

Chapter 9 Day Care and Community Support

Policy Objective

9.1 The policy objective of the Government in respect of the provision of the day care and community support services for persons with disabilities aims at making available training and support to persons with disabilities in response to their needs, assisting them in developing their potential, enabling them to continue to live independently at home and preparing them for full integration into the community. These services also aim at strengthening the carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress so as to provide a better quality of life for persons with disabilities and themselves.

Existing Services

9.2 The Government strives to achieve the above policy objective by providing the following services:

- Day Activity Centre (DAC) provides day care and training for persons with severe intellectual disabilities aged 15 and above who are unable to benefit from vocational training or sheltered employment. They will be trained to become more independent in their daily lives and to prepare them for better integration into the community or for transition to other forms of service or care where appropriate. Training programmes provided by a DAC include self-care, social and interpersonal skills and simple work skills;
- Training and Activity Centre for Ex-mentally Ill Persons (TAC) is set up to enhance the social adjustment capability of ex-mentally ill persons. It aims to help them become more independent in their daily lives and develop their social and vocational skills. A social club is attached to each centre providing them with social and meaningful leisure activities;

- Rehabilitation and Training Centre for Visually Impaired Person (RTC) provides comprehensive rehabilitation training programme for visually impaired persons to develop skills for independent living and help them regain self-confidence. The programme covers orientation and mobility training, communication and social skills, home management, work practice and community life education;
- Library services for visually impaired persons provides reading aids, talking or Braille books/magazines/CDs to meet their educational and recreational needs;
- Multi-service centre for hearing impaired persons provides various services, including casework and counselling services, sign language interpretation services, ear-mould production and repair services and audiological and speech therapy services;
- Home-based Training and Support Service (HBTS) is set up to enable persons with disabilities to become more independent in their daily lives and social functioning through the provision of home-based, centre-based or community-based training and activities. HBTS also provides occupational therapy service and network support for persons with disabilities and their families;
- Specialised Home-based Training and Support Service (SHBTS) renders territory-wide specialised support services to persons with severe physical disabilities. In addition to short-term and intensive therapy or maintenance exercises for service users, SHBTS also assists persons with disabilities to overcome the adaptation problems at homes so as to enhance their quality of life;
- Agency-based Occupational Therapy (OT) Service provides OT, advice and assistance to persons with disabilities of DACs, sheltered workshops (SWs) and integrated vocational

rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs) to help them overcome problems in their daily lives and develop their potential to the fullest extent as their disabilities permit;

- Agency-based Clinical Psychology (CP) Service provides psychological support services to people with developmental disabilities. The Clinical Psychologists offer professional advice and advisory services to staff of rehabilitation units in regard to the training and management of service users with challenging behaviour. They also provide training to the parents/carers so as to facilitate the rehabilitation process of service users;
- Central Psychological Support Service (CPSS)(Adult Service) renders visiting psychological service and expert support to staff of rehabilitation units such as DACs, SWs, and hostels where no agency-based CP service is available;
- Central Para-medical Support Service (CPMS) provides OT professional advisory and support services for DACs and SWs/IVRSCs, it also provides direct OT service for autistic persons to improve their behavioural, communication, independent living and social skills and abilities. CPMS also provides advisory service on physiotherapy for DACs;
- Community-based support projects provide, inter alia, holiday care service, home respite service, day care service for persons with severe disabilities, home care service, personal development programme, special support programme for autistic persons and persons with intellectual disabilities with challenging behaviour, support for newly blind person scheme, home-based rehabilitation training and junior gateway clubs. The objective of the projects is to provide a better quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families by offering care and support service for persons with disabilities, strengthening carers' caring capacity for persons with disabilities and relieving their stress;

- Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled organizes a variety of activities to fulfil the social, recreational and developmental needs of persons with disabilities and assists them in integrating into the community;
- Parents/Relatives Resource Centre provides a comprehensive range of support services to the family members of persons with disabilities;
- Community Mental Health Link (CMHL) attached to halfway houses (HWHs) or training and activity centres (TACs) provides additional care and support to ex-mentally ill persons and their families/carers in the community. The district-based services include tangible services (e.g. meals, laundry and shower), outreaching visits, consultation on employment, counselling, networking to local resources, social/recreational/educational programmes, programmes for families/carers and public education programmes; and
- Community Mental Health Care Services are support services providing additional care and support to ex-mentally ill persons in the community. The services, which consist mainly of outreaching visits and other kinds of assistance, aim to provide continuous support to mental patients newly discharged from psychiatric wards/ hospitals and halfway houses so as to help them solve their adjustment problems and re-integrate into the community. Vocational rehabilitation services are also provided to residents idling at halfway houses so as to develop and maintain their social and economic functioning.

Directions for Sustainable Development

9.3 One of the main objectives of our rehabilitation policy is to help persons with disabilities integrate fully into the community. Day care and community services can help persons with disabilities continue to live at home by developing their abilities to live independently and enhancing the

caring capacity of their families, so as to improve the quality of their lives. These services have been playing a very important role in achieving this particular objective of the rehabilitation policy. Hence, it is recommended to:

- continue to develop the day care and community support services, with special efforts dedicated to enhancing people-oriented service programmes, support to carers, community mutual help networks and multi-disciplinary support, with a view to helping persons with disabilities integrate fully into the community; and
- promote tripartite collaboration among the Government, business sector and the community, and explore and utilise social resources for providing support and services to persons with disabilities in an innovative manner.

9.4 The Working Group recommends the following long-term and short-term goals of service development along these two directions for sustained development:

Short-term goals

- strengthening the existing day care and community-based services to cater to the needs of persons with disabilities effectively;
- enhancing the appropriate support services to persons with severe disabilities living in the community;
- mapping out the development strategies for community-based support services; and
- providing support to carers and improve their caring capacity;

Long-term goals

- intensifying mental health education in the community; and
- giving holistic care to persons with disabilities in order to cater to their needs in different development stages.

Specific Measures Proposed

9.5 The proposed measures for the development of day care and community support services include:

- taking forward the development of, and initiating further planning for, diversified community-based support services for persons with disabilities;
- continuing to develop day care services and home care services for persons with severe disabilities, with a view to supporting their living in the community with all necessary assistance;
- reviewing the integration and coordination between mainstream welfare projects such as integrated home care services and community-based support services for persons with disabilities to ensure that the services cater to the needs of persons with disabilities;
- strengthening the existing support for the carers of persons with disabilities to relieve their burden;
- mounting publicity and public education initiatives to help members of the community, carers of persons with disabilities, parents and professionals such as social workers or teachers to become more aware of various community support services and their proper use;

- enhancing collaboration among different sectors/organisations at district level, for example, making good use of the District Coordinating Committee under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for deploying district resources effectively and to promote public education of mental health in the community with reference to district characteristics; and
- continuing to exchange views and consult the stakeholders through efforts by relevant Government departments to gauge their views and aspirations regarding the community-based support services.

Development Needs

9.6 Statistics indicate that among the users of DACs and Hostels, 11.9% are aged 50 or above and 14.3% of trainees in SWs and IVRSCs are aged 50 or above. To meet the development needs of these elderly users and trainees, the following additional services have been provided by SWD.

Extended Care Programme in Day Activity Centre (DAC)

- persons with intellectual disabilities may exhibit physiological traits of ageing prematurely. They are in need of health and physical care rather than intensive skill training. For this reason, an extended care programme has been put in place in DACs and Hostels by SWD since October 2005 to better cater to the health and physical care needs as well as social and recreational needs of service users aged 50 or above to ensure their quality of life; and

Integrated Work Extension Programme (IWEP)

- the Integrated Work Extension Programme (IWEP) has been implemented by SWD since October 2005 to cater to the nursing/caring needs of trainees of SW and IVRSC who may not be able to cope with the normal vocational rehabilitation training due to old age or deterioration in health and work

capacities. Under IWEP, social, recreational and developmental activities are also organised so that they can receive training and care in an environment familiar to them.