



'Linking **2** Learn'

Linking-to-Learn meeting Disability February 2010

The cluster linking to learn program (L2L) was very encouraging with some real interest to use our corporate capacity and visibility to develop programs and even work strategically alongside government programs.

Cluster Tobacco Control Initiative (CTCI)

The cluster agreed to move forwards on tobacco control and apply for funding for all cluster members to develop tobacco control activities. This is the leading cause of death of India and the government of Uttarakhand is keen to develop more programs. The cluster has so far produced a DVD, written a paper, and selected tobacco control fellows for training.

To capitalise on this it was decided the cluster would develop a joint funding proposal:

- Appoint a lead NGO to develop and submit the proposal on behalf of the Cluster. One nomination was received: Christian Hospital Chamba
- Appoint a subcommittee of the cluster to guide the process and develop the objectives
- Utilise the Tobacco Control Fellows going to Australia to develop the proposal and programs to be included in the proposal

Cluster Disability Resource

The cluster decided to use our combined skills and resources to commission another public health resource similar to the anti-tobacco DVD. This will be launched at a public launch on world disability day (Dec 3). This will increase our visibility as well as making a culturally appropriate resource to use in our programs. Each member program agreed to donate Rs. 1000-2000 depending in their capacity and size- this will be collected at a later date.

Training: Disability



Responding to disability is a theological and developmental imperative... and expedient. India has signed the UN convention of the rights of people with disability and is now obliged under international law to increase its services and programs in disability.

- We all have vulnerabilities- pain syndromes, weaknesses, emotional hurt and problems, visual disturbances, headaches, phobias, fears, anxieties
- We are all 'created in God's image' and inherently valuable whatever our differing ability

- 'His power is made perfect in our vulnerabilities'. It is in our weaknesses that we are made dependent and aware of God and His sufficiency
- The body of Christ is made complete when we are 'serving one another in love' to allow each of us to cope

Teaching

Rev Dr Mathew Ebenezer blessed us with some encouraging words about healing. We were deeply challenged to go beyond improving the health of the mind and body to focusing on the soul.