

2014 Report

This year's annual Community Initiatives in Inclusion (CII) Course took place at the ADAPT Centre in Mumbai in the Spring and is reported as being a group which melded very successfully. This is the 12th Regional Course to be sponsored by the Women's Council. The Course continues to gain recognition and respect in the Asia/Asia Pacific region and its impact is correspondingly effective.

In spite of valiant attempts by the SETI Centre to arrange a course for Arabic speakers, this has not been possible since 2011. However in 2012 two representatives from SETI joined the North South Dialogue organised by ADAPT and took the opportunity to visit its Centre in Mumbai when they held discussions with Dr. Alur, Founder and Chairman of ADAPT at its centre.

This resulted in Mr. Essam Franciss agreeing to fill the gap left by the retirement of Mrs. Prue Chalker, visiting tutor in community based rehabilitation; this he has done for the last two courses. Further, for the first time there were two women from Jordan on the course in 2013 and a man from Iraq this year.

The content of the Course is continually evolving. Students' feedback is taken into consideration as well as ways and means of assessing their success rate once back in their home country. With regard to the latter an important introduction was that of Evaluations Visits by our Hon. Training Adviser, Dr. Frances Moore. The first of these was held in Mongolia in 2007 when Dr. Moore was able to meet a considerable number of Mongolian women who had attended a Course and also the organisations which proposed them. This proved to be a useful and productive exercise and has been repeated in Bangladesh (2008), India (2009) and Nepal (2010). More recently Dr. Rachel Tainsh conducted an Evaluation on behalf of TWC in Tajikistan.

A second and more recent introduction was to extend the Course so as to include a practicum in their own countries. At the end of the three months' taught course at ADAPT, students are required to present a workable Action Plan and expected to put this into operation in the three

months following their return to their home country. They then present the outcome to ADAPT, recording such essentials as the co-operation and encouragement on the part of colleagues, staff and parents and, inevitably, any setbacks. It is only then that they are awarded their Course Certificate. This provides an opportunity for Tutors at ADAPT to assess the areas of difficulty which participants may have faced in trying to put their ideas into practice and develop the training accordingly.

After the Evaluation in Tajikistan, one thing became apparent: the difficulty many of the women had encountered in being taught in English. They wondered if it would be possible to hold a Workshop in Tajikistan when simultaneous translation could be arranged and women from local organisations who were not English speakers could be invited to attend. ADAPT agreed to spare two members of the ADAPT staff who visited Tajikistan in May 2014 to hold a 10 day workshop in Dushanbe with assistance and simultaneous translation provided by previous CII students. This was an experiment that it is hoped to be able to repeat in other countries which have been represented on Courses over the years.