

## **Huib Cornielje, MSc. med., MPH, Leiden, Netherlands**

Director of "Enablement – Through Research and Development", an agency to promote the field of community based rehabilitation, Coordinator and Senior Lecturer in Public Health at the Hogeschool Leiden, University of Professional Education, Board Member of the Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development, Netherlands

---

### **Enablement - Courses in Disability and Rehabilitation Management**

Enablement is a small agency with a mission to promote Community Based Rehabilitation. It acknowledges that education is an important factor in strengthening the field of disability in the South. Experience has shown that in particular educational programmes strengthen the quality of service delivery and increase the active participation of communities in their own development. Both elements are seen as the two ends of a continuum that are necessary in building up rehabilitation services in the South. Nowadays service delivery tends to be underestimated by some disability activists. While the need for empowerment is recognized and promoted it should be obvious that legislation alone will not lead to a more egalitarian society that is more inclusive and providing equal chances to people with disabilities. A mother of a severely disabled child in rural Africa is more helped with essential services for her child and her family than with 'rights' which are advocated by middle class disabled people in the cities.

The regular 4-week course of Enablement, but also the tailor made programmes offer rehabilitation professionals and disability activists an opportunity to debate on basis of practical experiences, of both the facilitators as well as participants, directions for the future of disability and development in the South. Particular attention is being paid towards the value of Community Based Rehabilitation. It offers the participants an opportunity to reflect on own experiences and to become informed about the 'state of the art' in Community Based Rehabilitation. Most participants are so much involved in their day to day work that they lack the time for reflection. The course is seen by such people as an important moment in their professional life and that of their organisation to critically appraise their own work and where needed and possible develop new endeavours

to reach more people with disabilities in a better, more effective and more efficient way. Critical training elements in the course comprise workshops that focus on history and future of community based rehabilitation, on monitoring and evaluation; indicator development, introduction of management information systems and project management with ample attention for participatory approaches, community participation, and the role of disabled peoples' movements in programme development.

After completion of the course most participants return to their own project or programme where they have a (key) function in the field of disability. The training focuses on policy and management issues. The participants are as such equipped and usually positioned to bring about change in their organisations' activities.