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Role of Occupational Therapist as Outsider in Community Based Rehabilitation - Findings from CBR Project in Malaysia -

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Introduction:

Though number of occupational therapist support CBR, neither their role nor methodology have been established. This report shows the role of OTR in CBR through the CBR project where was executed in Kedah State, Malaysia to which the author supported.

Objectives:

To understand the role of OT as outsider in CBR project.

Description/Report:

The CBR project has been executed by the government initiation in Kedah since 1991, OTR, RPT, teachers for special education and social worker supported the project as foreign CBR facilitator from 1995 to 2007. In 1995, at the first time of having intervened by the OTR, knowledge and skill of local CBR workers were insufficient to assess and support individual PWDs. Moreover, the understanding of the community to the project was not obtained. The OTR executed not only the assessment and treatment of individual PWDs but also capacity of local CBR workers. On the result, training program for CBR worker holding and publicity work to community members and other local organizations were executed in the first term, supervision of individual supporting skill was executed in middle term, social inclusive program and construction of supporting system with other local organization were executed intensively at latter term. The seeking usable social resources were executed through all term in cooperation with other specialists.

Results/Discussion:

The workers gradually became corresponded to the age and functions of the PWDs. Understanding to the community members and other organization had been expanded because OTR and worker acted by the pair. Worker's skill has improved now after intervention finished to possible to existed individual support and the group work. Training program and social inclusive program are executed in cooperation with other local organizations.

Conclusion & Contribution to the practice:

It was suggested that the role of OT as outsider are the mediator between actor of program and community, and the facilitator of capacity building of both PWDs and CBR workers from the survey. In addition, the possibility that the foreigner it achieved the effect in support was suggested. Further assessment of various actor in the community are required to construct effective supporting method.