

Promotion of Inclusive and Protective environment for children with special needs (CWSNs) through community based rehabilitation - (CBR) Intervention in Puducherry Union Territory, India

Activity: Orientation to parents

Parents Groups were established and trained in 10 villages of the working areas during the project period. About **332** parents have been benefited of it. The programme were conducted the resource persons briefed about the purpose of the orientation. Resource persons said to parents that if you're a parent of a child with special needs, you may feel isolated and tend to be alone. But, with so many special needs families out there, there may be many support and advocacy groups to joint. However, it is important that groups are intended for emotional support sharing with each other while others might be more pragmatic.



He further said to participants that you may or may not decide to join a support group. If you do, however, you have plenty of choices. Then the participants were clearly explained about what the groups must do? He said there are many reasons why families with special needs might want emotional support. Discovering a child has special needs can be devastating and difficult. Coping with special needs can be exhausting and overwhelming.

Dealing with fallout from extended family can be trying. Handling financial worries can be paralyzing. When facing serious emotional difficulties, it's always helpful to meet others who have been there and done that. Sometimes another person's experiences or solutions can be more helpful than any therapist, he added.

So, if time is short, or if you feel uncomfortable about sharing personal feelings with a local group, you can also consider online support groups using what's app and face book etc. Organizing amongst yourselves like Parent to Parent will actually match you with a parent mentor who has lived through similar experiences, he added. Finally, the participants were instructed that the groups must be involved in counselling and supporting other families during the project implementation. The field animators facilitated the parents groups for the meetings.



Parent groups have started sharing experiences and practices on family care and positive parenting all along the project implementation. The project had also facilitated the effective enjoyment of the rights of target groups' children, supporting education, life skills, health, and

participation oriented training programs. The groups will gather together every once in three months and review about the experiences they have had in the family and in and around the community about the special needs.

PHOTO GALLERY

