

Workshops on Enhancing Resources for the Disabled 2002

Creating Parent and Family Support Network (19th May 2002, Malacca)

Action Plan

1. Accessibility to Schools
 - In view of education being a prerequisite for employment and independent living, the immediate actions to be taken are to call upon the Ministry of Education to do the following :
 - 1.1 Implement the 'Codes of Practice' on access for the disabled by making the school buildings accessible to the disabled. Especially the orthopaedically disabled using crutches and wheelchairs.
 - 1.2 Provide vocational skills training for the disabled in the school curriculum.
2. Ministry of Human Resources
 - We should cooperate with the Ministry of Human Resources to do the following :
 - 2.1 Encourage the disabled to take part in the ministry's job-matching programme.
 - 2.2 Implement the Code of Practice on employment for the disabled.
3. Promote the Majlis Latihan Vokasional Kebangsaan (MLVK) and Skim Sangkutan dan Latihan (SSL) schemes among the disabled
 - 3.1 Integrate the disabled in government training institutes such as ITI.
4. Policy on 1% Employment Quota for the Disabled
 - Dialogues should be carried out with the following :
 - 4.1 The Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) regarding the policy in the public sector.
 - 4.2 The Labour Department regarding the policy in the private sector.
5. Sheltered Workshops
 - It was felt that sheltered workshops could still play a useful role in meeting the needs of disabled persons who had difficulty in coping with competitive employment in the open market. Actions include :
 - 5.1 Pooling resources among the organizations running sheltered workshops for the disabled.

- 5.2 Holding a national seminar to develop and promote sheltered workshops for the disabled.
- 5.3 Invite expertise from overseas such as Japan and South Korea to help in developing the sheltered workshops.

6. Business Enterprises

- As self-employment through business enterprise is recognised to be a very good way of developing alternative employment opportunities for the disabled (including the blind), actions to be taken are as follows :

- 6.1 Provide training courses for the disabled to develop entrepreneur skills in the running of individual or group enterprises.
- 6.2 Tap existing sources and/or establish new sources of financial support and technical expertise in order to assist the disabled with small start-up; loan/grants and with the necessary preparation for self-employment.
- 6.3 Pursue with the relevant authorities such as Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur to make spaces and facilities available to enable the disabled to set up their own vending stands or small business enterprises.

7. The Intellectually Disabled

- In view of the intellectually disabled being the most neglected group, special attention should be given to them by taking the following actions.

- 7.1 Hold a special national seminar to focus on their needs and challenges with regards to employment.
- 7.2 Invite international expertise to assist in the formulation of plans and policies on employment for the intellectually disabled.
- 7.3 Draw up an initial list of possible employment for the intellectually disabled (e.g. baking cookies for sale, animal care, etc.)