Rehabilitation And Habilitation For Children With Disabilities In Malaysia

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Introduction

Malaysia ratified the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** on 19\textsuperscript{th} of July 2010.

Prior to the ratification, Malaysia had already established the **Persons with Disabilities Act 2008** and also formulated the **Policy and Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities** in 2007.

The New Plan of Action has been approved by the government on the **25\textsuperscript{th} of March 2016**.
TIMELINE
MALAYSIA’S COMMITMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, AGAINST AN INTERNATIONAL BACKDROP

Source: UNICEF Malaysia, 2014
1. Hearing Disability
2. Visually Disabled
3. Physical Disability
4. Speech Disability
5. Learning Disability
6. Mental Disability
7. Multiple Disabilities
Total population
30 million

Persons with disabilities
388,566

1.3 %
## Statistics of Registered PWDs

(June 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Disability</th>
<th>Registered Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blind / Visual Impairment</td>
<td>34,871</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf / Hearing Impairment</td>
<td>30,837</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disabilities</td>
<td>134,115</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disabilities</td>
<td>137,262</td>
<td>35.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Disability</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Disability</td>
<td>31,484</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Disabilities</td>
<td>18,025</td>
<td>4.6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>388,566</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PWDs Information System (SMOKU), DSW
Statistics of Registered PWDs (June 2016)

Children
105,363 (27.1%)

Adult
283,203 (72.9%)

Source: PWDs Information System (SMOKU), DSW
Special Identification Card for PWDs (Kad OKU) has been issued for easy access to services and public amenities.
Services by DSW for Children with Disabilities

- Register and issue the identification card for children with disabilities
- Manage institutional care and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities who are abandoned, orphaned or without a caregiver
- Provide pre-vocational training and rehabilitation programmes
- Operate 11 institutions for persons with disabilities
- Provide and manage facilities and privileges for children with disabilities including financial assistance for prosthetics, reimbursement of white canes and Braille machines
- Monitor and adapt the running of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme
- Conduct Disability Equality Training (DET) to enhance understanding of the cause of disabilities and train advocates of the rights of persons with disabilities
- Support and facilitate training of persons with disabilities in Independent Living programmes
- Coordinate the delivery of services from other government agencies such as the Ministry of Transport and the MOH to children with disabilities
- Develop and periodically review policies, services and programmes for persons with disabilities
Rehabilitation Services
Rehabilitation refers to health care services that help a person keep, restore or improve skills and functioning for daily living and skills related to communication that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, injured or disabled.

Habilitation Services
Habilitation refers to health care services that help a person acquire, keep or improve, partially or fully, and at different points in life, skills related to communication and activities of daily living.

Include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and psychiatric rehabilitation services in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings.

Source: New York State Occupational Therapy Association
Habilitation and rehabilitation both focus on the act of learning skills.

**Rehabilitation Services**
rehabilitation focuses on regaining skills lost

**Habilitation Services**
habilitation focuses on learning new skills

Although both habilitation and rehabilitation work toward gaining skills through physical, mental and occupational therapy, the approaches may be different and personalized.

Source: University of Minnesota’s Human Rights Center
Rehabilitation & Habilitation

Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 (Malaysia) has given due importance for rehabilitation and habilitation of persons with disabilities.
Subsection 33(1) of PWDs Act 2008

Specifically mention that the National Council for PWDs (government), the private healthcare service providers and national NGOs shall take effective and appropriate measures to enable PWDs to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life.
Collaboration for Rehabilitation & Habilitation Services

All relevant organizations and agencies are expected to organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services.
Services for Children with Disabilities

- Services and programmes should begin at the earliest possible stage and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths.

- They are also expected to promote the availability, knowledge, and use of assistive devices and technologies designed for PWDs as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.
Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
What is CBR

Initiated by WHO following the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978 in an effort to enhance the quality of life for PWDs and their families; meet their basic needs; and ensure their inclusion and participation.

A strategy to increase access to rehabilitation services in resource-constrained settings, CBR is now a multisectoral approach working to improve the equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of PWDs while combating the perpetual cycle of poverty and disability.

Implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities, their families and communities, and relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services.

Source: http://www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/en/
CBR in Malaysia

• Introduced in 1984 as a strategy within the community for the rehabilitation, equalisation of opportunities and social integration of all PWDs, including children.

• Established throughout the country by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW)

• It aims to reduce the impact of disability and provide the support services for families of persons and children with disabilities.
CBR

- Is a preferred **alternative to institutional care** since it provides decentralised rehabilitation services and early intervention for persons and children with disabilities in their own community.

- It helps to ensure the acceptance and social integration of PWDs, including children, as well as **providing them the opportunity to develop their abilities and skills to their full potential, leading to a meaningful live.**
Activities @ CBR

The CBR centres have organised several activities / therapies for the benefits of the children with disabilities, such as:

(b) Language and Social Development;
(c) Basic Daily Life Skills;
(d) Reading, Writing and Arithmetic (3R);
(e) Recreational Therapy; and
(f) Independent Living (IL) Training.
# CBR

Teachers (supervisors and workers) have been trained to undertake rehabilitation programmes at the centres, make home visits and facilitate parental involvement.
Info on CBR as of June 2016

- 526 CBR centres
- 21,000 PWDs
- 3,215 teachers

Total Budget RM 99 million
EVOLUTION OF CBR CENTRES IN MALAYSIA

No. of Trainees

No. of CBR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Series1</th>
<th>Series2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>8453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>14386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>17473</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20184</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>21138</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>21543</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-16</td>
<td>21204</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of CBR centres nation-wide and the continued yearly increase is encouraging, as is the number of participants. However, there remains a shortage of sufficiently trained personnel and equipment to conduct adequate rehabilitation activities, while access to the centres is difficult for certain segments of society.

Source: UNICEF Malaysia, 2014
In Malaysia, most of the rehabilitation services for PWDs are fully or partly subsidised by the government and provided either free of charge or at a reasonable charge.

For those services where a fee is charged, NGOs operating the Government subvented services have put in place a fee reduction/fee waiver mechanism for PWDs who have financial difficulties for them to access to these services at affordable prices.
NGOs own Institutions with Government Grant for ECCE

In 2013, government approved 6 new Taska (Child Care Centres) for children with disabilities in collaboration with NGOs:

- Down syndrome (Putrajaya)
- Autism (Sibu, Sarawak)
- Blind / Partially sighted (Penang)
- Hearing disabilities (Puchong, KL)
- Physical disabilities (KK, Sabah)
- Learning difficulties (Ipoh, Perak)

Government allocated RM 3mil start-up grant (RM500k for each centre). Annual grant given based on number of children.
Other Government own Institutions

- **Taman Sinar Harapan (THS)** is a government own rehabilitation institution. As to date, Malaysia have 6 TSH.
- THS provides rehabilitation specially for children with intellectual disabilities based on individual capabilities and desires.
- Activities include training of daily living skills, pre-vocational education, informal academic classes, religious or moral lessons, sports / recreation & outdoor activities.
Rehabilitation & Industrial Training Centre (PLPP) @ Bangi

- Currently, accommodating 100 trainees.

- The objective of this institution is to empower and equip the physically disabled persons with necessary skills to their optimum capacity in order to prepare them for the work force.

- The admission to this institution is open to those who are aged between 14 to 40 years old and registered with DSW.
Thanks!
Terima kasih!