

Creating communities for early childhood interventions

Nicaragua – Asociación de Programas Integrales de Educación Comunitaria Astrid Delleman (ASOPIECAD)

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

ASOPIECAD aims to facilitate Inclusive Education for children with developmental disorder and disability in early childhood through community-based rehabilitation (CBR) guidelines. Through the CBR guidelines and other instruments various environments of intervention are monitored, the most important of which is the child's natural environment – the family. Family workshops were also developed in order to create awareness on disability issues and on the right to social inclusion and equal educational opportunities. At the community level, especially in rural communities, inclusive early learning centres have been opened to include children with disabilities. The sum of these processes has led to community networks and alliances of support throughout the whole community, and to more inclusive schools.

QUOTE:

“Dream, create, let actions follow and inspire!”

—Mr. Ervin Rodriguez, Head of Project

FACTS & FIGURES

- The project has involved 890 trainees, including pre-school teachers, community educators, health brigades, nurses, and promoters of CBR.
- To date, 7,200 children aged 0–6 years have been screened.
- 2,160 children were identified with some form of developmental disorder in 2014 and the first half of 2015.

PROBLEMS TARGETED

A high percentage of children under six years with disabilities or development disorders do not receive proper attention due to errors of recognition of the problem, an important issue that concerns the immediate family and health and education authorities. There is a lack of basic technology to detect disabilities and to perform early stimulation, which often results in further learning difficulties or severe disorders as an adult.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

This project is aimed at empowering community workers of local institutions and organizations to detect disabilities and development disorders, and to then provide the necessary care and early intervention – thus ensuring that every child enjoys his/her equal opportunity rights. Similarly, it is aimed at parents and families by providing training in basic techniques and by guiding the education of their children with disabilities or developmental disorders from infancy.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

This experience can be adopted nationally and internationally by organizations and institutions working in the area of early childhood development with little financial investment, since it works with community resources and is much more cost-effective and sustainable than existing models.

Photo: Yes

Life story: Yes

CONTACT

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