Where possible - parents and relatives are involved.

Permanent staffing includes;

- 2 Registered Nurses
- 1 Nurse aide
- 11 Carers on 24hr shift
- 1 Laundress
- 1 qualified Chef and
- 1 Kitchen Hand.

Buildings consist of 3 Units with own double shower and toilet facilities all wheelchair accessible. A commercial size kitchen prepares and serves 3 full meals daily for all residents.

2. SPECIAL EDUCATION

At the beginning of 2004, our Special Education program became a fully registered school. With a current base of 150 students aged between 6 and 18, we cater for children suffering from all forms of physical and mental disabilities.

Staffing consists of;

- 1 Programme Coordinator
- 1 Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Officer who is also the senior teacher
- 4 Special Education Teachers, 1 of who is an External Resource Officer.

At our school, 3 Early Learning classes made up of a maximum of 15 pupils are privileged with one on one tutoring. School hours are as set by the Education Department with 4 Terms per school year. Pupils are assessed and upon teachers recommendations are then integrated into mainstream Elementary and Primary Schools.

In the latter part of 2007, we began an In-service programme targeted at integrated/non-integrated mainstream public schools within NCD to promote and employ the principles and practices of Inclusive Education. This programme is to assist public school teachers to become better equipped to identify and cater for students with special needs. Our External Resource Officer will provide constant support to schools that are signed up under this programme and are currently undertaking a full 21 session In-service programme.

3. PHYSIOTHERAPY

With a service user base of 40, we are currently staffed by one Physio aide with public sessions conducted every Tuesday and Thursday here at the Home. With a physiotherapy unit armed with just basic equipment, we are seeking funding to restore this vital service which plays an extremely vital role in the rehabilitation of people with disabilities both centre and community based.

3. *My duty or position of Cheshire Disability Services in PNG is that I am a member of this organization only.*

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY ISSUES AS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES. (IF YOU KNOW ANY).

I believe that there is no program catering by including intellectual disability issues as one of the activities in PNG despite other cross-disabilities which is common is physical disability included in activities. Thus, Community Development Department has established a section in the department known as Governances and Disability Section which Adrian Winnie is the Executive Officer for the program activities for disabled people in the community of PNG.

5. SITUATIONS OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITES

- *Medical Doctors by Profession, Physiotherapists and CBR workers are responsible for diagnosis.*
- *Special trained education teachers are responsible for integrated education concerning the Department of Education's responsibility in decision-making in it.*
- *There is no vocational training and job opportunities offered to persons with intellectual disabilities in Papua New Guinea than physical disabled persons only.*
- *In support organizations, there is opportunity provided for cross-disability than intellectual disability which is treated fairly with 100% concentration to bring development to their live hood in terms of health and education.*
- *There is no NGO's concerning the number of persons with intellectual disabilities at the present stage than as all cater cross-disability and likewise, intellectual disabilities is likely rare to locate in community as they are kept closed doors in protection and*

hide their identity to bring shame from community to the family indeed as considered in respective community.

6. *BASED ON THE INFORMATION ABOVE, WHAT ARE THE ISSUES TO SOLVE TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE SUPPORTS FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES?*

Persons with intellectual disabilities need to be considered in community activities. Likewise, they need to be trained and skilled in daily activities and also the community members in approach towards disability issues in their respective communities. It is a big need for intellectual disabilities to consider their rights to access to government services in terms of health, education and employment opportunities for they deserve the best treatment to live a live hood in their respective community to sustain his and her needs with their dignity respected by their family, employer and community.

Hence, an intellectual disability is not a disease. You can't catch an intellectual disability from anyone. It's also not a type of mental illness, like depression. There is no cure for intellectual disabilities. However, most children with an intellectual disability can learn to do many things. It just takes them more time and effort than other children.

