



Department of Social Development (DSD) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming

Peer counsellors' training was conducted in Gauteng Province!

The project team organised the peer counsellors' training from 10th to 13th September 2018 targeting 12 persons with disabilities from Limpopo. The project conducted the peer counsellors' training (simple version) in Limpopo in January 2018, but this training is an advanced one to review and improve skills of facilitators with disabilities. Mr July and Mr Corne who are part of the JICA partnership programme, "Capacity Building of Independent Living Centres through Creating Accessible Environment" facilitated the training. It was conducted in Tembisa, Gauteng Province where 2 facilitators organise support groups (Community-based Empowerment Group: CEG) of persons with disabilities. Participants of the training were selected by the members of the federation of CEG in consideration of experiences, passion, gender and geographical balance, etc.

The four-day programme covered from the basic such as what is peer counseling, relation

building, nature of human being, discharge of emotion, etc. to the practical such as manuscript development for role play in consideration with the actual situation of the villages in Limpopo.



[Photo] Persons with disabilities participating in peer counselling and Mr. July, facilitator of the training (right)

On the last day, the participants developed their action plans to conduct peer counselling in their villages. The action plans were developed with details including the involvement of community stakeholders, setting the date and time, selection of participants, reviewing of the conducted peer counselling, etc. for the implementation of the sustainable peer counselling.

Ms Olivia from Matsakali village said "It is a first time for me to participate in the peer

counsellors' training. Through the training, I learnt a lot such as how to listen to others, what are the themes of the peer counselling, etc. I will conduct peer counselling based on the action plan I developed". On 16th October, she conducted peer counselling in her village and around 30 persons with disabilities participated.



[Photo] Persons with disabilities developing action plans on peer counselling

Kick-off meeting was held in Free State province!

The project team attended the kick-off meeting to officially start the project activities in Maluti-a-Phofung municipality, Thabo Mofutsanyana district, Free State province on 27th September 2018. Approximately 80 people participated, including key stakeholders such as Ms Manthipi Molamu, director, Mr Krish Shunmugam, deputy director of the National Department of Social Development (DSD), Ms Mamosa Motsoeneng, Director, Ms Matu Mohale, provincial disability coordinator of DSD Free State, and Mr Ona Munganatsa, district disability coordinator of DSD Thabo Mofutsanyana and persons with disabilities living in the project site.

Mr Daisuke Sagiya, JICA expert briefly presented the outline and progress of the project. In addition, the Disability Empowerment and Mainstreaming (DEM) approach which was developed through the project activity, the DEM concept and planned activities in Free State were also explained and proposed at the meeting. Participants showed their high expectations for the project, and active discussions on the contents of the future activities and the importance of the involvement of stakeholders including care givers were exchanged.

The project plans to conduct the baseline survey through questionnaire, focus group discussion, etc. and organise the training on social model of disability targeting persons with disabilities in October 2018.

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