

1st Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation Conference
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Pusat Latihan Perindustrian dan Pemulihan Bangi, Kajang, Selangor

Malaysian Council For Rehabilitation

Organises

1st Malaysian Conference

On

Intersectoral Collaboration In Rehabilitation

At

Pusat Pemulihan, Bangi

Sumbangan Kerjasama Dari



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Pengurusan

Millennium Disability Agency

Intersectoral Collaboration In Rehabilitation

Introduction

Rehabilitation is part of the British government's agenda in their Social Inclusion Programme. Every Council and Local Authority in the country has its own version of cluster Equality and Diversity Statement of Commitment in providing Social Services programme. One of them states that,

“Individual needs are respected and at the heart of our services. We aim to have a reputation for excellent staff and services that benefit the whole community”

Definition

Simple definition for rehabilitation is to provide opportunities that would enable a person to meet her/his needs and to develop all potentials to the uttermost -regardless of age, background, status or disability in order to lead a normal life as far as possible. A normal or near normal life, would mean an independent life, working and being productive to the community in anyway. Rehabilitation programme would enable them to gain equal treatment, appropriate services, good education, adequate training and employment.

Background History

Let me bring you back our rehabilitation programme in 1950's. The colonisation government started the rehabilitation for the blind, deaf and physically disabled in Cheshire Homes in Singapore, Princess Elizabeth School for the Blind in Johore Baru and Residential School for the Deaf in Penang. When we gained independence, we continue their work by carrying on surveys, training teachers, opening special units at schools and voluntary organisations among the local communities. We have established Rehabilitation Programme since the last fifty years, setting up residential and sheltered workshops, special vocational schools like in Brickfields, Cheras, PJ and Gombak with subjects like basketry, tailoring, woodwork, motor mechanics, Home economics, small business entrepreneurs, sports and leisure activities.

Achievement

As the result – In Malaysia, we have intellectuals, professionals, businessmen, community leaders and useful citizens among the disabled people. We already have the foundation laid beautifully, we only need to advance and improve the programmes for more intake and benefits.

Rationale

When best services are delivered to those in need, the country would gain best performance, satisfactory standard of living and excellent reputation. Those who benefited from the rehabilitation programme would be self-managed, satisfied, productive and useful citizen. When communities-in-need are fully served through rehabilitation programme, the standard of living is improved and poverty is minimised.

Responsibilities

UK government's modernisation agenda for rehabilitation programme is based on:-

- i. Integration of services across education, housing and health care. Each local government has achieved at least Three Star's rating by the National Inspection Standard Body.
- ii. Actions which meet the national and local targets
- iii. Services which reflects the needs of service users and other stakeholders in the community
- iv. A workforce, which is empowered and equipped to embrace the Council's modernisation agenda.

Management

In order to adopt equality principle of respect, social justice and quality services, the strategy will affect all areas of the departments. Significant progress has been made in their commitment to advance Social Inclusion in a systematic way, build better links with other agencies in the implementation of their statutory responsibilities in the 1955 Disability Discrimination Act and 2000 Race Relations Act.

In making the improvements, we may have to focus on the Strategic Plan as a whole, which involves employers, commissioners and service providers. The work plan may adopt Equal Opportunities Policy, person-centred, good practice across local governments and partner organisations.

Beneficiaries

It is a universal practice now, to implement Equal Opportunities Policy, where every individual is respected and provided with their needs. In UK, vulnerable, disadvantaged and disabled people are given support to meet their health requirements, educational needs, housing facilities, welfare rights, benefits, training and employment opportunities.

Every one is assessed regardless of age, background, ethnicity, faith, gender or disability. They then received the right amount of money to live on, to pay for their carer, transport and social activities.

They are guided and encouraged to receive personal development training as apart of the Rehabilitation Programme. They are motivated to be on the Independent Living Scheme and to participate actively in all consultations and meetings organise by the government.

Output

Currently in UK, the latest census reveals that one in four is disabled and in need of Care Plan/study plan/ work plan for the rehabilitation involvement. This analysis includes all types of disabilities i.e. mental, physical, neurological and social.

Outcome

The Department of Work and Pension is working very closely with Department Education, Health, Housing and Employment, preparing their budget, focusing on the necessity to accommodate the rehabilitation programme, in line with their existing agendas;

- Social Inclusion,

- Supporting People,
- Every Child Matters,
- COMPACT (working agreement with local voluntary groups),
- Change Up
- Digitally Orientated Residents
- Local Area Agreements

Recommendation

- i. To develop a workforce which includes the voice of service users
- ii. To have more representative from User Group and Community level.
- iii. To use new and open monitoring system
- iv. To have a six-monthly evaluation / appraisals for services rendered to individuals, staff, employers and service providers.
- v. To collect clear and measurable evidence of service improvements in the Rehabilitation Strategic Plan.

For further details, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Paizah Neave at UK on 0208 514 0851 - Mobile: 0790 626 8087, Email: milda42@aol.com.

Speaker's Resume:

Paizah Abdul Malek, married with six children, was educated at:-

Mehodist Girls School, Ipoh, Malay Women Teachers College, Malacca, Specialist Teachers Institute, Cheras, London University, City University, Thames Valley University and East London University in Special Education, Disability Management, Business Studies, Law, Theatre Studies and Stage Management.

She worked as a teacher and lecturer in Special Needs in Malaysia from 1963 – 1989. In UK she worked with Voluntary Organisations, BBC, London Disability Arts Forum and Youth Justice Board.

Dr Paizah Neave received her PJK from the Late Sultan of Selangor in 1982 and London For Londoners Award from Mayor of London in 2002 for endless contribution and voluntary services to the community.

She is 63 and still active in Community work.