Learning by Doing: development and implementation of a Diploma of Community Based Rehabilitation in the Solomon Islands

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(Solomon Islands College of Higher Education)
Short Video

Students perspectives on the impact of the Diploma of CBR on Solomon Islands.
The Solomon Islands
Disability in the Solomon Islands

- PWD make up 3.25% of national population, therefore approximately 14,403 people
- 85% of PWD live in rural villages/communities
- 7% of required equipment resources are provided
- 23% of perceived human resource requirements are currently being met
- Estimated ratio of PWD’s living in the community to CBR workers is 847:1

(Solomon Islands Government & European Union 2005)
Development of a curriculum

- Evaluation of previous certificate
- Research and networking
- Local expertise
- First diploma level in the Pacific region
The final curriculum components

- TOS: Therapy Outreach Skills
- CRS: Community Rehabilitation Skills
- CDS: Community Development Skills
- CPS: CBR Practice Skills and Fieldwork
Implementation

2011: Intake 1
Challenges

Human and Material Resources

- Dual role of course coordinator and head lecturer
- Lack of teachers for specialised skill areas
- Limited supervisors for fieldwork placements
- Limited texts, transport, equipment, tools, workshop space
Challenges

Human and Material Resources
Strengths

- Provided by a well established educational institution
- Supportive working environment
- Supportive local disability network
- Partnerships with outside organisations, individuals and volunteers
- Blessed with an intake of committed and hard working students
Evaluation

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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Very Dissatisfied</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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Overall average rating for the units = 4.3

Only one unit received a scoring outside of this average with a 2.9
Ideal vs. Reality
Reality

Fig 1: CBR matrix

- **HEALTH**
  - Promotion
  - Prevention
  - Medical care
  - Rehabilitation
  - Assistive devices

- **EDUCATION**
  - Early childhood
  - Primary
  - Secondary and higher
  - Non-formal
  - Lifelong learning

- **LIVELIHOOD**
  - Skills development
  - Self-employment
  - Wage employment
  - Financial services
  - Social protection

- **SOCIAL**
  - Personal assistance
  - Relationships, marriage and family
  - Culture and arts
  - Recreation, leisure and sports
  - Justice

- **EMPOWERMENT**
  - Advocacy and communication
  - Community mobilization
  - Political participation
  - Self-help groups
  - Disabled people's organizations
Where to from here?

- Trying to find an ideal vs. reality curriculum balance.
- CBR workforce both domestically and regionally.
- Development of the rehabilitation and allied health infrastructure and services within the Solomon Islands or Pacific Region.
- Adapting the course to make it accessible for people with disabilities to undertake.
Where to from here?

- Diploma and Bachelor of CBR exchange or partnership building programs.
- Maintaining a strong CBR support network domestically, regionally and internationally.
Short Video

CBR Students Dreams since completing the diploma.
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